

Sara Thomas

I would like to submit to the DEC my comment to strongly oppose the siting of any nuclear microreactors in the state of Alaska. Although there is clearly global pressure to diversify away from fossil fuels and also to build up nuclear power, the risks from pursuing microreactors far outweigh the benefits considering the devastating historical impacts of uranium mining and nuclear radiation on human health. As your agency is well aware, the state of Alaska has a long legacy of collaboration with the U.S. military to inundate her lands and waters with contamination - all in the name of energy and national security. Many sites within Alaska which have been contaminated for these causes are not even close to being cleaned up and continue to cause ongoing harm to human health.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to visit Bears Ears down in and around the Navajo nation, and I met a Navajo Elder who told me of the devastation uranium mining has had on her people. She said that due to the widespread early death caused by the uranium mining, she was the oldest person of her tribe, and that she was only in her seventies. She was also battling cancer herself at the time. I implore you now to consider the legacy of today's DEC, and to pivot the state of Alaska toward a new day of accountability and the end of false and harmful energy and climate solutions.