

## Dylan Jones

Microreactors are not acceptable means of energy production because they contaminate the environment and pose a significant risk to people, especially indigenous communities. Uranium mining for the necessary materials to power reactors contaminates the environment. Uranium mining has been a significant source of contamination of Navajo lands, poisoning water and contributing to health disparities among Navajo people. Despite industry propaganda showing uranium recycled from materials like old weapons, mining remains a major source of uranium.

Reactor waste is also an environmental contaminant and threat to human health because there is still no means of permanent storage. High level nuclear waste can take thousands of years to degrade to purportedly safer compounds. This means toxic waste is stored in temporary facilities with no plan for a transition to long term storage compatible with some of the waste's long degradation period.