

# Roca Honda Information



## Roca Honda Uranium Mine Toolkit

### June 2026

#### Action To Take:

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (NMMD) of the Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) will accept written written public comments on the [Roca Honda Mine Operations Reclamation Plan \(MORP\)](#) until July 19th.

We have a [short template letter in Tab 2](#) and a [detailed template letter in Tab 3](#) of this document available for you to personalize and submit.

Public comments are welcome from anyone who wishes to participate. Whether you live near Mount Taylor or elsewhere in New Mexico, your voice matters in this process.

The public comment process is part of the official record used by state decision-makers when evaluating the Roca Honda proposal. While many community members and coalition organizations oppose new uranium mining altogether, this template focuses on concerns that the Mining and Minerals Division has the authority and responsibility to consider, including water impacts, cultural resources, cumulative impacts, environmental justice, and public participation. We also encourage community members to request a public hearing so that affected communities have an opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and participate directly in the review process.

We encourage you to personalize your comment by sharing your own experiences, concerns, and connection to the issues raised by this proposal.

Public comments may be submitted via email or mail:

- Email: [mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov)
- Physical mailing address:
  - Ben Shelton, Acting Director, Mining and Minerals Division
  - 1220 South St. Francis Drive
  - Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

[Summary of the Roca Honda Uranium Mine Proposal](#)

The Roca Honda mine is a massive proposed uranium mine just west of Mount Taylor and partially within the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). The Roca Honda mine would be a conventional underground mine that is anticipated to produce millions of tons of ore and waste over 30+ years.

As with other uranium mines proposed on and near Mount Taylor, the Roca Honda mine represents a dire threat to cultural practices of Indigenous communities in the region. For many Indigenous community members, constructing a uranium mine at Mount Taylor is akin to building a sewage treatment plant in a church.

In addition to the cultural insult, the Roca Honda mine would use a tremendous amount of water in an area of New Mexico that is already seeing substantial water stress due to global climate chaos. By its own calculations, the Roca Honda mine would result in an aquifer drawdown of over 1,000 feet, which would not recover for centuries. In all, the mine is projected to use over 1.6 billion gallons of water.

The Roca Honda proposal is moving forward at a time when federal policies are encouraging increased domestic uranium production. Both Roca Honda and other proposed uranium projects near Mount Taylor have received attention as part of broader efforts to accelerate uranium development and feed the American Energy Dominance agenda pushed by the Trump administration. Communities are concerned that fast-tracking projects could reduce scrutiny of water, cultural, and environmental impacts.

#### Why are communities paying attention to Roca Honda?

- Impacts to groundwater and water supplies
- Long-term aquifer drawdown from mine dewatering
- Mount Taylor's cultural and spiritual significance
- Legacy contamination from historic uranium mining
- Multiple uranium mining proposals near Mount Taylor
- Environmental justice concerns for impacted communities

## Additional Resources

### NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Website Resources:

- [MK025RN Roca Honda Mine](#) Informational webpage
  - [Mine Operation and Reclamation Plan](#) filed on May 18, 2026
- [Mining & Minerals Division Process Guide](#)

## News Stories

- [Uranium company's finalized NM plan includes treating, dumping water into nearby river](#) - May 26, 2026
- [Mining companies face 'complex web' of regulation for NM uranium](#) - July 14, 2025

If you have any questions about the content in this toolkit, please reach out to NM Mining Watch Communications Consultant Liliana Castillo at [liliana@singlespacestrategies.com](mailto:liliana@singlespacestrategies.com).



# Short Template Letter

[Date]

Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Roca Honda Uranium Mine (MK025RN)

Dear Acting Director Shelton,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine.

The proposed mine raises serious concerns about water resources, Mount Taylor's cultural significance, environmental justice, and the long-term impacts of uranium mining in New Mexico.

According to project documents, the mine would require extensive groundwater pumping in order to access uranium deposits. Communities throughout western New Mexico rely on groundwater for drinking water, agriculture, domestic use, and cultural practices. Given increasing water scarcity and climate pressures, I urge the Mining and Minerals Division to carefully evaluate the long-term impacts of groundwater pumping, aquifer drawdown, water quality, and cumulative impacts from multiple uranium projects proposed near Mount Taylor.

I am also concerned about the legacy of uranium mining in New Mexico. Communities across the Grants Uranium Belt and the Navajo Nation continue to live with contamination, abandoned mine sites, and lasting environmental impacts decades after mining ended. Many affected communities are still waiting for cleanup and accountability.

The proposed mine is located near and partially within the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property. Mount Taylor holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for many Indigenous communities and should not be evaluated in isolation from the other uranium mining proposals advancing in the region. A cumulative impact analysis should be required.

I urge the Division to consult the Multistate Guidance on Environmental Justice issued by 14 state Attorneys General, including New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez to fully consider environmental justice concerns, meaningful Tribal consultation, and the disproportionate impacts uranium mining has had on Indigenous and rural communities.

I am also concerned that federal efforts to fast-track uranium development could undermine thorough review of projects like Roca Honda. Decisions that could affect water, culturally significant places, and future generations deserve careful scrutiny and meaningful public participation and Tribal consultation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Mining and Minerals Division:

- Conduct a cumulative impacts analysis for uranium projects near Mount Taylor.

- Fully evaluate long-term water impacts and future climate conditions.
- Consider environmental justice concerns and engage in meaningful Tribal consultation.
- Hold a public hearing in the affected region.

Until these concerns are fully evaluated and addressed, the Roca Honda proposal should not move forward.

[Optional: Share your personal connection to Mount Taylor, local water resources, uranium mining impacts, or your community.]

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Community]

# Detailed Template Letter

[Date]

Subject: Public Comment on the Proposed Roca Honda Uranium Mine (MK025RN)

Dear Acting Director Shelton,

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine (MK025RN) and to request a thorough review of the Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan (MORP).

Given the scale of the proposal and its potential impacts, this decision deserves the highest level of scrutiny. The proposed mine raises significant concerns about water resources, Mount Taylor's cultural significance, environmental justice, and the long-term impacts of uranium mining.

One of those concerns is water.

According to the MORP, the proposed mine would extend approximately 1,600 feet underground and intersect the Westwater Canyon Aquifer, requiring extensive groundwater pumping, or "dewatering," in order to access uranium deposits. Company documents indicate that the Roca Honda mine could use up to 2,000 gallons a day for up to 12 years.

Communities throughout the region rely on groundwater for drinking water, domestic use, agriculture, and cultural practices. Water is already scarce in western New Mexico, and climate change is placing increasing pressure on water resources.

The 2013 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project disclosed significant long-term groundwater impacts, including substantial aquifer drawdown near the mine site and impacts that could persist for generations after mining operations cease. The DEIS also identified potential impacts to springs that hold cultural importance to Indigenous communities.

Given the scale and duration of these predicted impacts, the Division should not approve this proposal without a comprehensive analysis of long-term aquifer drawdown, groundwater recovery, climate-related water stress, water quality impacts, and cumulative impacts from the multiple proposed uranium projects in the region.

I am also deeply concerned about the legacy of uranium mining in New Mexico. Communities across the Grants Uranium Belt and the Navajo Nation continue to live with contamination, abandoned uranium mine sites, and lasting environmental and health impacts associated with historic uranium mining. Hundreds of abandoned uranium mines remain unremediated today – more than 500 on the Navajo Nation

alone – and many affected communities are still waiting for the cleanup, remediation, and accountability they were promised.

These unresolved impacts should weigh heavily against approval of new uranium mining projects in a region where no legacy mines have been cleaned up.

The proposed mine also raises serious concerns regarding Mount Taylor, a designated Traditional Cultural Property that holds deep cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial significance for many Indigenous communities. Roca Honda is one of several uranium mining proposals advancing near Mount Taylor, raising concerns about cumulative impacts to a landscape that has long been recognized as sacred.

The significance of Mount Taylor cannot be adequately evaluated on a project-by-project basis when multiple uranium proposals are advancing in the same region. The Division should require a cumulative impacts analysis that evaluates the combined effects of current and proposed uranium projects on water resources, cultural resources, community health, and future generations.

I also urge the Division to fully consider environmental justice concerns as part of its review. Indigenous and rural communities have disproportionately borne the impacts of uranium mining for generations. Environmental justice cannot be reduced to holding one public meeting or a public comment requirement. It should inform how impacts are evaluated, how risks are distributed, and how decisions are made. I encourage the Division to consult the Multistate Guidance on Environmental Justice issued by 14 state Attorneys General, including New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez.

I am also concerned that federal efforts to accelerate domestic uranium production could undermine thorough review of projects like Roca Honda. Both Roca Honda and La Jara Mesa have received attention as part of broader federal efforts to fast-track uranium development. The Trump administration's efforts to accelerate review make a rigorous state review process even more important. Accelerated timelines should not result in reduced scrutiny of groundwater impacts, cultural resources, environmental justice concerns, or cumulative impacts.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Mining and Minerals Division:

- Conduct or require a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis that evaluates the combined effects of multiple uranium projects proposed near Mount Taylor.
- Require additional analysis of the long-term impacts of groundwater pumping, aquifer drawdown, water quality, water treatment, and future climate conditions.
- Fully evaluate environmental justice concerns and historic disproportionate impacts on Indigenous and other land-based communities.
- Ensure meaningful consultation with Tribal governments and consideration of concerns raised by affected communities.

- Hold a public hearing in the affected region so community members can ask questions, share concerns, and participate directly in the review process.

The concerns raised by this proposal are not minor or speculative. They involve long-term groundwater depletion, impacts to culturally significant places, unresolved uranium contamination across the region, and environmental justice concerns affecting communities that have already borne disproportionate burdens from uranium mining. Until these concerns are fully evaluated and addressed, the Roca Honda proposal should not move forward.

My personal connection to this issue:

[Share why Mount Taylor, local water resources, uranium mining impacts, your community, or future generations matter to you.]

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Community]

[Organization, if applicable]

# Sample Social Media



## Sample Social Media for Coalition Partners

### Using the Social Media Content

Coalition partners are encouraged to help amplify NM Mining Watch content throughout the public comment period.

Organizations may share posts directly from the [NM Mining Watch Facebook page](#) or adapt the suggested captions for use on their own social media channels. Feel free to customize the language to reflect your organization's mission, perspective, community, and priorities.

Sharing content directly from the NM Mining Watch page helps expand the reach of coalition messaging, while adapting content for your own audiences can help make the information more relevant and engaging for your supporters.

We encourage partners to tag NM Mining Watch (@nmminingwatch) when possible and to include links to the [public comment toolkit](#) or your own resources when sharing action opportunities.

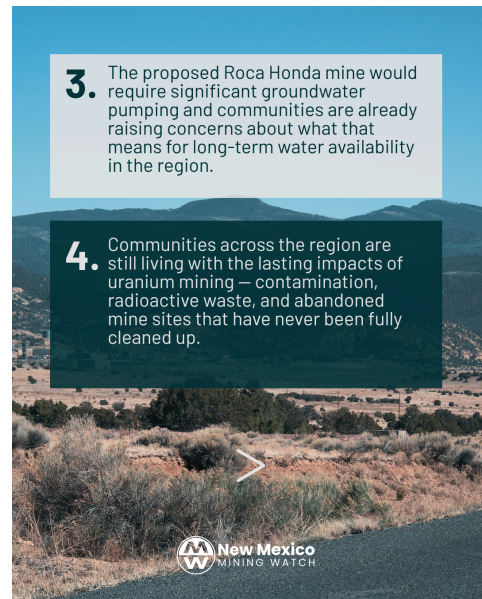
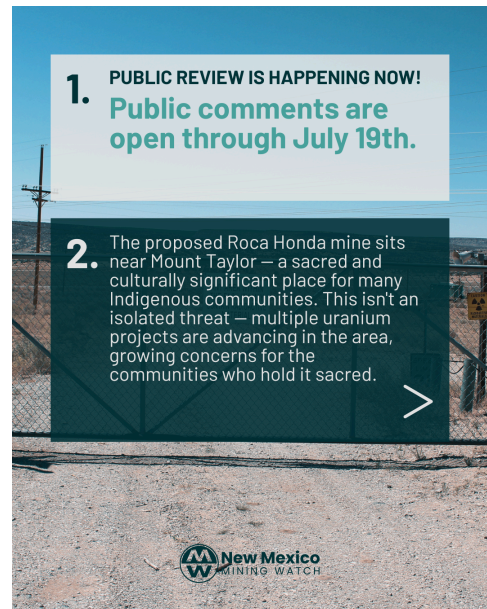
| Post Caption                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <a href="#">Graphics</a>                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>A public comment period is now open for the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine near Mount Taylor.</p> <p>Roca Honda is one of several uranium mining proposals that communities are watching closely in western New Mexico. The proposed mine would be located near and partially within the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property and would require extensive groundwater pumping to access uranium deposits.</p> <p>As communities review the proposal, many are raising concerns about water, environmental justice, Mount Taylor's cultural significance, cumulative impacts from multiple uranium projects, and the long-term legacy of uranium mining in the region.</p> |  |

Tribal and rural communities are still living with contamination, radioactive waste, abandoned mine sites, and other impacts from historic uranium mining.

Public comments are being accepted through July 19, and community members may also request a public hearing.

Swipe through to learn more about the proposal and why communities are paying attention.

Learn more, access resources, and submit a public comment in our Roca Honda toolkit. [Link to toolkit](#)



## 5. Your voice matters

NM Mining Watch has prepared a toolkit with background info, a quick comment template, and a detailed comment template. [Link in caption.](#)



Your voice is needed! Public comments are now being accepted on the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine near Mount Taylor.

This is an opportunity for community members across New Mexico to share concerns, ask questions, and help shape the public record for a proposal that could affect water resources, culturally significant places, and future generations.

Whether you live near Mount Taylor or elsewhere in New Mexico, your voice matters in this process.

NM Mining Watch has prepared a toolkit with background information, a quick comment template, and a detailed comment. [Link to toolkit](#)

Public comments are due July 19.

## YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!

The proposed Roca Honda uranium mine near Mount Taylor threatens water, sacred lands and communities still living with the legacy of uranium mining.

**WE MUST RAISE  
OUR CONCERNS!**



Public comments close July 19, 2026.



## TAKE ACTION TODAY!

State agencies consider public comments as part of the official review process, your voice needs to be heard.

Whether you live near Mount Taylor or anywhere in New Mexico, your comment helps shape the public record.

We have prepared a toolkit with background info, a quick comment template, and a detailed comment template. [Link in caption.](#)



# LTE Templates



## Letter to the Editor Templates

### Using These LTE Templates

These templates are intended to help you get started. Before submitting, please check the word limit and submission requirements for your local newspaper, as requirements vary by publication.

We strongly encourage you to personalize your letter whenever possible. Adding your own experiences, concerns, professional expertise, connection to Mount Taylor, relationship to local water resources, or perspective on uranium mining will make your letter more compelling and help ensure that a variety of community voices are reflected in public discussion.

These templates are meant to be adapted, shortened, expanded, or combined as needed to best reflect your own voice and perspective.

LTE #1 – Indigenous Community Member  
Word count: 196

Suggested Title: Mount Taylor is more than a mountain

For many people, Mount Taylor is a landmark on the horizon.

For many Indigenous communities, it is much more than that.

Mount Taylor is a sacred place that continues to hold cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial significance for generations of Diné and Pueblo people. It is a living part of our communities, not simply a place on a map.

Today, Mount Taylor faces renewed threats from uranium mining proposals, including the proposed Roca Honda mine. Many people may not realize that multiple uranium projects are advancing near the mountain at the same time.

As these proposals move forward, decision-makers must consider more than technical reports and permit applications. They must consider what it means to place industrial development near a place that has long been recognized as culturally significant and formally recognized as a Traditional Cultural Property.

For many Indigenous community members, constructing a uranium mine at Mount Taylor is akin to building a sewage treatment plant in a church.

The public comment period on the proposed Roca Honda mine is now open. I encourage New Mexicans to learn more and participate in the process.

Places like Mount Taylor deserve respect, careful review, and meaningful community input.

[Name]

[Community/Tribal Affiliation]

LTE #2 – Community Member Near the Mine

Word count: 173

Suggested Title: Water should come first

I live near the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine and we should all be concerned about how much water the mine will use or contaminate.

Water is already scarce in western New Mexico. Families, ranchers, farmers, and communities rely on limited groundwater resources every day. Once water is depleted or contaminated, it is often difficult to replace.

According to project documents, the proposed mine would require extensive groundwater pumping to access uranium deposits underground. Communities have raised concerns about what that could mean for groundwater levels and water quality over the long term.

These concerns are not hypothetical. Communities across the region are still dealing with the legacy of past uranium mining, including contamination and abandoned mine sites that have never been fully cleaned up.

The public comment period on the proposed Roca Honda mine is open until July 19.

This is an important opportunity to learn about the proposal and make your voice heard.

Water is too important to take for granted. Decision-makers should carefully evaluate the long-term impacts before moving forward.

[Name]

[Community]

LTE #3 – Environmental Advocate

Word count: 198

Suggested Title: New Mexico should learn from uranium mining's legacy

As New Mexico state agencies review the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine near Mount Taylor, we have an opportunity to ask an important question: Have we learned from the past?

Communities across western New Mexico and the Navajo Nation are still living with contamination, abandoned mine sites, and the long-term impacts of uranium mining. Hundreds of abandoned uranium mines remain unremediated today, and many communities are still waiting for the cleanup and accountability they were promised.

Now, a new generation of uranium projects is moving forward, including the proposed Roca Honda mine near Mount Taylor. Supporters often talk about the benefits of uranium development, but communities are asking decision-makers to also consider the costs they have been carrying for decades.

The proposed mine would require extensive groundwater pumping in an already water-stressed region. It is also one of several uranium proposals advancing near Mount Taylor, raising concerns about cumulative impacts to water, communities, and culturally significant places.

The public comment period on the proposed mine is open through July 19.

Before New Mexico repeats the mistakes of the past, decision-makers should ensure that these concerns are fully addressed and that communities have a meaningful voice in the process.

[Name]

[Community]

LTE #4 – Public Lands Advocate

Word count: 174

Suggested Title: Public lands deserve careful review, not fast-tracking

Public lands belong to all of us. Decisions about how they are managed should be guided by transparency, public participation, and long-term stewardship.

That is why I am concerned about efforts to accelerate uranium mining proposals near Mount Taylor, including the proposed Roca Honda mine.

Federal officials have recently identified uranium projects for expedited review as part of a broader push to increase domestic uranium production. While energy policy priorities may change from administration to administration, communities deserve confidence that environmental review, public participation, and cultural resource protections are not being rushed.

The proposed Roca Honda mine raises important questions about water, cultural resources, environmental justice, and the cumulative impacts of multiple uranium projects in the region.

These are exactly the kinds of issues that require careful review—not shortcuts.



A public comment period on the Roca Honda mine is open through July 19. New Mexicans should take this opportunity to learn more and make their voices heard.

Stewardship means thinking beyond the next few years and considering what we leave behind for future generations.

[Name]

[Community]

LTE #5 – Faith-Based Advocate

Word count: 183

Suggested Title: Protecting water is a moral responsibility

Many faith traditions teach that we are called to care for creation and protect the gifts we have been entrusted with.

In New Mexico, one of those gifts is water.

As the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine moves through review, many communities are raising concerns about groundwater impacts and the long-term consequences of uranium mining in a region where water is already scarce.

Water sustains our families, communities, farms, and ecosystems. It is not simply a resource. It is essential to life.

The proposal also raises questions about how we treat places that hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for Indigenous communities, including Mount Taylor.

Whether viewed through a religious lens, a cultural lens, or a community lens, the principle is the same: we have a responsibility to consider the long-term impacts of our actions and the legacy we leave for future generations.

The public comment period is open until July 19. I encourage New Mexicans to learn more about the proposal and participate in the process.

Protecting water and caring for our neighbors is not only good policy—it is a moral obligation.

[Name]

[Faith Community]

LTE #6 – Environmental Justice/Legal Advocate

Word count: 174

Suggested Title: Environmental justice must be more than a checkbox

For decades, Indigenous and rural communities in western New Mexico have borne a disproportionate share of the impacts associated with uranium mining.

Those impacts did not disappear when the mines closed.

Many communities continue to live with contamination, abandoned mine sites, and environmental burdens tied to historic uranium development. That history is one reason environmental justice must remain a central consideration as new uranium projects move forward.

The proposed Roca Honda uranium mine near Mount Taylor raises important questions about how environmental risks are distributed, who bears those risks, and whether communities that have already experienced significant impacts will face additional harms.

Environmental justice is not simply a matter of providing a public comment period. It requires meaningful consideration of cumulative impacts, community concerns, and historic inequities.

The public comment period on the proposed mine is now open, providing an opportunity for communities to help shape the record before decisions are made.

A fair process must do more than check procedural boxes. It must meaningfully account for the experiences of the people most affected.

[Name]

[Organization or Community]

LTE #7 – Health & Community Well-Being Voice

Word count: 159

Suggested Title: Communities are still living with uranium mining's consequences

When discussions about uranium mining arise, it is easy to focus on future economic projections and permit applications.

But many communities in western New Mexico are still living with the consequences of past uranium mining today.

Families continue to live near abandoned mine sites. Communities continue to grapple with contamination and environmental cleanup challenges that remain unresolved decades later.

That history is one reason so many people are paying attention to the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine near Mount Taylor.

The proposal raises concerns about groundwater, cultural resources, environmental justice, and long-term impacts to community well-being. These concerns deserve careful consideration before decisions are made that could affect future generations.

The public comment period is currently open, giving New Mexicans an opportunity to participate in the review process.

Regardless of where someone stands on the proposal, community health and long-term well-being should be central to the conversation.

The lessons of the past should inform the decisions we make today.

[Name]

[Community]