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Subject: Two Concern Issues

To Whom It May Concern:

As a long time resident of Black Mesa, the first concern I want to address is I have seen quite frequent coal, spoil fires and smokes from Western Peabody Coal Company – Kayenta Mine’s surface mining activity. Coal; spoil fires and smokes releases fine particulate matters as atmospheric pollutants. If the wind is blowing, these fine airborne particulate matters will be carried across the landscape where people, livestock and wildlife will be and have been impacted negatively (*i.e.*, respiratory illness). Additionally depending upon the wind directions, these fine airborne particulate matters will mix with dust from the heavy traffic on the unpaved roadways and blasting. With the combine mixtures, it will have a “double effect” which means a super negative effect specifically on the respiratory causing asthma, silicosis and or black lung. From the chronic and or daily exposures, the most susceptible, sensitive population that will be negatively impacted is the young and old, and females whom are pregnant, and employees.

These fine airborne pollutants become more prevalent and gets heavily concentrated when the wind is not blowing creating a low hovering cloud of smog. It can be seen in the early hours of the day, late in the evening, cool cloudy days during temperature inversions. Temperature inversion is the trapping of pollutants below the lower atmosphere, allowing the pollutants to build up. When the sky is very hazy, or sunsets are very red, there is likely an inversion somewhere in the lower atmosphere. This happens more frequently in high-pressure zones, where the gradual sinking of air in the high-pressure dome typically causes an inversion to form at the base of a sinking layer of air. Another effect is making clouds spread out and take on a flattened appearance. Still another effect is to prevent thunderstorms from forming. Even in an air mass that is hot and humid in the lowest layers, thunderstorms will be prevented if an inversion is keeping this air from rising. The opposite of a temperature inversion is an unstable air layer. As described what is a temperature inversion and from as you can tell from the contours of Black Mesa geographically and physics, temperature inversion happens on Black Mesa as it can be visibly seen when the aforementioned airborne pollutants settles as a smog along the landscape (*i.e.*, valleys, etc). Within these landscapes, young and old, and pregnant female whom are the most susceptible, sensitive population live or roam, and more importantly, the workers are heavily impacted daily.

Not only do I look out for the safety of all mine employees, it is also my responsible to look out for the health and well being of the local public. I have a great concern for the negative impact on the health and environmental well-being from the hazardous uncontrollable coal and spoil fire flare up and mixing of the dust on the mining site forming a smog. Furthermore the coal fires and spoil flares can emit gaseous by-

products such as sulfur oxides (SO_x), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) or carbon dioxides (CO₂). These hazardous, toxic gaseous by-product in the formed of pollutants will settle in the mining pits exposing the employee(s) or valleys exposing the public daily.

Overall, these airborne pollutants (ash, dust, NO_x, SO_x, etc) leaves a haze of cloud in the atmosphere like a fog, and can be seen more frequently during the winter season or during temperature inversion. Therefore, we as life long residents have observe/seen aforementioned airborne, atmospheric pollutants to the ecology, wildlife, human beings, water and rest of the environment are hazardous and can be deadly, and western science validate the hazardousness as well as the temperature inversion. I recommend that both the Navajo Nation and Peabody Coal Company address the problem by mitigating the health and well being of the surrounding coal mine lease area local residents and the environment, and the employees.

My second concern that I want to address is and again as a lifetime resident within the lease coal mining area on Black Mesa, Arizona, our rights have been abridged continuously not only from Peabody management but Navajo Nation Government as well. Peabody management repeatedly disregards the information sharing with the local residence as when the roads are rerouted and or how it will be rerouted, how to access the rerouted road. As life-time residents on Black Mesa, this is home before and even after the final closure of the mine when it happens. Because of it, we have been traveling on the haulage road ever since the mining had started; and we not only respect but also will do what we can to preserve, protect what's left on the lease area and be a law-abiding citizens. Ever since the mining started back in 1973, there have been a steady increase of traffic from non-local residents such as employees, wood, water and coal haulers, job seekers, thrill seekers from thoroughfare travelers, and general public traveling through the area for shorter route to their destination. These non-local residents majority of the time will disregard and disrespect the local residents as well as Peabody on the solely purpose of "I don't live here" or "I don't care" behavioral attitude; as such, these individuals will disobey any signs posted, and again from observations, most of the non-local resident employees are the culprits in disobeying any signs and will speed. Unfortunately when an incidence happens on the mine lease area, the mining officials will promptly accused the local residents as the culprits even if a police investigation is done, and the fact reality in disregarding the ever increase human activity/travelers since the mining began. And yes, Peabody management will disregard police investigative reports. Recently, this has happen in July 2006 during the employee(s)' vacation, mine shut down. Peabody management accused the local resident as the culprits yet decided to take the (non-resident) employee's position, and at the same time disregard an official police investigative reports. As such, we as local residents do not have any right(s) any more and nobody will speak for us anymore.

Furthermore, the mining employees are trained yet the local lease residents are expected to know the rules without any training. At the very least, Peabody needs to inform the local resident as when the roads are rerouted and or how it will be rerouted, and how to access the rerouted road. Yes, we have requested safe mining operation plan because the coal mining lease area is home, not just place to visit or work site. We travel on the mine roads safely with our family and more importantly our children(s) travel on these roads daily to school on the bus; unfortunately, non-residents including the mining

officials don't see it in such light because this is not home to them and will do ever means possible to get out of an incidence.