

To Marilyn, Howard or Jennifer for the Kykotsmovi "Listening Session"

My name is Melvin A. George.

In 1970 a chain of dynamites exploded and ripped Black Mesa, a holy land, apart. Hopi elders stood helplessly as the world's largest strip-mining began and is continuing.

Our world was turned upside down. Unlike the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and Gold Mine spill aka "coal mine" spill caused by Peabody Energy did not get international attention and outrage.

The NGS – KMC Draft EIS recommends that the "coal mine" spill continue to year 2044 disguised as "economic interest" of the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation. The main reason for building a coal-fired NGS was to pump water from Colorado River to Phoenix and Tucson and to boost economy.

It worked for Arizona. According to ASU Morrison Institute Study Central Arizona Project (CAP) generated over \$1 TRILLION since it started.

Not one penny went to Hopi. Our people are living in abject material poverty. Unemployment rate is over 80% while CAP generated thousands of jobs at our expense.

Isn't it time the federal government commit to its trust duty to correct many injustices? After all it was the U.S. Secretary of Interior and U.S. Congress who got us into this mess!

It's not charity we are asking for but economic justice and environmental justice.

Economic justice can be done in various ways. One way is what Hopi call "pay back", which is restitution. In the Hopi custom, you show appreciation by giving food as a way of showing good will.

The money we receive will be put to work building our economy, heal Black Mesa land, saving life-sustaining water above and below us for future generations.

After close to 50 years, the "coal spill" must end. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!