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The Department of Interior

NGS needs to close operation for the benefit of our future generations. NGS needs to stop their operation on Page, Az. Coal has been extracted and water has being depleted for over 40 years. Water is sacred to us, it's in our song, prayers, stories, and everything is created with water. It has been placed for us on Black Mesa for our use by divine right by our creator. We do our offerings to water where there are natural springs. In most of these places, we do not see water anymore

When I herd sheep as a little girl, almost 60 years ago, before NGS, I used to see plenty of water in certain areas in Dennibito Wash and Oraibi Wash. My home was and is between these two washes. I used to see water seeping or dripping, making pools, out in certain places along the cliffs, I used to see all kinds of birds but I don't see some of them anymore. There was plenty of water for our animals and wildlife. We had many wild plants, some used as herbs and food. However some of these plants I don't see anymore. My family used to farm every year. We had corn, squash, melons, even wheat in big fields. Now, there are unfamiliar, invasive species taking their place such as tumbleweed and salt cedar. Now we plant in small fields every year and harvest just enough for family and some relatives because water is scarce. Now since NGS, we have to haul water almost everyday from our chapter house and we pay money for the water. We haul water for our animals, cornfields, our ceremonies, and ourselves.

NGS and the coalmines have been polluting our air, water, and land for more than 40 years. Growing up, I never had problems breathing and I today I have asthma. Our environment does not look healthy. I gather herbs and wild food on the land and wonder how much of it is contaminated from coal dust and particulate emitted from NGS power plants.

Before they leave, NGS needs to clean up after their 49 years. I would like to see our Navajo people and Hopis return to a healthy environment. I want my generation to leave behind a cleaner and sustainable environment for our young and future generation. They deserve it.

Sincerely,



(Linda) Lena S.H. Henley