

USA WEEKEND click



Make A Difference Day
Largest day of volunteering

Mohave DownWinders

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
NATIONAL DAY OF
GOING GOOD USA WEEKEND
Presented by
Museum of Northern Arizona



April 18, 2004- - - Sunday
Noon To 3:00 p.m.

P O T L U C K
Bring ' nuf for 10 people



COME
SHARE
OUR
GOOD
NEWS

COME
HEAR
LATEST

What
needs
to be
done

contact ALL
legislators
at
Federal
Level



Meet us at ***** Metcalf Park,**
downwinder
Meet us at the Park
Bring yourselves 'n,
bring the family
We'll be sure to have some fun

Come & dance to the **M&J**
Music, huni :-)
come and share our
potluck lunch
Meet us at Metcalf park –
Downwinder
meet us at the park..

We will have **good news,**
Downwinders
Come celebrate “
A difference day!”

Meet us at Metcalf Park
Downinder
MEET “US” AT THE
PARK.....:-)

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***Metcalf Park, downtown; corner
Grandview / AndyDevine; cross-corner
from Museum

weather permitting.....OR

Nutrition Center (west side building)
1776 ½ Airway, Kingman
Bring: personal service–plates, eating
utensils, lawn chairs

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RSVP: April 15, 2004
Need head count

Eleanore: 928 753-6051

Gloria: 928-753-2243

<http://www.kingmanaz.net/~mohavedownwinders>

Mohave Downwinders
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100 East Union Street
Prescott, AZ 86303

March 15, 2004

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: HCM 2006, SCM 1002 and the Mohave County Downwinders

Dear Governor Napolitano,

I am writing at the request of Eleanore Fanire and Gloria Richhart, co-founders of the Mohave County Downwinders. At a recent meeting of the Mohave County Downwinders, Matthew Capalby, Mohave County Precinct Committeeman for the Arizona Democratic Party, indicated to the group that you will be preparing a letter to members of Congress and the President regarding the background of the Mohave County Downwinders and the purpose of **SCM 1002 A concurrent senate memorial bill introduced by Senator Linda Binder and Representative Bill Wagner**; HCM 2006, a Concurrent Memorial which has been introduced by Representative Hart in the State Legislature. While I understand that **SCM has passed Senate**, HCM 2006 is still under consideration by the House and Senate, upon its passage, we would request that in your letter you include the following information regarding the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program, the Mohave County Downwinders and HCM 2006 **and SCM 1002**.

In 1990, the United States Government established the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to provide compassion payments to individuals exposed to **radiation fallout** from the Nevada test site ("Downwinders"). (Other categories currently in the compensation program include uranium miners and millers, ore transporters and on-site participants, but for purposes of this letter, we will only be discussing the Downwinder category.) The compensation program included several counties in Utah, Nevada, and that part of Arizona north of the Grand Canyon and west of the Colorado River in Mohave County ("the Arizona Strip").

After the establishment of the program, the Navajo Nation voiced overwhelming disappointment because certain portions of their tribal lands had been excluded from the program.¹ After members of the Navajo Nation presented a series of petitions to Congress, the President signed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2000 into law on July 10, 2000. Added to the Downwinder category were the Arizona counties of Yavapai, Gila, Apache, Navajo and Coconino; all of which have a strong Native American presence. The Amendments did not add the remainder of Mohave County to RECA, even though it is closer in proximity to the Nevada Test Site than the other Arizona counties.

Hundreds, and potentially thousands of residents of Mohave County have been impacted by radioactive fallout from the nuclear atmospheric testing that occurred during the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the underground testing that took place until 1993. In a survey done to compare cancer incidences in the Covered Counties and Mohave County, Mohave County had the **second highest overall incident rate.**^{2 3}

In response to the exclusion of Mohave County from RECA, Eleanore Fanire and Gloria Richhart formed the Mohave County Downwinders in 2003. The Mohave County Downwinders is a group of dedicated, passionate individuals who understand that radiation does not fall within arbitrary lines on a map. Under the leadership of these two individuals, the group has advocated on behalf of residents of their county to gain widespread attention for their cause. Both Mrs. Fanire and Mrs. Richhart

¹ Based on a report published in 1966 by scientists with the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, children living in the Navajo Nation were exposed to some of the highest levels of radiation from the testing. Armed with this information, representatives from the Navajo Nation believed that all of their tribal lands should be included in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program.

² Mountain Park Health Center statistics, see attached.

have spoken to Arizona's legislative Senators and representatives, members of the National Academy of Sciences, numerous media personnel, and other groups and persons regarding the plight of Mohave County residents. In their presentation to these groups, both Mrs. Fanire and Mrs. Richhart have advocated for the inclusion of all of Mohave County in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program.

Mohave County residents are also excluded from receiving the benefits of the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP). RESEP was another key component included in the RECA 2000 Amendments, and is a RECA-funded educational program, overseen by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a branch of the US Department of Health and Human Services. RESEP provides competitive grants to appropriate healthcare organizations to initiate and support programs for cancer screening, referrals, public outreach and education on cancer, as well as assistance to individuals adversely affected by the uranium industry and nuclear weapons testing. Representatives from one of these healthcare organizations, Mountain Park Health Center³, have embraced the interests of the Mohave County Downwinders, and have provided education and literature to the group regarding the RESEP program.

Because of the diligence and determination of the Mohave County Downwinders, Joe Hart, representative of Mohave County, presented HCM 2006 and *SCM 1002 Linda Binder a senator for* Arizona for the approval of Arizona's House and Senate members. HCM 2006 *and SCM 1002* briefly details the history of the atmospheric nuclear testing, the higher incidence of cancer and leukemia in Mohave County, and the current exclusion of Mohave County residents from seeking compensation for those cancers through the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program. The Memorials request that the Congress and President take steps to enact legislation that would include Mohave County as a "Covered Area" under the RECA.

Recently, however, Mohave County residents have been informed by members of Congress that due to a study currently underway by members of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), they cannot seek compensation until the NAS study has been finalized and presented to Congress. Congress, after consideration of the NAS Study, will determine whether or not Mohave County should be included as a Covered Area. Realistically, this process could take years.

It is the belief of the Mohave County Downwinders that Congress currently has enough statistical information to include Mohave County without waiting for that study to be completed by the National Academy of Sciences. Mohave County residents deserve to be compensated for the devastating effects the fallout has had on their family members, as numerous residents young and old continue to fall victim to cancer and leukemia, year after year after year. The entire County of Mohave should be included as a "Covered Area" in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and Program. To fail to do so denies the obvious, and gives no hope to those suffering in the greatest numbers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Please feel free to contact my office if you need any further information. I can be reached at (928) 776-2457.

Sincerely,

Laura J. Taylor, Esq.
Regina Ponder, former director of the Mountain
Park Health Center

cc: Ms. Eleanore Fanire, Ms. Gloria Richhart, Mohave County Downwinders
Matthew Capalby, Precinct Committeeman for the Arizona Democratic Party
Representative Joe Hart, Mohave County, *Representative Bill Wagner, Mohave County and
Senator Linda Binder, Mohave County.*

³ Mountain Park Health Center (MPHC) has consistently been the sole grantee of RESEP awards for the fiscal years of 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. MPHC has established community affiliate subcontractor sites in Flagstaff, Prescott and Page, with additional sites pending in Claypool (Gila County) and Ganado (Apache County).