In the 1960s, businessmen offered Navajo and Hopi tribes in the Black Mesa area promises of jobs and wealth in exchange for the use of the Navajo Aquifer. The tribes agreed to the deal.

Some families had to move to make room for the mining.

Soon, others became sick with black lung and asthma. The money, water and energy they were promised was rerouted to bigger cities. It wasn’t helping their community at all.

The strip mining contaminated the water and poisoned the land.

People became angry and decided to fight back. They organized protests, raised awareness, and brought the community together to work for clean and socially responsible energy.

In 2006, the Navajo Nation Council prevented Peabody’s access to the aquifer and shut down the coal slurry pipeline.