

Although it would seem reasonable to assume that present and future residents of Grants/Milan could pay for the operation and maintenance of expanded public facilities, once they are built, there are several problems that go beyond the ability of local communities to deal with them:

1. In order for growth to occur in such a way as not to cause a deterioration of quality of life for existing residents to impose unnecessary hardship on newcomers, housing and necessary public facilities should be available as new people arrive. A local community cannot come up with large capital outlays before its taxing capacity has been expanded by new people and new building.
2. The large equipment and improvement investments and the production of the uranium companies are located outside Grants/Milan and not available to these communities as a source of revenue. Though it would seem reasonable that impact costs that are a result of uranium activity should be borne by that industry and not by the existing residents of Grants/Milan, the industry is beyond the authority of the communities to tax that activity.
3. Communities dependent on mineral development are traditionally faced with boom and bust situations. Grants grew from 2,250 people in 1950 to 10,274 people in 1960 and then went down to 8,768 by 1970. Present national energy policy seems to call for a large dependence on nuclear power, but environmental concern could change this drastically. If the nuclear industry does develop as the Energy Research and Development Administration predicts, it is likely that the uranium in the Grants Belt will be exhausted by the year 2000. State action could help to mitigate the effects upon Grants/Milan of extreme fluctuations in uranium development.