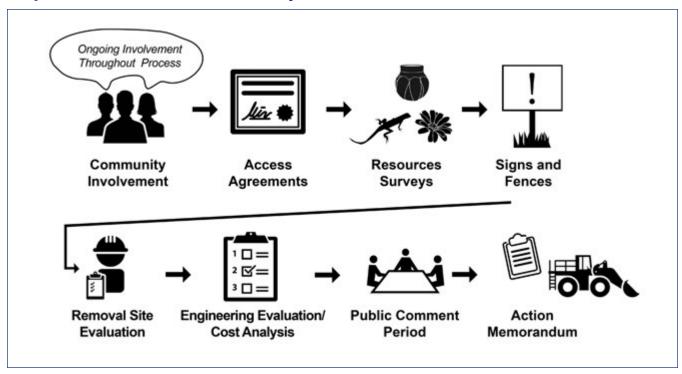
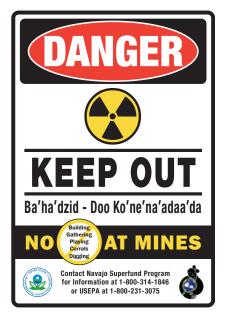
Superfund Process on Navajo Nation





Reduce Your Contact with Uranium and Radiation

Steps to keep yourself safe:

- Stay away from abandoned mines and mills;
- Find out if your home is a contaminated structure;
- Use regulated water for human needs;
- Never use unregulated water for human needs even if it looks ok;
- Use good water hauling practices to keep your water clean; and
- Get regular cancer screenings, like pap tests, mammograms, colonoscopies, and other cancer screenings.

For More Information

ZiZi Angelica SearlesUSEPA Remedial Project Manager
(415) 972 – 3178
searles.zizi@epa.gov

Amanda Pease

USEPA Community Involvement Coordinator (415) 972 – 3068

Toll Free (800) 231 – 3075 *pease.amanda@epa.gov*

Freida S. White NNEPA Superfund (928) 871 – 6859 freidawhite@navajo-nsn.gov

USEPA Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine webpage: www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup



NAVAJO NATION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9

WESTERN ABANDONED URANIUM MINE (AUM) REGION

Number of abandoned uranium mines in the Western AUM Region: 111
Of these 111 mines, seven are priority mines

Priority Mines

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), in partnership with Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA), is addressing abandoned uranium mines on and near Navajo Nation through the USEPA Superfund Program. USEPA and NNEPA have identified 46 "priority mines" of the 523 mines on and near Navajo Nation. These priority mines have high levels of radiation and may be near homes or water sources. There are seven priority mines in the Western AUM Region. USEPA continues to identify companies responsible for abandoned uranium mines in the region and to engage them in assessing and cleaning up the mines.

Legal Agreements and the Superfund Cleanup Process

In 2013, USEPA signed a legal agreement called an Adminis trative Order on Consent with El Paso Natural Gas to assess 19 mine claims in western Navajo Nation, including two priority mines (Charles Huskon No. 12 and Charles Huskon No. 14). In 2016, USEPA signed a similar agreement with Babbitt Ranches to assess the Section 9 Lease mine claim, a priority mine located across the Little Colorado River from Navajo Nation, about 10 miles southeast of Cameron, AZ. Field work to assess these mines is ongoing in 2017.

In 2014 and 2015, USEPA sent notices to EnPro Holdings (formerly Coltec Industries) that they are potentially responsible for eight mine claims in the area, including two priority mines (A&B No.2 and A&B No. 3). In 2016, USEPA sent notice to Wells Cargo that they are potentially responsible for three mine claims in the area, including one priorit mine (Juan Horse No. 3). USEPA's goal is to complete detailed assessments at all priority mines by the end of 2018

Once assessments are completed, a final assessment report called a "Removal Site Evaluation" is submitted to USEPA. This report allows USEPA to understand the location and concentration of contamination from historic mining activity. At this point, USEPA may put together a list of potential site cleanup options in a report called an "Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis". USEPA shares this information with Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation EPA, and the community, and responds to any feedback received before determining next steps. The back of this factsheet contains additional information about USEPA's Superfund process on the Navajo Nation.



USEPA and Navajo AML tour to A&B Mines with Cameron chapter leaders

PHASE I TRUST SETTLEMENT

In 2015, Navajo Nation and the United States entered into a \$13.2 million legal settlement called the Phase I Trust Settlement. The Phase I Trust is managed by an independent trustee, with USEPA and NNEPA oversight. This settlement provides funds to assess 16 priority mines on Navajo Nation, including one mine in Western AUM Region called Boyd Tisi No. 2. Assessment of Boyd Tisi No. 2 began in 2016 and the Removal Site Evaluation report is planned to be completed by 2018.

PHASE II TRUST SETTLEMENT

In June 2016, Navajo Nation and the United States entered into another legal settlement called the Phase II Trust Settlement. A separate trustee will be selected to manage the Phase II Trust Settlement under USEPA and NNEPA oversight. This settlement provides funds to assess 30 mines throughout Navajo Nation, cleanup the 16 mines identified in the Phase I Trust Settlement (including Boyd Tisi No. 2), and conduct two water studies. The 30 mines that will be assessed under the Phase II settlement have not yet been selected, but the settlement will include mines from the Western AUM Region.

