

Central Abandoned Uranium Mine (AUM) Region

Number of abandoned uranium mines in Central AUM Region: 28

Of these 28 mines, funds are available to begin the cleanup process at 21 mines

Central AUM Region includes the following Chapters:

Black Mesa, Chilchinbeto, Chinle, Many Farms, Rough Rock, Tachee-Blue Gap, and Tselani-Cottonwood

PRIORITY MINES AND SETTLEMENTS

USEPA, in partnership with the Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA), has identified 523 total AUMs on the Navajo Nation. Of these 523 AUMs, 46 mines were identified as "priority mines" based on radiation levels and proximity to homes, or potential for water contamination.

Funds are available to begin the cleanup process at 21 mines, approximately 75% of the mines in the Central AUM Region, including two priority mines and one water study. USEPA continues to look for companies responsible for the remaining mines in this region.



Claim 28 is an abandoned uranium mine in the Tachee-Blue Gap Chapter where the Phase 1 Trustee conducted an investigation. Additionally, the Phase 2 Settlement provides funds to conduct a water study and clean up the mine.

Table 1: Central AUM Region Funded Mines

Legal Settlement	Number of Mines*	Superfund Process Status
Phase 1 and 2 Settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 mines, including two priority mines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal Site Evaluation reports completed in 2018 at the two priority mines A water study at the Claim 28 mine began in 2019
Cyprus Amax Minerals Company (Cyprus Amax) and Western Nuclear, Inc. (Western Nuclear)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One mine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal Site Evaluation to be conducted in the future
Total	21 mines (two of which are priority mines)	

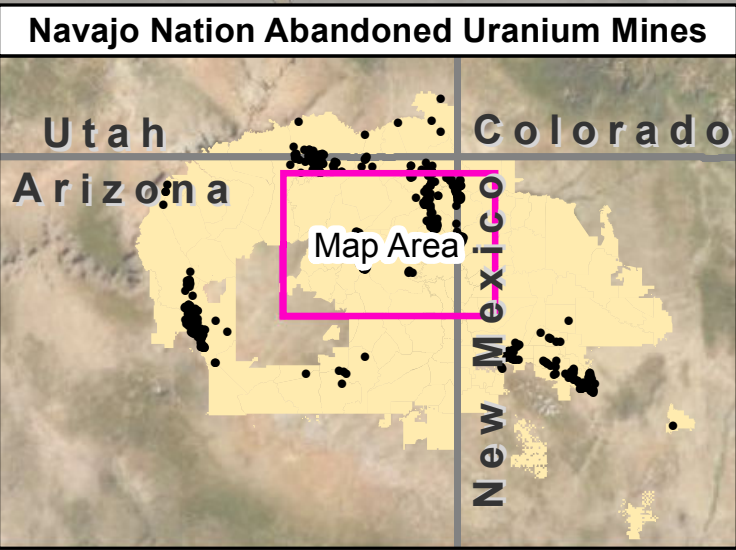
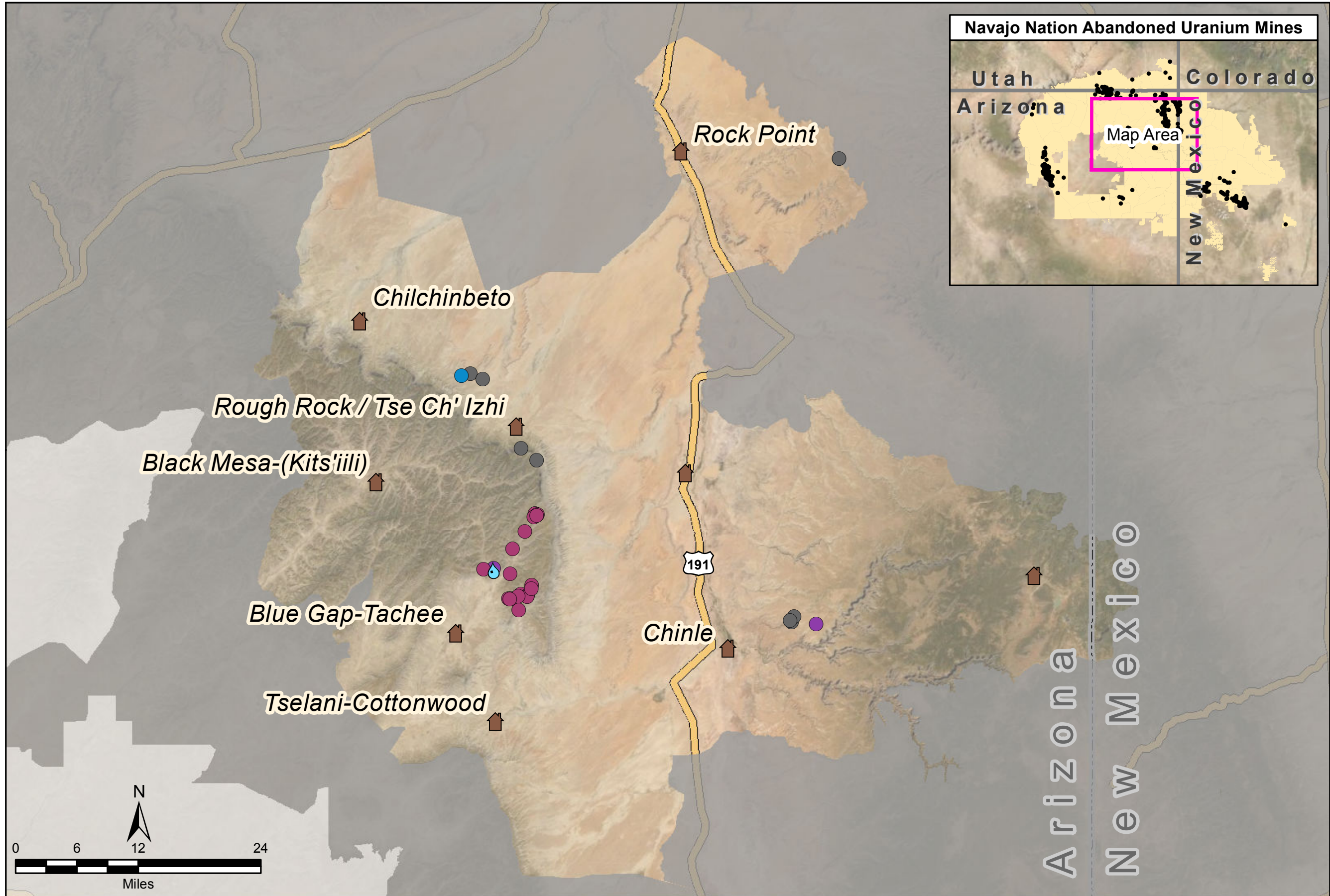
*One mine claim can include more than one site.

Legal Agreements and AUM Cleanup Activities

CYPRUS AMAX AND WESTERN NUCLEAR SETTLEMENT

In 2017, the United States and Navajo Nation entered into a historic settlement agreement with Cyprus Amax Minerals Company and Western Nuclear, Inc., two companies owned by Freeport-McMoRan. The settlement funds the assessment and cleanup of 94 abandoned uranium mines on Navajo Nation, including one mine in the Central AUM Region. This settlement addresses almost 20% of the abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation.

The Cyprus Amax mines are located in the Central, North Central, and Northern AUM Regions of the Navajo Nation. The Western Nuclear mines are located in the Eastern AUM Region.



- Mines**
- Cyprus Amax
 - Phase 1 Trust
 - Phase 2 Trust
 - Currently Unfunded
 - 💧 Phase 2 Trust Water Study

Abandoned Uranium Mines and Current Settlements
Navajo Nation Cental AUM Area

- 🏠 Chapter House
- Highway
- US State

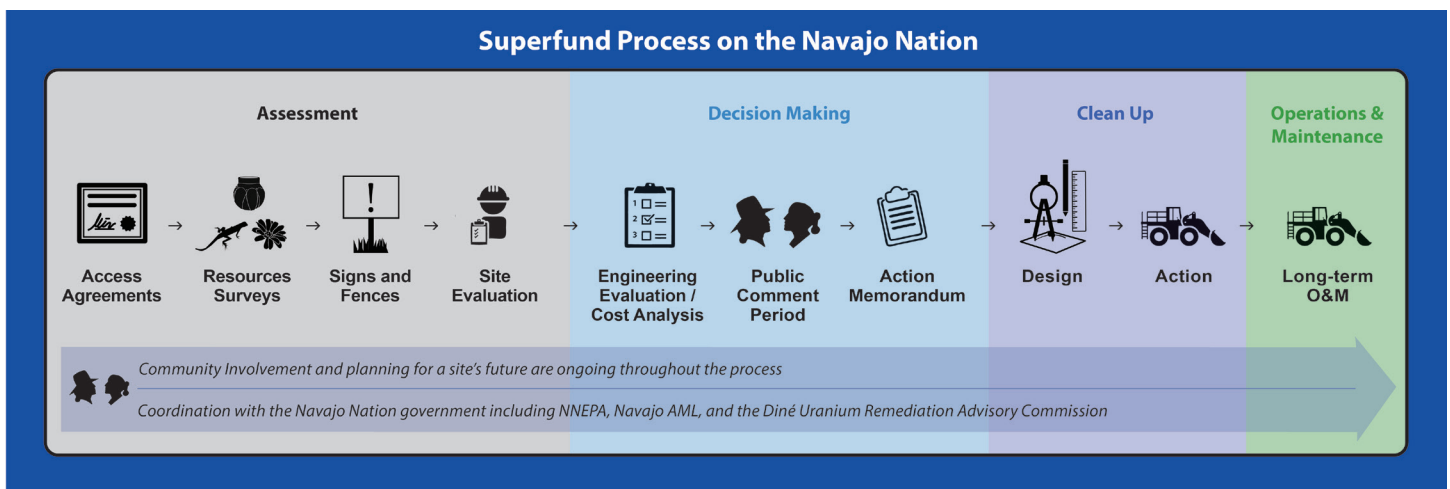


PHASE 2 TRUST SETTLEMENT

In 2016, the Navajo Nation and the United States entered into an additional legal settlement called the Phase 2 Settlement. The Phase 2 Settlement includes one trust account that is managed by Derrith Watchman-Moore, an independent trustee, with USEPA and NNEPA oversight. A 2020 Addendum to the Phase 2 Settlement provides funds to assess an additional 13 mine claims in the Black Mesa Mining District (containing 18 mine sites) in the Central AUM Region, 13 mines in the Western AUM Region, four mines in the Northern AUM region, and conduct two water studies, one of which is at the Claim 28 mine. The Phase 2 Settlement also provides funds to clean up the mines assessed under Phase 1 Trust, as needed.

PHASE 1 TRUST SETTLEMENT

In 2015, the Navajo Nation and the United States entered into a \$13.2 million settlement called the Phase 1 Settlement. The Phase 1 Settlement included one trust account, the Phase 1 Trust, and was managed by Sadie Hoskie, with USEPA and NNEPA oversight. This settlement provided funds to assess 16 priority mines on the Navajo Nation, including two in the Central AUM Region. In 2015, assessment work began at these priority mines: Claim 28 and Occurrence B. The Removal Site Evaluation reports, which provide information needed to determine the extent of contamination at these mines, were completed in 2018.



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
- Get regular cancer screenings, like pap tests, mammograms, colonoscopies, and other cancer screenings

For More Information

Elsa Johnson
Community Involvement Coordinator
USEPA Region 9
(415) 947 – 3552
johnson.elsa@epa.gov

Freyja Knapp
Remedial Project Manager
(Phase 2 Trust)
USEPA Region 9
(415) 972 – 3025
knapp.freyja@epa.gov

Dariel Yazzie
Environmental Program Supervisor
NNEPA Superfund
(928) 871 – 7601
darielyazzie@navajo-nsn.gov

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

