



EPA Kerr - McGee Quivira Mines Site Update

U . S . Environmental Protection Agency

Region 9

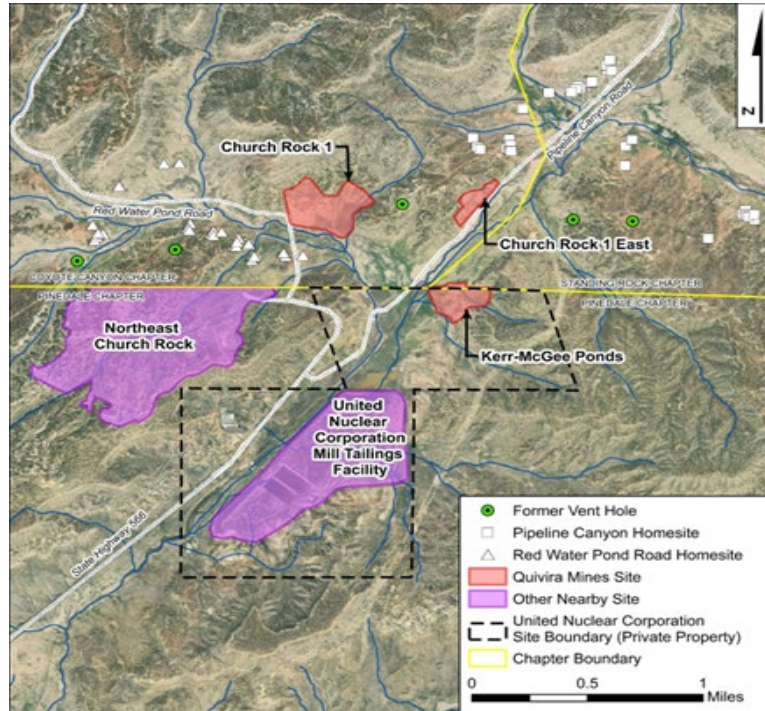
San Francisco, CA

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Background

The two Quivira Mines, Church Rock 1 (CR-1) and Church Rock 1E (CR-1E), are former uranium mines located at the end of State Highway 566 approximately 20 miles northeast of Gallup, New Mexico on the Pinedale, Standing Rock, and Coyote Canyon Chapters of the Navajo Nation. Kerr-McGee also operated a dewatering and proto ore storage area (Kerr-McGee Ponds) primarily on UNC property to the east of Pipeline Canyon Road.

The mines produced about 1.3 million tons of ore, making the Quivira Mines the third largest producing mine on the Navajo Nation. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified Quivira Mines as a “priority” mine for cleanup due to the proximity of the residents to the mine sites.



Northeast Church Rock Mine, Kerr-McGee Quivira Mines, Kerr-McGee Ponds, and UNC Mill Superfund sites map.

What Has Been Done?

- In 2010 to 2012, over 20,000 tons of contaminated soil removed from the Red Water Pond Road Area and brought back to the CR-1 waste pile.
- In 2017, over 15,400 tons were removed from 5 Vent Holes and consolidated on the CR-1 waste pile. Also in 2017, the former Kerr-McGee Ponds area was identified.
- In 2018, construction and replacement of the bridge near Quivira CR-1 was completed.
- In 2021, the powerline was re-routed outside of the Quivira CR-1 footprint by NTUA.
- In 2021, discussions began on a study to investigate potential impacts to ground water.
- In 2022, additional characterization of Quivira CR-1 and CR-1E sites and the Kerr-McGee Ponds was conducted.
- In 2023, a draft engineering evaluation/cost analysis of cleanup options was prepared. Also in 2023, erosion and stormwater control construction began at the CR-1 site.

What Will Happen Next?

EPA and Navajo Nation EPA are holding public meetings to discuss cleanup options. In Spring 2024, the Agencies plan to release a comparison of cleanup options for the final response action for the Quivira Mines called the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for public comment. EPA will open a 60 day public comment period and hold public meetings to present the recommended cleanup option to the communities. EPA expects the cleanups to begin around 2025 to 2027, depending on the cleanup option selected.



Waste rock pile at the Quivira Mines CR-1 area.

Who is Involved?

- EPA is working in consultation with the Navajo Nation EPA to determine cleanup options.
- The Red Water Pond Road and Pipeline Canyon Road communities are impacted by the mine sites. EPA and Navajo Nation EPA are consulting with the communities and working towards a cleanup solution. The community members are registered with several Navajo Nation chapters, including Coyote Canyon, Standing Rock, and Pinedale.

How Can You Learn More?

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USEPA Eastern Region Abandoned Uranium Mine site page: <https://www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup/eastern-abandoned-uranium-mine-region>

Ten Year Plan to Address Impacts of Uranium Contamination 2020-2029:

<http://www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup/federal-plans-related-documents>