

# Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine

## Site Screen Report

*This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits, pits and waste piles. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands that may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.*

*The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, and record all immediate site information associated with the mine site. Decisions and recommendations on what additional steps are needed will be provided on a separate document.*

## Yellow Jeep No. 7A and 7B AUM Site

**Navajo AUM Western Region**

**Prepared by:**

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**

**Contract: W91238-06-F-0083**

**12767.063.599.1111**

**January 2011**

**Part I Site Identification, Location and Status**

**Site Names and ID numbers as applicable**

**Mine ID:** 537

**Map ID:** W71

**CERCLIS:** NNN000909118

**Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program:** None

**Local name / Aliases:** Yellow Jeep No. 7A-B; Yellow Jeep No. 7A,B; Yellow Jeep

**Chapter and local area:** Coalmine Mesa Chapter

**County:** Coconino **State:** Arizona

**Lat/Long:** 35.8370476678 N / -111.170903721 W

**Nearby road and highway:** Indian Route 6720 **Local Post Office:** Tuba City, AZ

**Surface Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below**

<b>Tribal Trust Land</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Public lands</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Private</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tribal Fee Land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bureau of Land Mgmt</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Allotment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>State</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fee land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Subsurface Mineral Rights:**

No information on subsurface mineral rights ownership was found in the EPA/AUM Database.

**Claim and operator information:**

The mine site surface land status is classified as Tribal Trust Land. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Yellow Jeep Mining in 1957. No additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

**Number of residential structures within 200 feet of mine:** None Observed

**Estimated volume of mine waste onsite:** Unknown

## **Part II      Summary of radiological readings**

### **Highest gamma radiation measurement:**

None

### **Describe any other radiological measurements:**

No radiological measurements were taken at the mine site. Weston was unable to access to the site, no roads or paths were found leading towards the site, and steep cliffs and were found in all directions. Kenneth Nez, the President of the Coalmine Mesa Chapter, who grew up approximately 8 miles east of the site, accompanied Weston while attempting to access the site. The closest Weston was able to get to the site was 1.25 miles northeast (above the cliffs) and 5.5 miles to the southwest (below the cliffs). A site map is shown in Figure 1.

**Background Readings:** None

**Background Average:** None

### **Distribution Chart and Statistics:**

None

**Part III Status of Reclamation and Mine Waste**

**The following information was obtained from the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) Point Features Database:**

**NAMLRP Status of the mine site: Reclaimed : Unknown Waste Pile onsite : No**

**NAMLRP Project Number: None**

**NAMLRP Mine features: None**

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**The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2010 site screening:**

**Provide description and status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all caps.**

**Observed reclamation work and status:**

**Adits**

Unknown

**Waste Piles**

Unknown

**Pits**

Unknown

**Shafts**

Unknown

**Other Debris and Mine Features**

Unknown

## Part IV

### Site observations and Environs

**Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None Observed

**200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None Observed

**Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None Observed

**200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None Observed

**Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):**

None

**Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:**

**0 to 0.25 miles:** None Observed

**0.25 miles to 4 miles:** None Observed

**Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species, habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.**

None observed

**Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents. Note information on mine ownership, type of mining operation, period of operation, known amount of production, and any other information as provided.**

Yellow Jeep No. 7A and 7B mine consists of an area of 25,595.31 m<sup>2</sup>. The mine was identified as being operational in 1957. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Yellow Jeep Mining in 1957. While operational, the mine had a total production volume of 121 tons. No historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database. Kenneth Nez, Chapter President and local resident was unaware of any mining activities taken place at the site.

## **Part V          Response Action Summary**

### **Summary of Evaluation Factors:**

#### ***Accessibility:***

**Was the mine easily accessible to potential human activity?**

No (mine was not accessible)

#### ***Radiological Measurements:***

**Were any gamma radiation measurements collected at the mine greater than two times the site-specific background levels?**

Unknown (no measurements collected)

#### ***Waste Piles:***

**Were any unreclaimed waste piles observed at the mine with gamma radiation measurements greater than two times the site-specific background levels?**

Unknown

#### ***Structures:***

**Were any structures observed within 200 feet of the mine?**

Unknown

#### ***Potential Drinking Water Sources:***

**Were any potential drinking water sources observed within 4 miles of the mine?**

Unknown

#### ***Reclamation:***

**Was the mine reported to be previously reclaimed, or did the mine appear to be reclaimed?**

Unknown

**Part VI      Photos**



Photo 1. Inaccessible route towards Yellow Jeep No. 7A and 7B mine site, from the northeast



Photo 2. Inaccessible route towards Yellow Jeep No. 7A and 7B mine site, from the northeast



Photo 3. Inaccessible route towards Yellow Jeep No. 7A and 7B mine site, from the southwest



Photo 4. Inaccessible route towards Yellow Jeep No. 7A and 7B mine site, from the southwest



**Part VII      Contacts Reports and Information**

Name:     Stanley Edison (928) 871-6861

Eugene Esplain (928) 871-7331

Title or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund Program

Address PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515

Information provided Lead Regulatory Agency

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Name:     Kenneth Nez

Title or official role (if any) President – Coalmine Mesa Chapter

Telephone number (928) 283-3383

Address PO Box 1464, Tuba City, AZ 86045

Information provided Mr. Nez is the Chapter President of the Coalmine Mesa Chapter, and is the Grandson of Hosteen Nez (the namesake of the mine #1043). Mr. Nez grew up near the mine site. He was unaware of any mining activities in the vicinity of Yellow Jeep No. 7A and 7B mine site.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

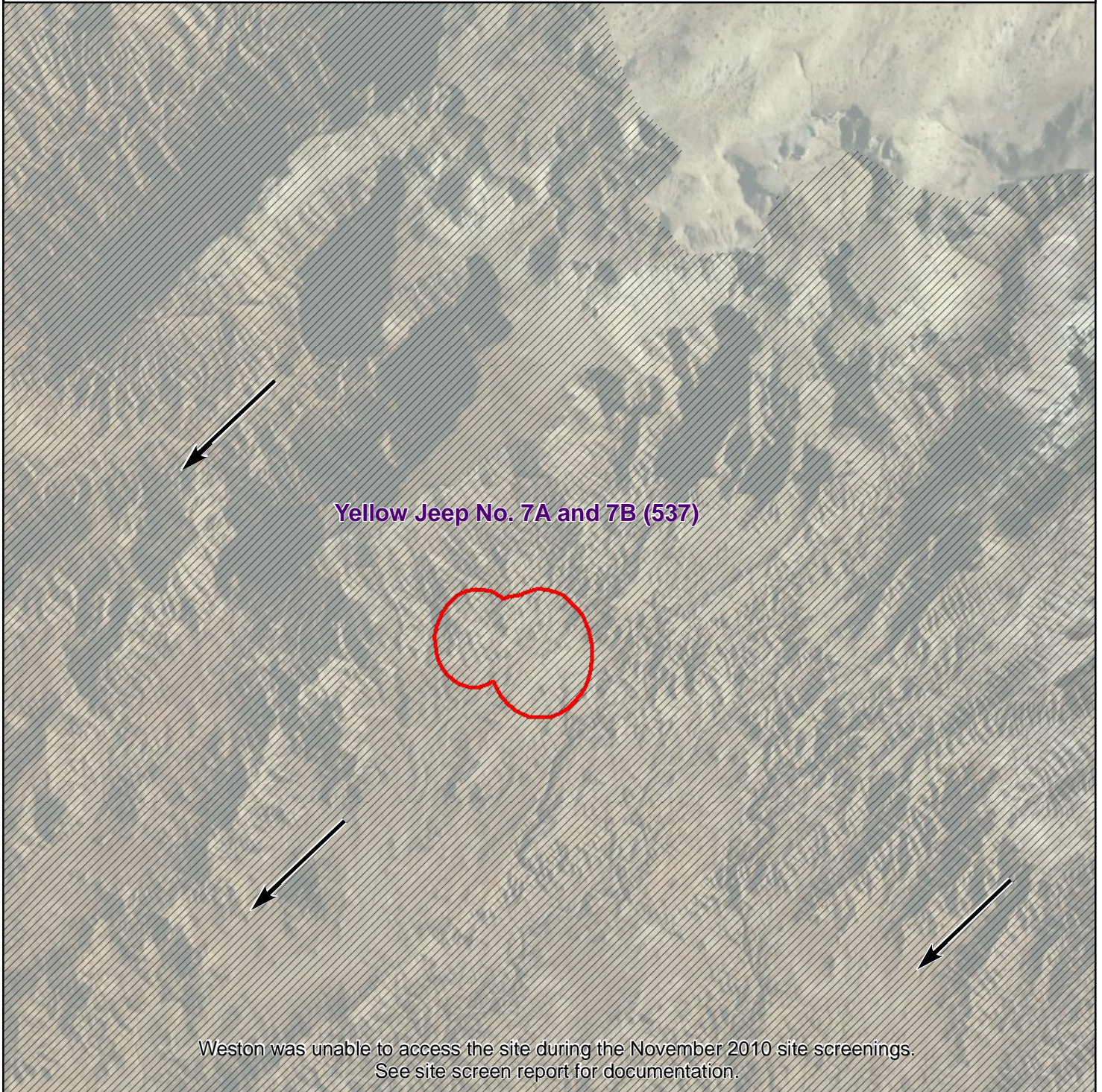
Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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**Figure 1 - Site Inaccessible  
Yellow Jeep No. 7A and 7B (537)  
Coalmine Mesa Chapter, Navajo Nation**



**Legend**

**Gamma Radiation Measurements**

- 0 - 10,000
- 10,000 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 20,000
- 20,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 100,000
- > 100,000

- ➔ General Slope Direction
- ▨ Steep Grade
- ▭ Mine Site Boundary

**Gamma survey attempted 11/2010**