

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.

Rattlesnake No. 8 AUM Site

Navajo AUM Northern Region

Prepared by:

Weston Solutions, Inc.

Contract: W91238-06-F-0083

12767.063.496.1111

August 2010

Part I Site Identification, Location and Status

Site Names and ID numbers as applicable

Mine ID: 54

Map ID: N45

CERCLIS: NNN000908958

Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: NA-0908, NA-0921A

Local name / Aliases: Plot 12; VCA West Reservation Plot 12; VCA No. 8 Mine

Chapter and local area: Sweetwater / Teec Nos Pos Chapter

County: Apache **State:** Arizona

Lat/Long: 36.877048853 N / -109.286576475 W

Nearby road and highway: Highway 160 **Local Post Office:** Teec Nos Pos

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

Tribal Trust Land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public lands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Fee Land	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureau of Land Mgmt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allotment	<input type="checkbox"/>
State	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fee land	<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 Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Vanadium Corp. of America from 1953 to 1956, and from 1962 to 1968, Harry Russell in 1951, Leo Redhouse from 1951 to 1952, Earl Saltwater from 1951 to 1952, Thomas Clani in 1956, and Capitol Seaboard Corp. from 1958 to 1959. No other historical ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

Number of residential structures within 200 feet of mine: None

Estimated volume of mine waste onsite: None

Part II Summary of radiological readings

Highest gamma radiation measurement:

60,962 counts per minute (cpm)

Describe any other radiological measurements:

A total of 5,783 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 5,466 cpm to 60,962 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

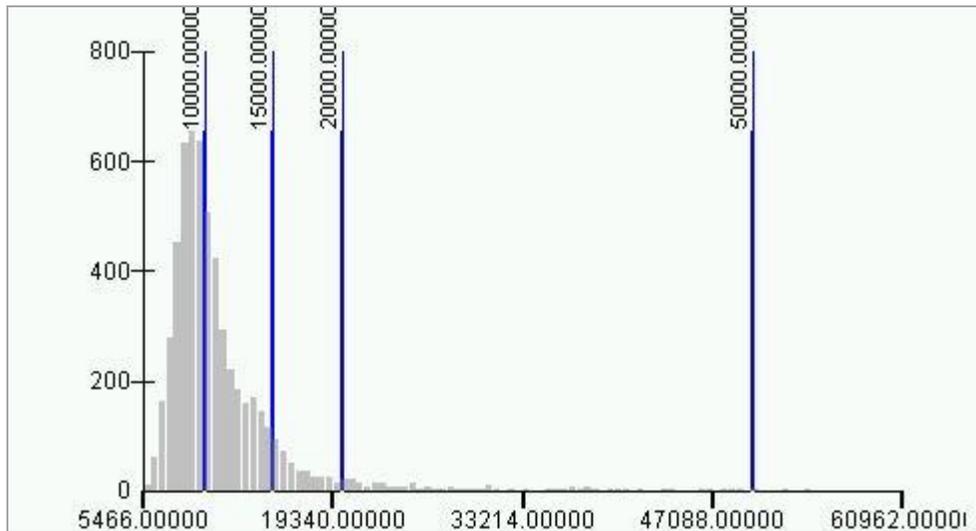
Background Locations

#1 9,634 cpm

Average background = 9,634 cpm

Distribution Chart and Statistics:

The following chart and statistics were generated by ESRI ArcGIS 9.3.1, and show the general distribution of the site gamma radiation measurements. The horizontal X axis represents the gamma radiation reading levels in cpm (lowest levels to the left). The vertical Y axis represents the frequency of each gamma radiation level.



Count:	5783
Minimum:	5466.00000
Maximum:	60962.00000
Sum:	65374330.00000
Mean:	11304.57029
Median:	9882.00000
Standard Deviation:	5284.30276

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 : Yes Waste Pile onsite : Yes

NAMLRP Project Number: NA-0908, NA-0921A

NAMLRP Mine features: 3 Portals, 2 Prospects

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

None

Waste Piles

None

Pits

Excavation pit atop mesa

Shafts

None

Other Debris and Mine Features

Concrete troughs and debris

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

200 feet to 0.25 mile: None

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

200 feet to 0.25 mile: None

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: Small pond immediately south of site, water trough at south end of site

0.25 miles to 4 miles: None

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.

Rattlesnake No. 8 mine consists of an area of 71,738.83 m². The mine was identified as being operational from 1942 to 1950. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Vanadium Corp. of America from 1953 to 1956, and from 1962 to 1968, Harry Russell in 1951, Leo Redhouse from 1951 to 1952, Earl Saltwater from 1951 to 1952, Thomas Clani in 1956, and Capitol Seaboard Corp. from 1958 to 1959. While operational, the mine had a total reported production volume of 478 tons. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

Part V Response Action Summary

Site Name(s): Rattlesnake No. 8 **Chapter:** Sweetwater/Teec Nos Pos

Decision Criteria

Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site? No

At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located? None

At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources? None

Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site? No

Is the cap/seal functionally intact? No

Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases? No

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located? None

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source? None

Summary of emergency response factors

None

Summary hazard ranking system factors

None

Summary of reclamation factors

Excavation pit atop mesa

Part VI Photos



Photo 1. Rattlesnake No. 8 mine site



Photo 2. Rattlesnake No. 8 mine site, pit area and concrete troughs



Photo 3. Rattlesnake No. 8 mine site, pit area



Photo 4. Rattlesnake No. 8 mine site, pit area

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

Name:

Title or official role (if any)

Address

Information provided

Name_____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number_____

Information provided_____

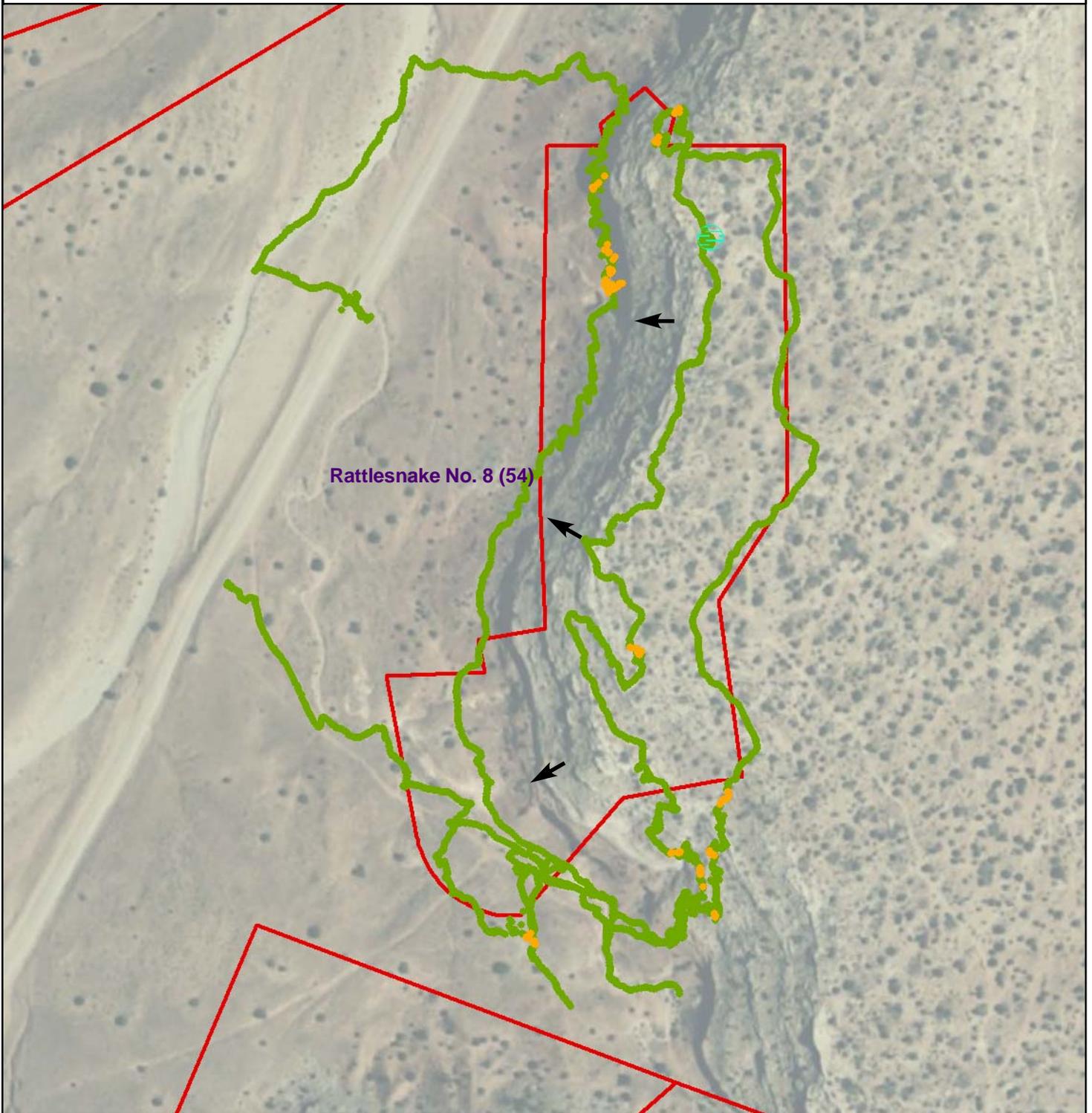
Name_____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number_____

Information provided_____

**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background
Rattlesnake No. 8 (54)
Sweetwater / Teec Nos Pos Chapter, Navajo Nation**



Legend

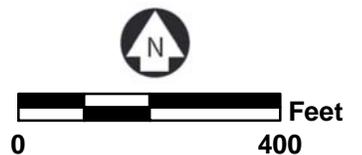
Gamma Radiation Measurements

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

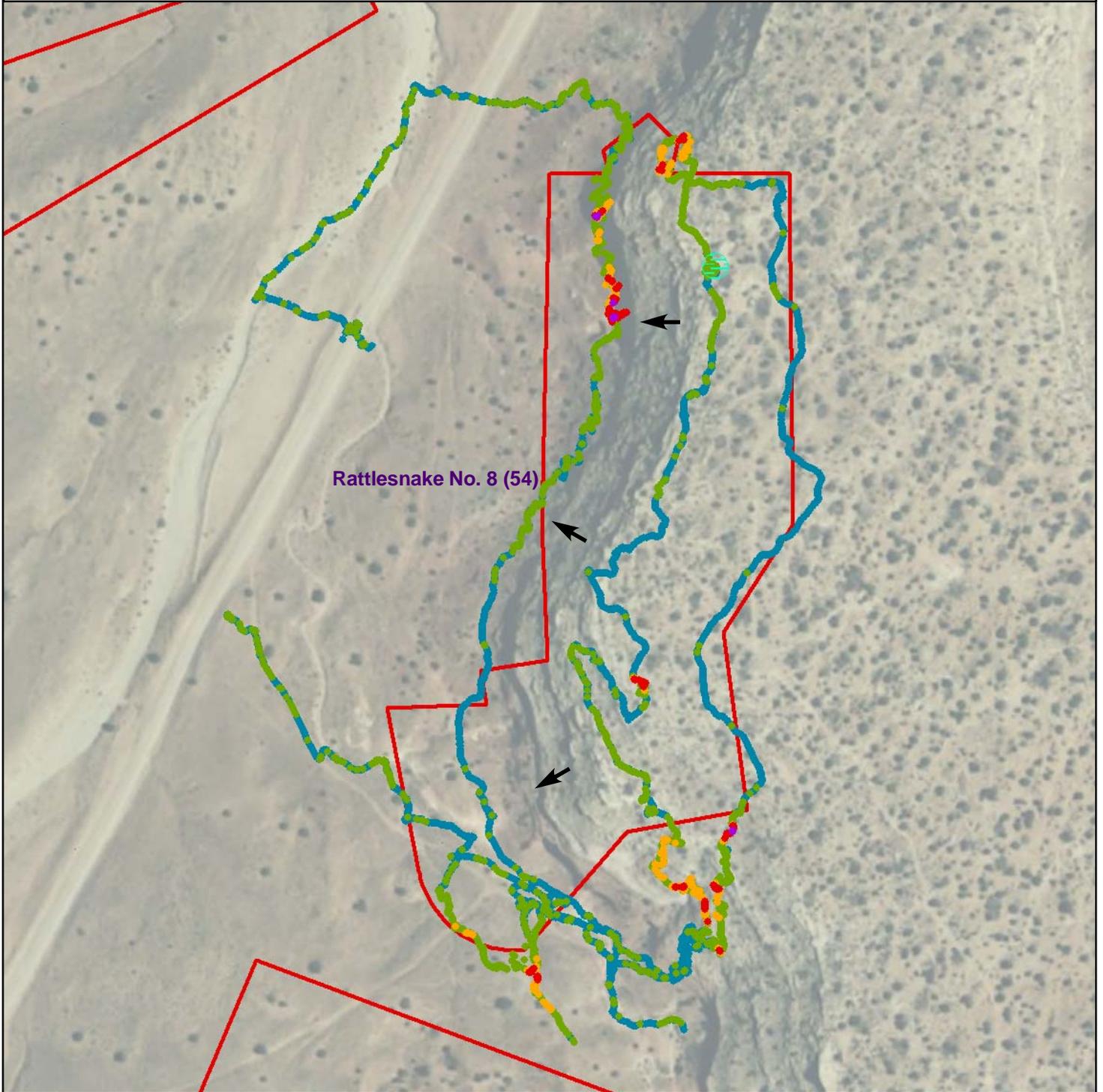
Gamma survey conducted 06/2010
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background = 9,634 cpm

- ➔ General Direction Down-Slope
- ▭ Mine Claim Boundaries
- ▨ Observed Reclamation Cap



**Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements
Rattlesnake No. 8 (54)
Sweetwater / Teec Nos Pos 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 Direction Down-Slope

▭ Mine Claim Boundaries

▨ Observed Reclamation Cap



Gamma survey conducted 06/2010
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background 9,634 cpm

