

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.

Step Mesa Mine AUM Site

Navajo AUM Northern Region

Prepared by:

Weston Solutions, Inc.

Contract: W91238-06-F-0083

12767.063.496.1111

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Part I Site Identification, Location and Status

Site Names and ID numbers as applicable

Mine ID: 204

Map ID: N252

CERCLIS: NNN000908863

Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: NA-0330

Local name / Aliases: None

Chapter and local area: Round Rock Chapter

County: Apache **State:** Arizona

Lat/Long: 36.5054168059 N / -109.26852907 W

Nearby road and highway: Indian Route 33 **Local Post Office:** Lukachukai, AZ

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 Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Kerr McGee from 1955 to 1957, and Vanadium Corp. of America from 1963 to 1964. 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:

Unknown

Part II Summary of radiological readings

Highest gamma radiation measurement:

None

Describe any other radiological measurements:

Weston was unable to access the site, all known paths to the site were impassible. A site map is represented in Figures 1.

Background Locations

#1 8,250 cpm

Average background = 8,250 cpm

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 : Yes Waste Pile onsite : Yes

NAMLRP Project Number: NA-0330

NAMLRP Mine features: 2 Portals

The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2009 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

The site was inaccessible, therefore no other mine features were observed during the site visit.

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: None

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.

Step Mesa mine consists of an area of 14,986.25 m². The mine was identified as being operational from 1962 to 1964. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Kerr McGee from 1955 to 1957, and Vanadium Corp. of America from 1963 to 1964. While operational, the mine had a total reported production volume of 8,841 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): Step Mesa **Chapter:** Round Rock

Decision Criteria

Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site? Unknown

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? Unknown

Is the cap/seal functionally intact? Unknown

Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases? Unknown

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

Unknown

Part VI Photos



Photo 1. Direction towards mine site



Photo 2. Along path leading towards mine site



Photo 3. Washed out path leading towards mine site



Photo4. Direction towards mine site

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 _____

Telephone number _____

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 - Site Inaccessible
Step Mesa (204)
Round Rock Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona**



Weston was unable to access the site during the October 2009 site screenings.
All known paths leading towards the site were impassable. See site screen report for documentation.

Legend

- ➔ General Direction Down-Slope
- ▭ Mine Claim Boundaries

