

# **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.*

### **Jim Lee - Richard King Claims 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:** 279

**Map ID:** N63

**CERCLIS:** NNN000909054

**Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program:** NA-0422

**Local name / Aliases:** Jim Lee 1; Richard King 1; Jim Lee - Richard King Claims; Jim Lee #1 and Richard King #1

**Chapter and local area:** Beclabito Chapter

**County:** Apache **State:** Arizona

**Lat/Long:** 36.838509859 N / -109.097723992 W

**Nearby road and highway:** Highway 64 **Local Post Office:** Beclabito

**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 Mexona Corp. in 1955, and G.B. Cree Drilling Co. in 1955. 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:** 920 yd<sup>3</sup>

**Part II Summary of radiological readings**

**Highest gamma radiation measurement:**

345,434 counts per minute (cpm)

**Describe any other radiological measurements:**

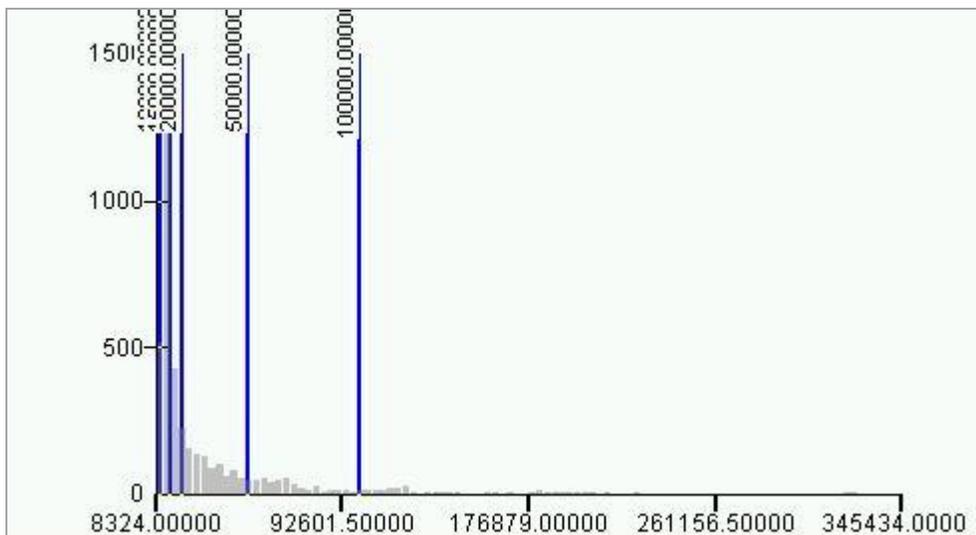
A total of 3,967 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 8,324 cpm to 345,434 cpm. Measurements collected in the vicinity of the waste debris were found at levels ranging from approximately 50,000 cpm to 330,000 cpm, and near the adits at levels ranging from approximately 50,000 cpm to 115,000 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

**Background Locations**  
 #1 11,580 cpm

**Average background = 11,580 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:	3967
Minimum:	8324.00000
Maximum:	345434.00000
Sum:	138106386.00000
Mean:	34813.81044
Median:	16264.00000
Standard Deviation:	43961.01609

### **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 : No**

**NAMLRP Project Number: NA-0422**

**NAMLRP Mine features: 2 Portals, 1 Rim Strip / Pit, 3 Prospects**

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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**

Three adits, each with stone reclamation seals: adit 1 was approximately 15' x 10'; adit 2 was approximately 20' x 10'; adit 3 was approximately 12' x 6'

##### **Waste Piles**

Four waste piles were noted onsite, all of which appeared to be unreclaimed: two waste piles bordering the ruined mining road on the way into the site; the larger waste pile was 30' x 12' x 4'; the smaller waste pile was 10' x 20' x 1.5'; two additional waste piles were observed extending down the slope immediately beneath adits; waste pile beneath adit 2 measured 40' x 40' x 10'; waste pile beneath adit 3 measured 30' x 80' x 3'

##### **Pits**

None

##### **Shafts**

None

##### **Other Debris and Mine Features**

None

## 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.**

Jim Lee - Richard King Claims mine is actually two separate mines; Jim Lee No. 1 and Richard King No. 1. These mines are co-located and their production combined over their year of operation in 1955. Together, the mine occupies an area of 17,618.76 m<sup>2</sup>. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Mexona Corp. in 1955, and G.B. Cree Drilling Co. in 1955. While operational, the mine had a total reported production volume of 177 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):** Jim Lee - Richard King Claims      **Chapter:** Beclabito

**Decision Criteria**

**Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site?** Yes

**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?** Yes

**Is the cap/seal functionally intact?** Yes

**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**

3 sealed adits; unreclaimed waste piles

**Part VI      Photos**



Photo 1. Large waste pile



Photo 2. Waste pile and rock wall



Photo 3. Adit with stone reclamation seal

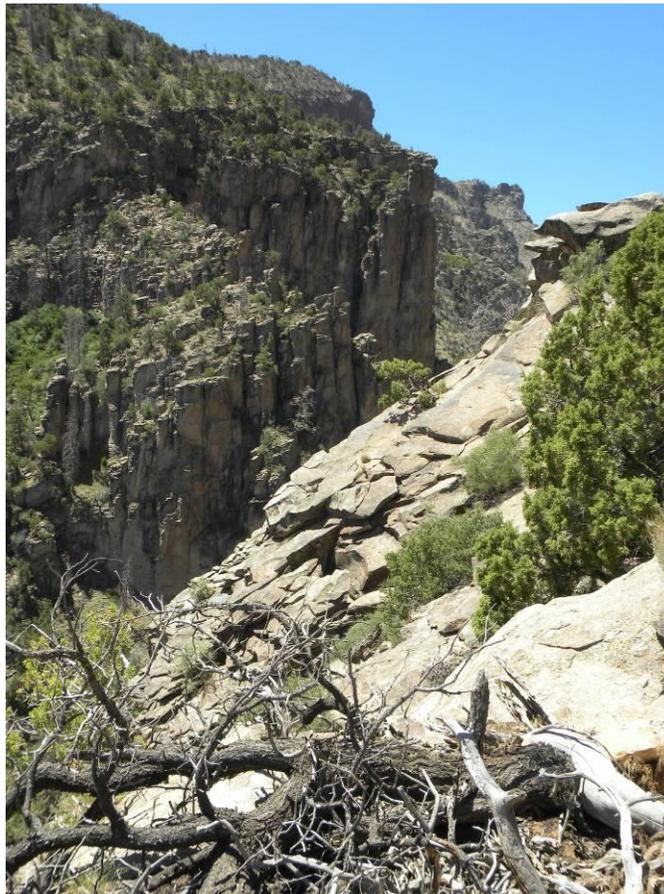


Photo 4. Jim Lee - Richard King Claims mine site

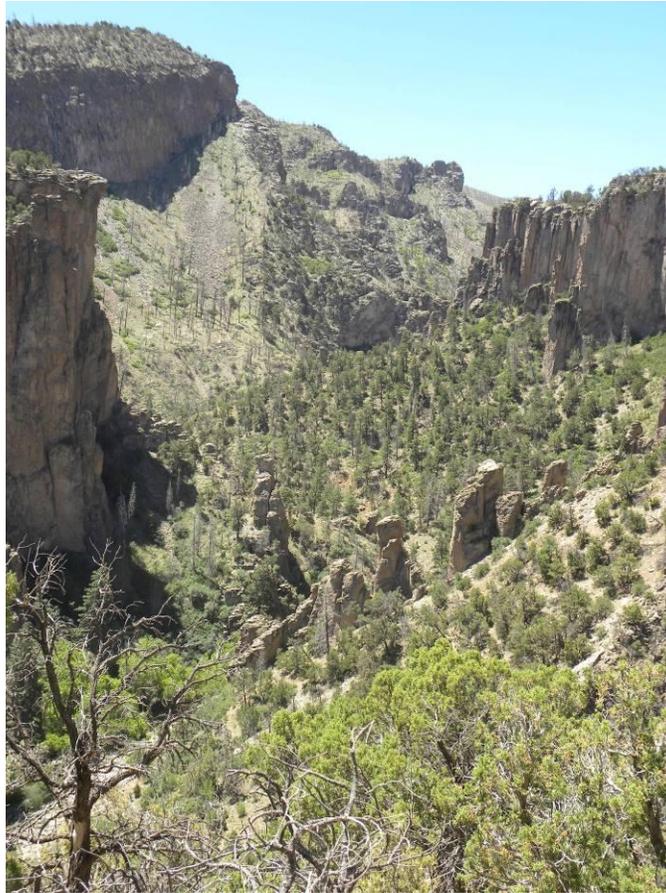


Photo 5. Jim Lee - Richard King Claims mine site



Photo 6. Adit with stone reclamation seal



Photo 7. Large waste pile extending down slope



Photo 8. Adit with stone reclamation seal



Photo 9. Waste pile extending down slope

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

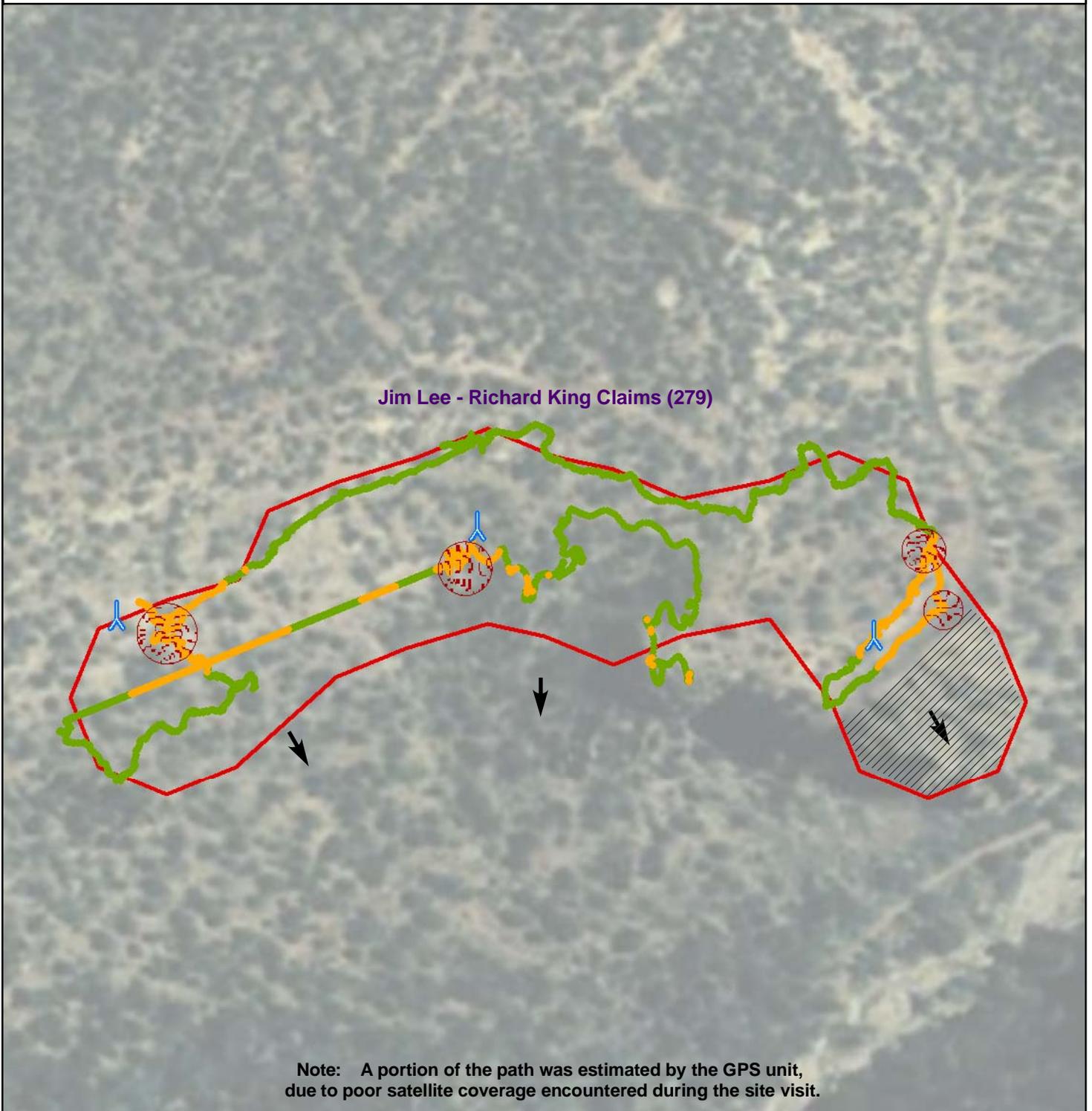
Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background  
 Jim Lee - Richard King Claims (279)  
 Beclabito Chapter, Navajo Nation**



Note: A portion of the path was estimated by the GPS unit, due to poor satellite coverage encountered during the site visit.

**Legend**

**Gamma Radiation Measurements**

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

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

Average background = 11,580 cpm

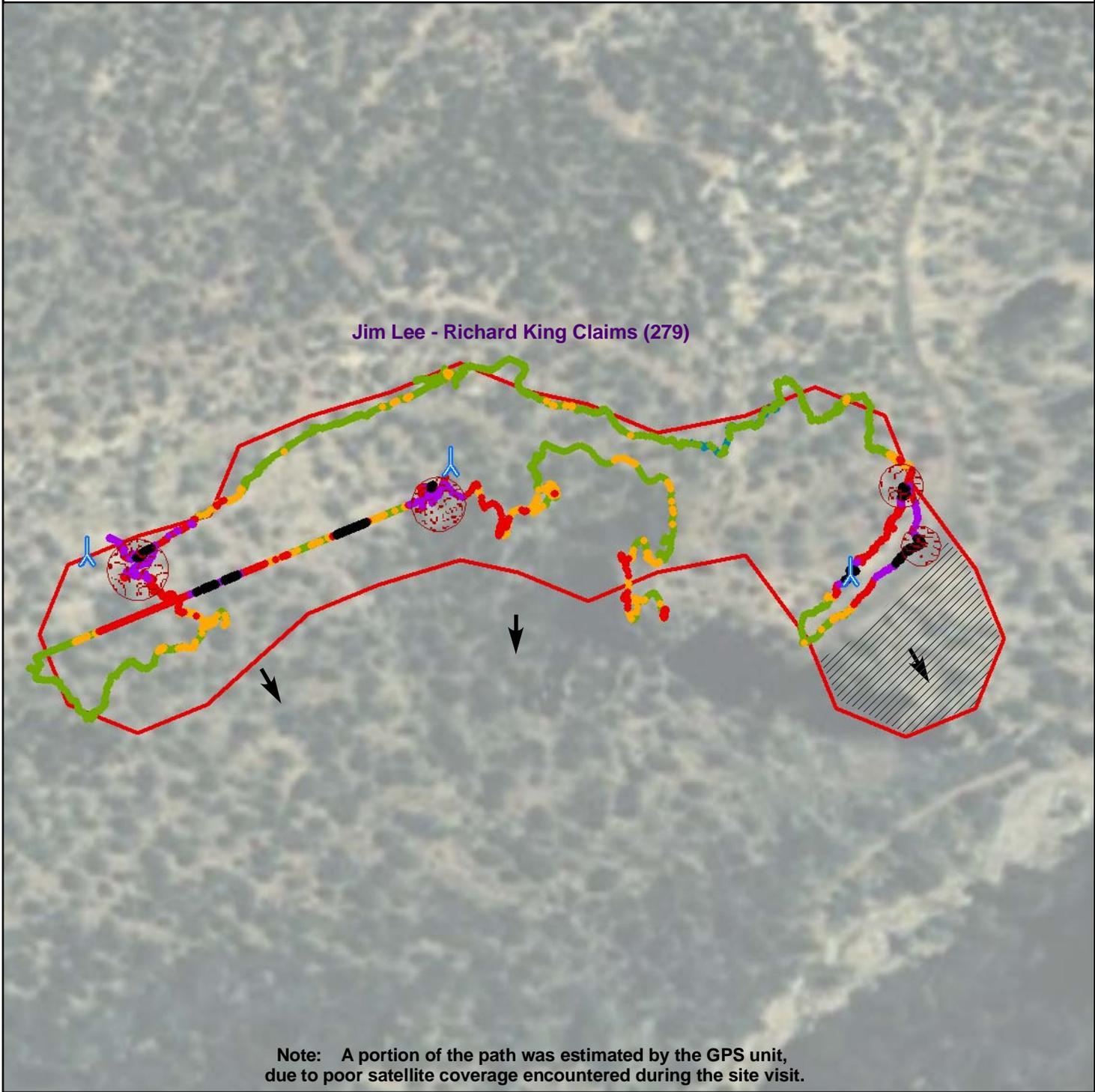
- ➔ General Direction Down-Slope
- ▭ Mine Claim Boundaries
- ⊗ Observed Waste Pile
- ⚡ Observed Adit

N

0 200 Feet

**WESTON SOLUTIONS**

**Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements**  
**Jim Lee - Richard King Claims (279)**  
**Beclabito Chapter, Navajo Nation**



Note: A portion of the path was estimated by the GPS unit, due to poor satellite coverage encountered during the site visit.

**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 Waste Pile
- ⚡ Observed Adit

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

Average background 11,580 cpm