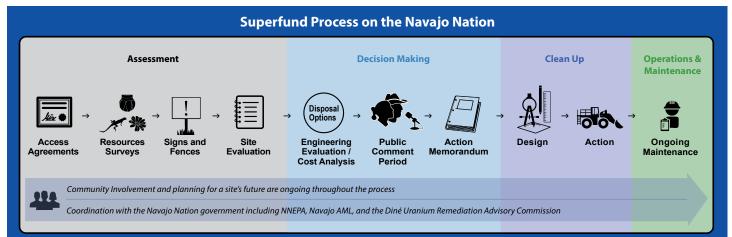
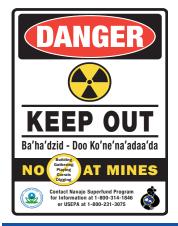
## PHASE 1 SETTLEMENT

In 2015, the Navajo Nation and the United States entered into a \$13.2 million settlement called the Phase 1 Settlement, that was managed by an independent trustee, with USEPA and NNEPA oversight. Under the Phase 1 Settlement the United States provided funds to assess 16 priority mines on the Navajo Nation, including three in the North Central AUM Region: Mitten No. 3, Charles Keith, and Harvey Blackwater No. 3. The assessment work at the 16 mines was completed in 2018. A Removal Site Evaluation report, which helped to determine the location and level of contamination at each mine, was developed for each site.

### **PHASE 2 SETTLEMENT**

In 2016, the Navajo Nation and the United States entered into a legal settlement called the Phase 2 Settlement. The Phase 2 Settlement established a trust account that is managed by Derrith Watchman-Moore, an independent trustee, under USEPA and NNEPA oversight. As of February 14, 2022, the Expanded Trust Agreement was signed into place, which replaces the Phase 2 Settlement and provides funding for the cleanup process at the Phase 1 sites as needed, three of which are located in the North Central AUM Region.





## **Reduce Your Contact with Uranium and Radiation**

## Steps to keep yourself safe:

Elsa Johnson

**USEPA** Region 9

- Stay away from abandoned mines and mills
- Find out if your home is a contaminated structure
- Use regulated water for human needs
- Never use unregulated water for human needs—even if it looks OK
- Use good water hauling practices to keep your water clean
- Get regular cancer screenings, like pap tests, mammograms, colonoscopies, and other cancer screenings

## For More Information

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USEPA Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine website: www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup

Community Involvement Coordinator



# **NAVAJO NATION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • November 2022

# North Central Abandoned Uranium Mine (AUM) Region

Number of abandoned uranium mines in North Central AUM Region: 63 Of these 63 mines, funds are available to begin the cleanup process at 14 mines

> North Central AUM Region includes the following Chapters: Oljato, Shonto, Dennehotso, Kayenta, and Mexican Water

#### **PRIORITY MINES AND SETTLEMENTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), in partnership with Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA), has identified 523 total AUMs on the Navajo Nation. Of these 523 AUMs, 46 mines were identified as "priority mines" based on radiation levels, proximity to homes, and potential for water contamination. Six of those priority mines are found in the North Central AUM Region.

Funds are available to begin the cleanup process at 14 mines, approximately 22% of the mines in the North Central AUM Region, including all six priority mines. USEPA continues to look for companies responsible to assess and clean up the remaining mines in this region.

Table 1: Summary of the North Central AUM Region identifying the name of the potentially responsible party or trust responsible for mine cleanups, the number of mines, and the status in the Superfund process.

See section below "Legal Agreements and AUM Cleanup Activities" for more information on the settlements.

Name of Responsible Party or Trust for Cleanup	Number of Mines*	Superfund Process Status
Cyprus Amax Minerals Company (Cyprus Amax) and Western Nuclear, Inc. (Western Nuclear)	• Nine mines (two of which are priority mines)	• Removal Site Evaluations in progress for two priority mines and Monument No. 2
Phase 1 Trust (limited to mine assessment) Expanded Trust Agreement (limited to mine cleanups, as needed)	Three priority mines	• Removal Site Evaluations completed in 2018 for all three mines
Skyline Mine (no potentially responsible party identified)	• Two mines (one of which is a priority mine)	• USEPA performed time-critical cleanup in 2011
Total	14 mines (six of which are priority mines)	

\*One mine claim can include more than one site.

## Legal Agreements and AUM Cleanup Activities

CYPRUS AMAX AND WESTERN NUCLEAR SETTLEMENT Central AUM Region); Chilchinbeto (Central AUM Region); and Smith Lake (Eastern AUM Region). In 2017, the United States and the Navajo Nation entered into a historic settlement agreement with Freeport-McMoRan subsid-**SKYLINE MINE** iaries, Cyprus Amax Minerals Company and Western Nuclear, USEPA completed a time-critical cleanup of uranium mining Inc. The settlement funds the assessment and cleanup of 94 waste at the Skyline Mine in 2011. The waste was from mining abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation, including that occurred from 1944 to 1962. The waste was located on the eight mines in the North Central AUM Region. This agreement edge and at the foot of Oljato Mesa and posed a potential health addresses almost 20% of the abandoned uranium mines on the risk to residents. As part of the cleanup, the mine waste was Navajo Nation. The mines are located in the following chapters: moved into a storage area, or "repository," constructed on top Red Valley, Sweetwater, Teec Nos Pos, Cove, Shiprock of the mesa. The repository creates a barrier around the mine (Northern AUM Region); Oljato, Dennehotso, Kayenta (North waste to ensure it cannot harm residents or the environment.



USEPA constructing the Skyline Mine waste repository.

