

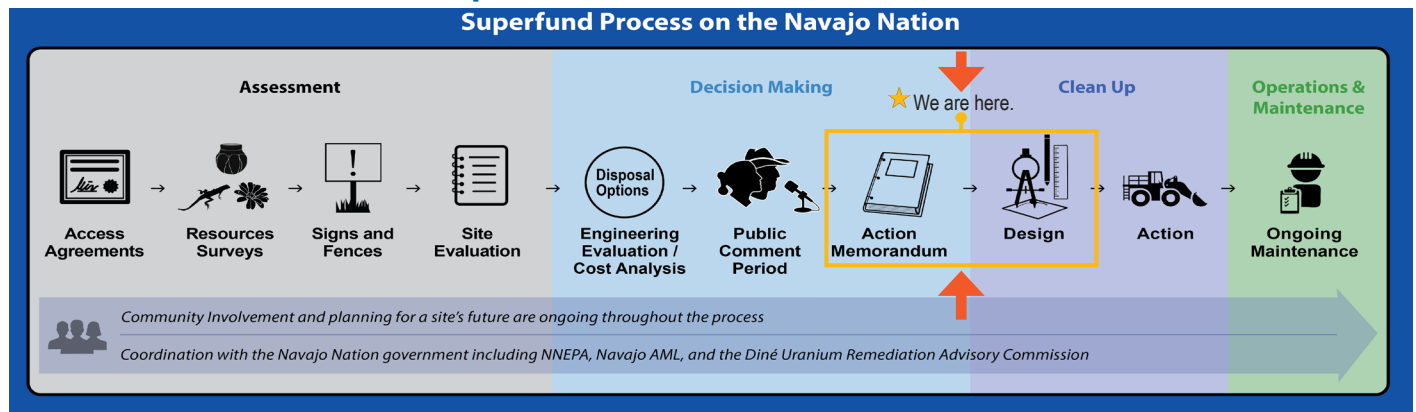


Quivira Mines Site Selected Action: Red Rocks Disposal Facility

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • January 2025

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), in consultation with the Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA), has selected a cleanup action to address the release of radionuclides and metals at the Quivira Mines site. This fact sheet provides an overview of where we are in the cleanup process, considerations related to the selected action to dispose of waste at a new uranium mine waste rock disposal facility at the Red Rocks Landfill property, and a map of the selected haul route.

Where are we in the Cleanup Process?



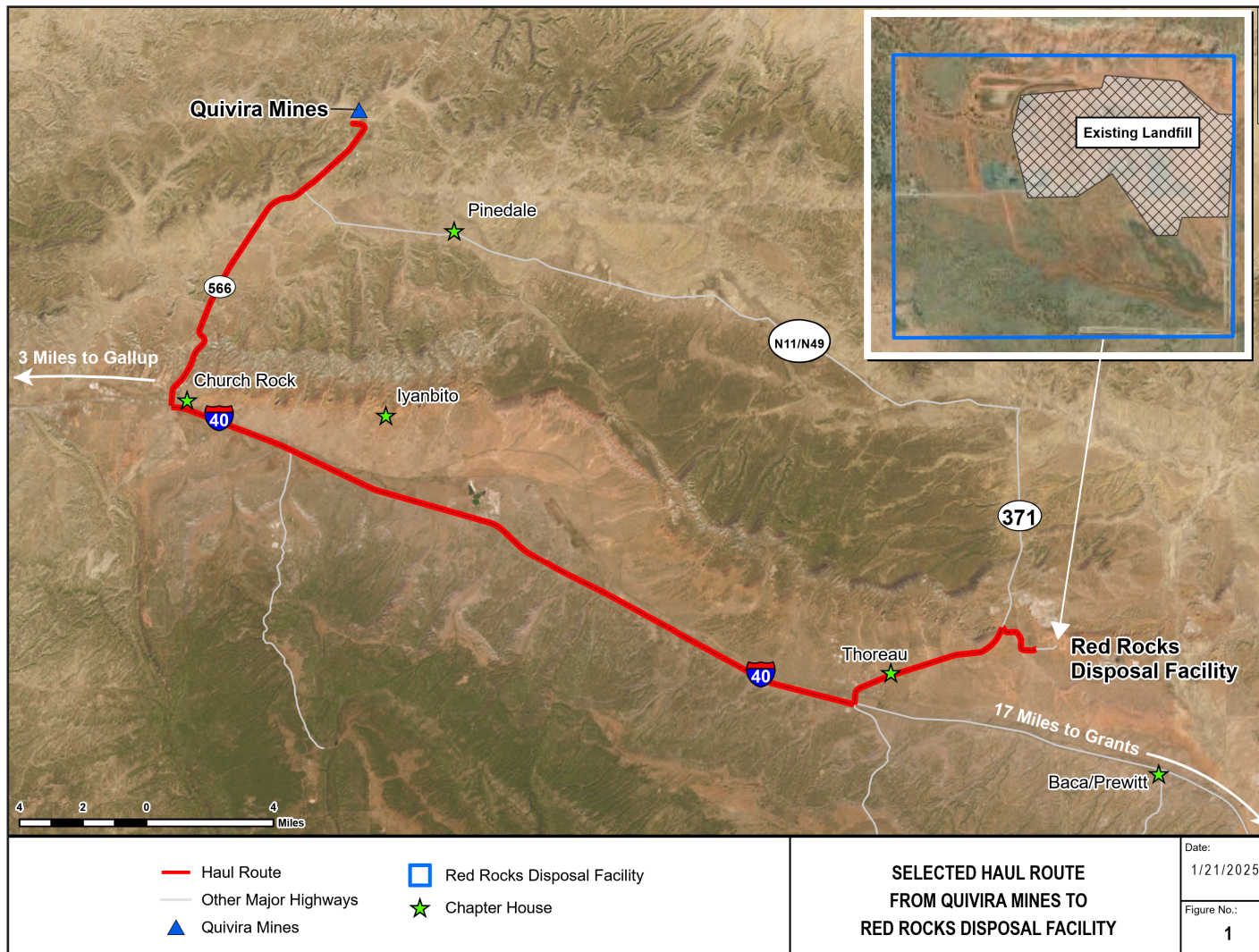
Selected Action Details: Red Rocks Disposal Facility

Cleanup Details

- The disposal cell at the Red Rocks Facility requires design and permitting by the state of New Mexico. This process is expected to take 1-3 years.
- Once the disposal cell is designed and permitted, 1 million cubic yards of uranium mine waste rock from the Quivira Mines will be excavated and disposed of at the facility.
- USEPA evaluated multiple haul routes to transport waste to the facility. The selected 44-mile haul route is Highway 566 to I-40 through Thoreau to the Red Rocks Facility (see Figure 1 below).
- All excavation and construction areas will be tested to confirm cleanup goals are met.
- All excavation and construction areas will be backfilled with local soil as needed and revegetated with native plants.
- Restored areas will be inspected each year and damage will be repaired as needed.
- Final land uses:
 - Residential uses at CR-1 and CR-1E
 - Continued facility worker use at Kerr McGee Ponds on United Nuclear Corporation lands

Considerations

- Under this action all waste is removed from the community and Navajo Nation.
- Once work begins, excavation and transport of waste can take up to 4.5 years and up to 76,710 truckloads.
- Rail transport and trucking via Highway 566 to I-40 and Pinedale Road to Highway 371 were evaluated but was determined to be impractical and more costly.
- Alternate truck access routes near Thoreau were also evaluated but were determined to be unsafe due to at grade rail crossings and proximity of roads to schools.
- The cleanup will create job opportunities, such as truck drivers, equipment operators, traffic controllers, and employment at the Red Rocks Disposal Facility.
- Water for construction and dust control will be from a local source with community approval or brought in from Gallup or another nearby area.
- USEPA will monitor air quality before, during, and after construction to make sure the area is safe.
- USEPA will work with local chapters to ensure transportation hazards to traffic, pedestrians, and communities are minimized.
- The exact location of the mine waste disposal area at Red Rocks Facility will be determined during permitting process, but will not be within the existing Subtitle D landfill area.
- Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide input during the State of New Mexico permitting of the disposal cell at the Red Rocks Facility.



Information Repository

- **Online:**
<https://www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup/quivira-mines>
- **Hard Copies:**
Navajo Nation Community Outreach Center
Highway 264 & Indian Route 12, Suite 10
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Next Steps:

- USEPA and NNEPA will continue to coordinate with local communities going forward
- Planning for Quivira Mines action
- Design and permitting of Red Rocks Disposal Facility waste cell.

How Can You Learn More?

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