



R9 Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines (NAUMs) & Quivira Mine Site

FY2023 FINANCIAL REPORT*

*USEPA's prior reports, covering FY2015 through FY2021, reported on expenditures and remaining balances for Tronox Bankruptcy Settlement funds to address the 54 NAUMs and the Quivira Mine Site. Following the 2022 allocation of the Tronox Settlement Funds between EPA Regions 6 and 9, as described on page 4 of this Report, Region 9 is providing a separate financial accounting for only the 35 Tronox Mine Sites on the Navajo Nation.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
February 2025

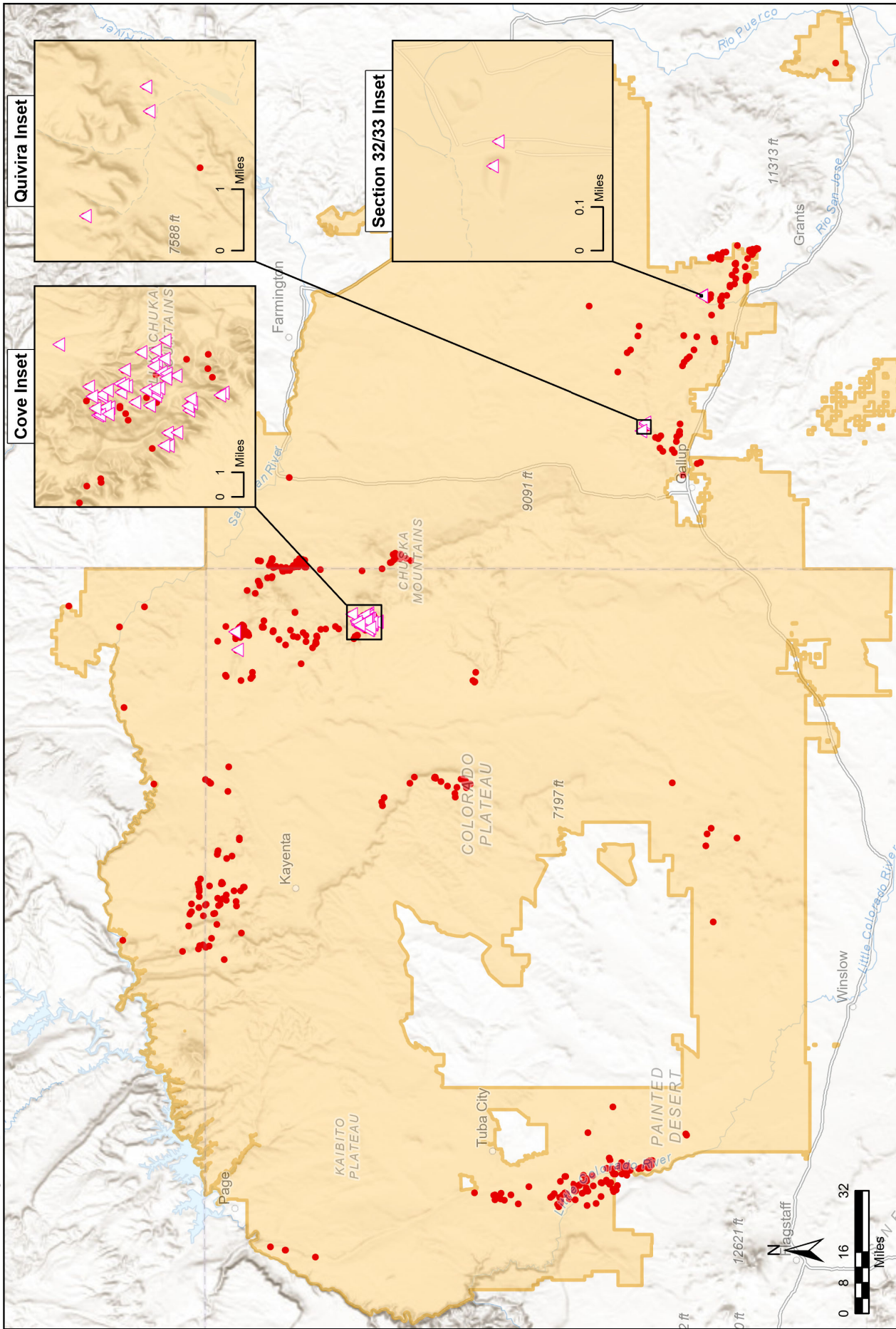


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Common Acronyms used In Report

AUM	Abandoned Uranium Mines
BIA/BIE	Bureau of Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Education
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator (US EPA)
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
FY	Fiscal Year
GSA	Geographic Sub-Area
LMMD	Lukachukai Mountains Mining District
NAMLRD	Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Department
NAUM	Navajo Area Uranium Mines
NNEPA	Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency
RPM	Remedial Project Manager
RSE	Removal Site Evaluation
TCRA	Time Critical Removal Action
ULO	Unliquidated Obligation
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency



Tronox Mines - EPA Region 9

- △ Tronox Abandoned Uranium Mines
- Abandoned Uranium Mines
- Navajo Nation Boundary

1.0 Tronox Settlement Background

Background

On January 21, 2015, the Tronox settlement agreement, resolving fraudulent conveyance claims against Kerr-McGee Corporation and related subsidiaries of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, went into effect. Pursuant to the settlement agreement, Anadarko paid \$5.15 billion plus interest to a litigation trust.

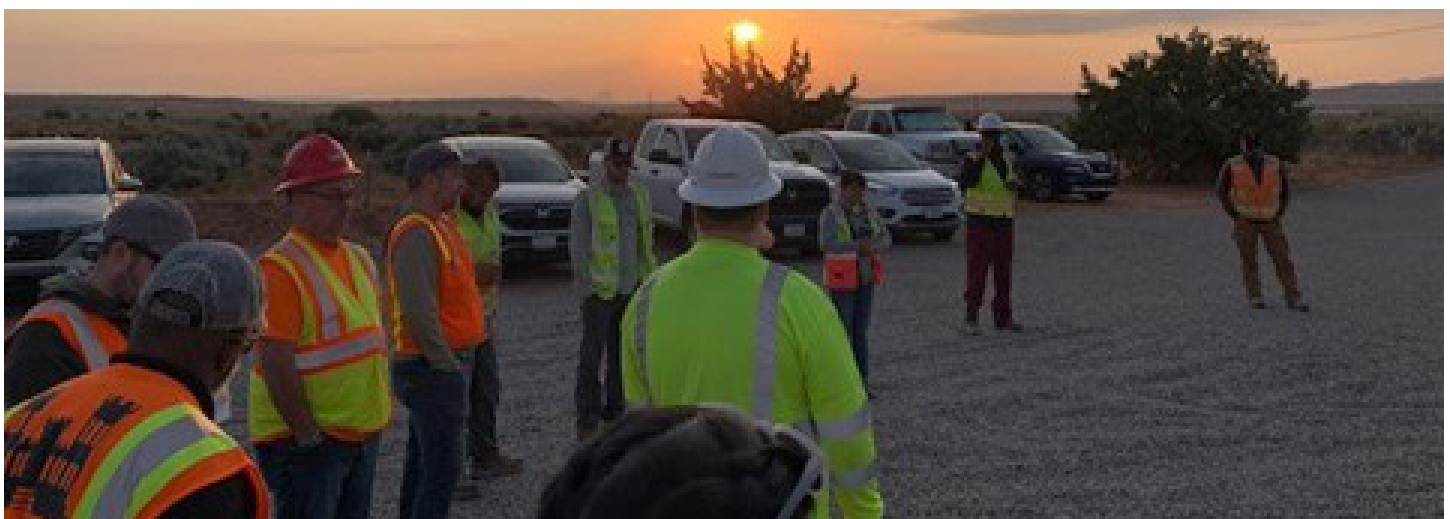
As a result of the Tronox settlement:

- US EPA received a distribution of 20% (~\$917 million) for the cleanup of 55 uranium mines that were operated, and subsequently abandoned, by Kerr McGee Corporation in and near the Navajo Nation territory;
- US EPA also received a distribution of ~\$92 million for the cleanup of Quivira Mine Site; and
- Navajo Nation received a distribution of ~\$45 million in connection with the Shiprock Uranium Mill Site.

US EPA Tronox funds are available to support activities related to the assessment and cleanup of the 55 Tronox settlement mines and contamination caused by the mines. Examples of these activities include:

- Informing and involving the community about cleanup activities
- Investigating hazardous substances levels in water, soil, sediment, and indoor air
- Implementing land use controls such as fences and signs to warn people about dangerous areas
- Protecting cultural and biological resources in the mine areas
- Constructing access roads to the mines for cleanup operations

From the late 1940s to the 1980s, Kerr-McGee Corporation mined more than seven million tons of uranium ore on or near the Navajo Nation. 55 mines are being addressed, 35 in Region 9, on the Navajo Nation and 20 in Region 6, outside the Navajo Nation in New Mexico. The Region 9 mines are located in the Casamero Lake, Cove, Coyote Canyon, Lukachukai, Pinedale, Standing Rock, and Tse Tah areas.



 Morning Health and Safety Meeting for Cove Transfer Station time critical removal action daily construction activities.

2.0 US EPA Tronox Settlement

The approximately \$1 billion that US EPA received for the cleanup at Quivira and the 54 Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines (NAUMs) has been deposited into US EPA Superfund Special Accounts. Consistent with Section 122(b)(3) of CERCLA, the Agency established these special accounts to receive funds, as provided for in the Tronox Settlement Agreements which became final in 2011 and 2015. Special accounts are site-specific, interest-bearing sub-accounts housed within US EPA's Hazardous Substances Superfund (Superfund Trust Fund). Charges to a special account must be consistent with the terms of the settlement pursuant to which the funds are received.

In response to a US EPA Office of Inspector General report, Region 6 and Region 9 identified several corrective measures to complete prioritization and resource allocation for the Tronox NAUM sites, one of which was the development of an allocation strategy. The strategy was presented to senior US EPA management, stakeholder representatives (Navajo Nation EPA, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, New Mexico Environment Department, and

New Mexico Mining and Minerals Department) for discussion and input, followed by a comment period in which US EPA provided responses. US EPA also initiated government-to-government consultation with the Navajo Nation Office of President and Vice President. On March 22, 2022, the unspent Tronox funds at that time (approximately \$925 million) were allocated between the two lead US EPA Regions - \$620 million to Region 9's 34 sites and \$305 million to Region 6's 20 sites. While previous financial reports contained information regarding funds spent at both Region 6 and Region 9 sites, this report provides specific information regarding funds spent at Region 9 sites only.



 Erosion Control and Air Monitoring at Cove Transfer Station 1

US EPA Tronox Settlement Financial Expenditure Breakout

To prioritize response actions and approve funding for individual projects, US EPA memorializes an annual “Approval and Annual Funding Projections for Implementation of Tronox Settlement Memo.” Once projects are approved, a special account name/number is assigned for that project to track expenditures. Table 2.1 on page 8 summarizes approved Tronox projects to be undertaken by Region 9 by special account name, budget, expenditures, and balance. These expenditures are further broken out into the following expenditure categories.

Payroll: US EPA costs associated with assessment and cleanup of the mine/mine areas including US EPA field staff, administrative, technical support, legal, contracting and management.

Travel: Travel costs associated with the management, assessment, and cleanup of the mine/mine areas specified in the Tronox settlement.

Contracts: Contracting costs associated with the assessment and cleanup of the mine/mine areas specified in the Tronox settlement.

Expenses: Expense costs for equipment, property, supplies, and materials associated with the

assessment and cleanup of the mine/mine areas specified in the Tronox settlement.

Grants: Grants associated with the management, assessment and cleanup of the mine/mine areas specified in the Tronox settlement.

Interagency Agreements: US EPA has entered into interagency technical services agreements with US Army Corps of Engineers and US Geological Survey to support work on mine/mine areas specified in the Tronox settlement.

Table 2.2 on page 9 is a graphical representation of Tronox expenditures by category.



 US EPA Remedial Projects Managers Gilbert Dayzie and Jess Kass giving update during the September 2023 Cove Chapter meeting

Accounting Line Active Project Names/Descriptions

Names	Descriptions
US EPA Region 9	
Tronox NAUM Sections 32 and 33	Former joint project between Region 6 and 9 to assess the Sections 32/33 Tronox mines in the Smith Lake sub-district in the Casamero Lake area and to complete an RSE and EE/CA. As part of the 2022 allocation discussed above, EPA determined that Region 9 would take the lead on both Section 32 and 33 mines.
Tronox Abandoned Uranium Mines on the Navajo Nation (2011-2015)	Tronox NAUM activities (2011 – 2015) prior to the 2015 settlement, including quarterly meetings with Navajo Nation EPA; settlement implementation, planning, accounting and contracting strategy; community involvement; Tronox portal development; Northern Agency ASPECT data collection; and grants.
Tronox NAUM Cove Transfer Station	Construction activities to remove waste material, conduct radiological soil sorting, and mitigate surface erosion at the former transfer station in the Cove Chapter of the Navajo Nation, Arizona.
Tronox NAUM Mesa I Mine	Mesa Mine I Preliminary Site Assessment has been conducted to determine risk to human health and the environment. An RSE was conducted in FY2018.
Tronox NAUM	Activities included quarterly meetings with Navajo Nation; settlement records review; settlement implementation planning; Navajo Nation mines portal database; Northern Agency ASPECT gamma survey; annual quarterly reports; Tronox Northern Agency RSEs; Tronox Northern Agency EE/CAs; Cove Mesa V main access road improvement/design; Cove Mine access assessment; Northern Agency cultural resources survey; community involvement; and Navajo Nation grants.
Tronox NAUM Cove Sitewide Conceptual Model and Data Gaps	Assimilate information from previous studies and actions of the site; research, gather and analyze other existing data and documents that could be used to develop the conceptual site model; break the site out into investigation areas based on known information; provide pictorial representations of the site; depict exposure pathways and receptors; provide recommendations for paths forward for each of the investigation areas; and, suggest general areas for data gap investigations.
Tronox NAUM Quivira Mines	Activities at the Quivira Mines include: the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis; and discussing the removal options with Navajo Nation, community members, and other stakeholders.
Tronox NAUM Cove Area Air Study	Activities include sampling station construction, site restoration, and funding a year-long grant to allow Navajo Nation EPA staff to retrieve field samples.
Tronox NAUM Mesa II Mine	Activities include a time critical removal action (TCRA), sampling support and EE/CA. The TCRA was to repair the erosion of the burial cell and reestablish a functional drainage channel to avoid further erosion of the burial cell. Air monitoring and soil screening was conducted during the removal action to provide sampling support and ensure that work practices and dust suppression methods used during the TCRA prevented the off-site migration of dust with radionuclides.
Tronox NAUM Mesa V Mine	Activities at the Mesa V Mine include the EE/CA, and a removal action at the Mesa V Haul Shaft and a radon study, discussing the removal options with Navajo Nation, community members, and other stakeholders.

Table 2.1: Tronox Region 9 Approved Projects, Budgets, and Expenditures

The table below represents the budgets, unliquidated obligations (ULOs), actual (paid) expenditures, and the remaining balances for each special account. For the purpose of this report, ULOs are not calculated into the remaining balance, only actual (paid) expenditures.

Special Account Names	Total Budget	ULOs	Total Expenditures	Remaining Balance
US EPA Region 9				
Abandoned Uranium Mines on the Navajo Nation	\$3.2M	\$0.0	\$3.2M	\$0.0
Tronox Quivira Mines (formerly NE Churchrock Quivira)**	\$102.0M	\$3.6M	\$10.2M	\$91.8M
Cove Transfer Station - Tronox*‡	\$29.9M	\$24.1M	\$4.8M	\$25.2M
Mesa I Mines - Tronox*‡	\$9.4K	\$0.0	\$9.4K	\$0.0
Section 32 AUM Site - Tronox	\$3.1M	\$861.7K	\$1.8M	\$1.3M
Section 33 AUM Site - Tronox	\$1.1M	\$48.7K	\$316.3K	\$800.4K
Tronox NAUM Cove Wash Regional Assessment*‡	\$4.2M	\$40.6K	\$3.3M	\$905.1K
Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines	\$652.2M	\$17.9M	\$31.0M	\$621.2M
Tronox NAUM Cove Sitewide Conceptual Model & Data Gaps*‡	\$2.1M	\$17.6K	\$1.9M	\$265.5K
Tronox NAUM Mesa II*‡	\$1.6M	\$0.0	\$1.6M	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Mesa V*‡	\$355.8K	\$0.0	\$355.8K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM San Mateo Creek Basin*‡	\$8.6K	\$0.0	\$8.6K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Cove Mesa I Mines*‡	\$251.5K	\$0.0	\$251.5K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Cove Mesa III Mines*‡	\$41.9K	\$0.0	\$41.9K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Cove Mesa IV Mines*‡	\$167.7K	\$0.0	\$167.7K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Cove Mesa VI Mines*‡	\$42.4K	\$0.0	\$42.4K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Brodie I Mine*‡	\$41.9K	\$0.0	\$41.9K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Block K Mine*‡	\$41.9K	\$0.0	\$41.9K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Step Mesa*‡	\$83.8K	\$0.0	\$83.8K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Flag Mesa*‡	\$167.7K	\$0.0	\$167.7K	\$0.0
Tronox NAUM Knife Edge*‡	\$41.9K	\$0.0	\$41.9K	\$0.0
Total All Special Accounts	\$800.9M	\$46.6M	\$59.4M	\$741.5M

K = \$1,000's, M = \$1,000,000's

*Reports generated by US EPA's CBOR (Compass Business Objects Reporting) system. The information above is for informational purposes only. Special Account Summaries provide final cost figures.

**Funds utilized for Quivira only.

‡US EPA transferred funds in special accounts designated with a "‡" to the remaining special accounts. This will allow US EPA to prioritize funds for use at sites where cleanup is anticipated in the near term. Designated accounts will not appear on subsequent annual reports.

Table 2.2: Tronox Region 9 Approved Expenditures

An overview of the approved projects and activities associated with these expenditures is located in Section 3.

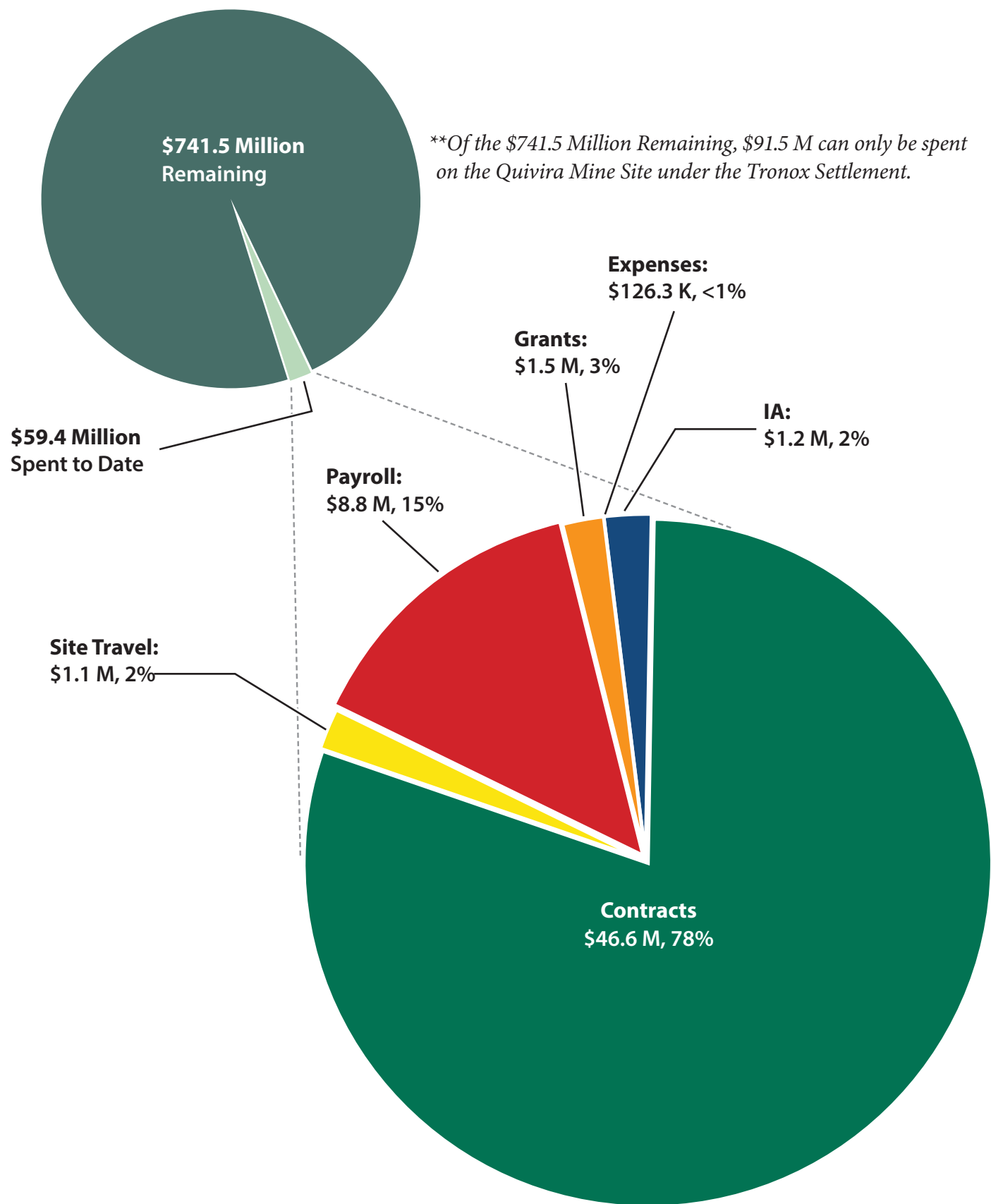
Special Account Summary*

Special Account Names	Contracts	IA	Expenses	Grants	Payroll	Site Travel	Total Spent
US EPA Region 9							
Abandoned Uranium Mines on the Navajo Nation	\$1.8M	--	\$6.0K	\$115.5K	\$1.2M	\$114.9K	\$3.2M
Tronox Quivira Mines (formerly NE Churchrock Quivira)	\$8.7M	\$256.8K	\$3.6K	\$74.9K	\$863.0K	\$150.1K	\$10.2M
Cove Transfer Station - Tronox ‡	\$4.6M	--	\$0.1K	\$3.8K	\$78.0K	\$33.1K	\$4.8M
Mesa I Mines - Tronox ‡	\$0.0K	--	--	--	\$7.4K	\$2.0K	\$9.4K
Section 32 AUM Site - Tronox	\$1.6M	--	\$0.2K	\$16.4K	\$156.3K	\$11.3K	\$1.8M
Section 33 AUM Site - Tronox	\$313.3K	--	--	\$0.00K	\$1.6K	\$1.5K	\$316.3K
Tronox NAUM Cove Wash Regional Assessment ‡	\$2.0M	--	\$3.3K	\$485.9K	\$706.3K	\$123.2K	\$3.3M
Tronox NAUM	\$24.3M	\$370.2K	\$112.8K	\$151.9K	\$5.4M	\$674.0K	\$31.0M
Tronox NAUM Cove Sitewide Conceptual Model and Data Gaps ‡	\$627.2K	\$600.0K	--	\$486.8K	\$131.2K	\$19.4K	\$1.9M
Tronox NAUM Mesa II ‡	\$1.6M	--	--	--	\$41.9K	\$15.6K	\$1.6M
Tronox NAUM Mesa V ‡	\$209.6K	--	\$0.3K	\$110.8K	\$35.2K	--	\$355.8K
Tronox NAUM San Mateo Creek Basin ‡	--	--	--	--	\$8.6K	--	\$8.6K
Tronox NAUM Cove Mesa I Mines ‡	\$252K	--	--	--	--	--	\$251.5K
Tronox NAUM Cove Mesa III Mines ‡	\$41.9K	--	--	--	--	--	\$41.9K
Tronox NAUM Cove Mesa IV Mines ‡	\$167.7K	--	--	--	--	--	\$167.7K
Tronox NAUM Cove Mesa VI Mines ‡	\$41.9K	--	--	--	\$0.5K	--	\$42.4K
Tronox NAUM Brodie I Mine ‡	\$41.9K	--	--	--	--	--	\$41.9K
Tronox NAUM Block K Mine ‡	\$41.9K	--	--	--	--	--	\$41.9K
Tronox NAUM Step Mesa ‡	\$83.8K	--	--	--	--	--	\$83.8K
Tronox NAUM Flag Mesa ‡	\$167.7K	--	--	--	--	--	\$167.7K
Tronox NAUM Knife Edge ‡	\$41.9K	--	--	--	--	--	\$41.9K
Total	\$46.6M	\$1.2M	\$126.3K	\$1.5M	\$8.8M	\$1.1M	\$59.4M

*US EPA reporting adjusted to reflect actual expenditures; Unliquidated Obligations (ULOs) or commitments to projects without spending will no longer be reported on this table. Discrepancies may be noted between figures between Tables 2.1 and 2.2 due to ULOs and US EPA's Special Account Summary packages due to the posting date of invoices paid. Indirect Costs are not displayed above.

Tronox Total Disbursed Breakout by Cost Category*

Total Settlement Expenditures by Category \$ in Millions



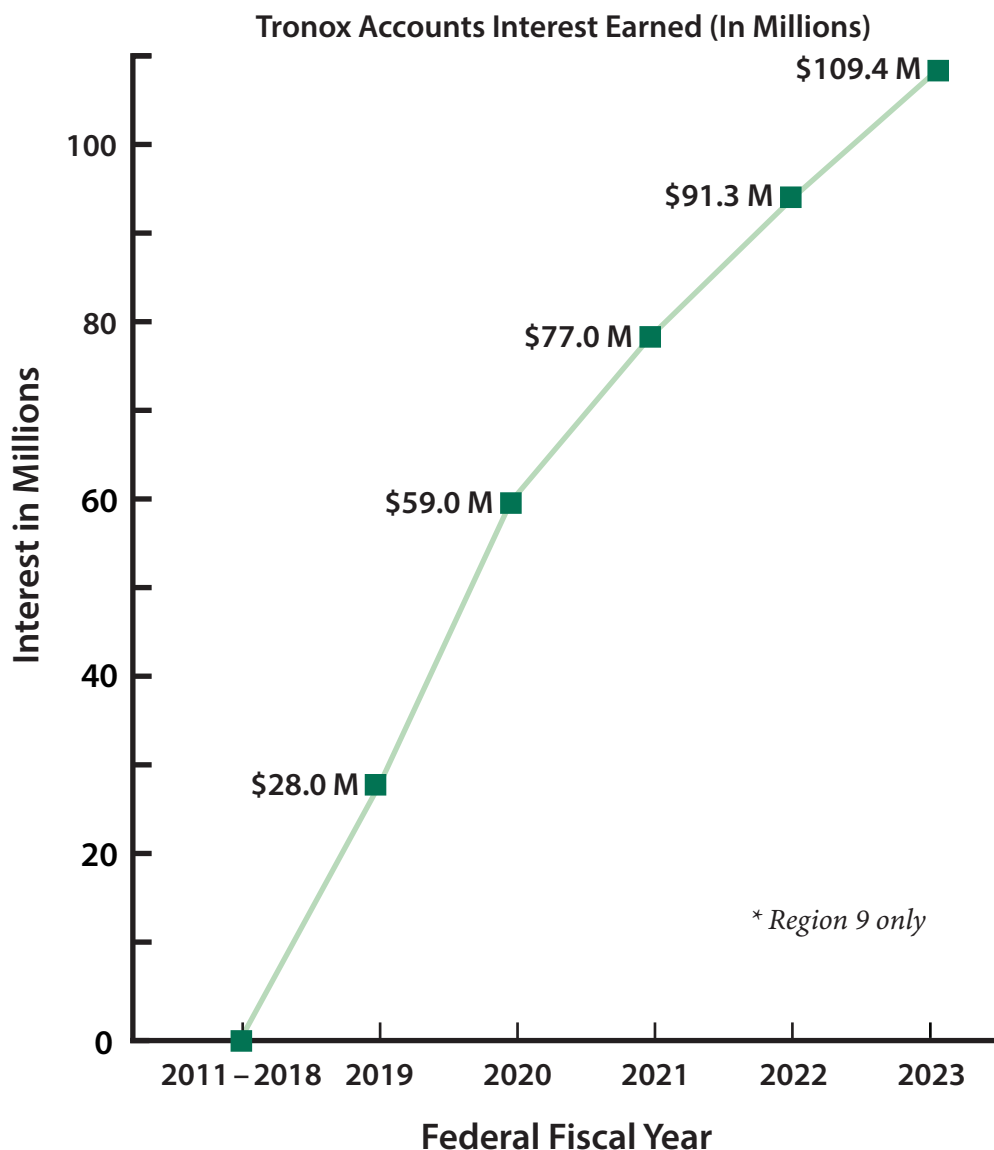
* Region 9 only

Interest Earned on Tronox Special Accounts

Special accounts are funded entirely with money received from potentially responsible parties (PRPs). US EPA retains money received through settlements with PRPs in these site-specific accounts to conduct planned future cleanup work at the site based on the terms of the settlement agreement.

Fiscal Year	Rate
2023	3.01%
2022	0.10%
2021	0.10%
2020	2.22%
2019	1.75%
2018	0.87%
2017	0.70%
2016	0.67%
2015	0.75%
2014	0.81%
2013	0.78%
2012	0.74%
2011	0.69%

Accumulated Interest through Each Period*



Special Accounts Management

Special accounts for the Tronox NAUMs are managed and used consistent with national special account policy and guidance. Information about national special account policy, guidance, and management can be found on EPA's Superfund Special Accounts webpage at [epa.gov/enforcement/superfund-special-accounts](https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/superfund-special-accounts).

Funds maintained in the Hazardous Substance Superfund Trust Fund are invested by the Treasury in U.S. market based securities. Treasury's Bureau of Fiscal Services uses the yield to maturity effective at the time of purchase of these securities to calculate the Superfund interest rate each fiscal year. Interest is accrued and available in each account based on the account's available balance. Interest accrued is kept in the special account on which it is earned.

Contracting Vehicles

Since the Tronox settlement in 2011, US EPA has been utilizing new and existing contracts to conduct cleanup activities, which allowed the Agency to expeditiously achieve our goal of protecting human health and the environment on the Navajo Nation. These contracts include:

- **Arrow Indian Contractors:** A Navajo-owned company under Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act was awarded a \$4 million dollar contract to perform a time critical removal action of contaminated soils near ventilation shafts and repair a bridge at the Quivira Mine.
- **START Contract:** Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team – provides scientific/technical support for assessing chemical, biological, and radiological contamination as well as site assessment and remedial support activities.
- **ERRS Contract:** Emergency and Rapid Response Services – provides management, field personnel, and equipment resources to execute decontamination and demolition and removal services.
- **RAC:** Remedial Action Contract – provides remedial response, enforcement oversight, non-time critical removal activities, engineering support, and assessment services.
- **TASC Contract:** Technical Assistance Services for Communities – to help communities better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues.
- **RAES Contract:** The Response, Assessment and Evaluation Services \$85 million capacity contract was awarded on October 11, 2017 to Tetra Tech, and the scope of work includes site assessment of the abandoned uranium mines.
- **RAES II Contract:** The second Response, Assessment and Evaluation Services \$65 million capacity contract was awarded on May 30, 2023 to Tetra Tech, and will be used to address risks to public health and the environment from former mines on Navajo land.
- **AMRCS:** The Abandoned Mine Response and Construction Services contract(s) was awarded February 11, 2021 for cleanup efforts at more than 50 abandoned uranium mine sites in and around the Navajo Nation, for up to \$220 million over the next five years. In addition to the funds from the Tronox settlement, US EPA and Navajo Nation have secured funding agreements, through enforcement agreements and other legal settlements, for the assessment and cleanup of approximately 200 abandoned uranium mine sites on the Navajo Nation. The contracts were awarded to Red Rock Remediation Joint Venture, Environmental Quality Management Inc. and Arrowhead Contracting Inc. Each company will develop training programs for Navajo individuals and businesses to promote professional growth in areas related to the AMRCS contract. Workforce training may cover radiological contamination, health and safety, construction and road building. In addition, the contracts require the selectees to provide quarterly reports to the US EPA, Navajo Nation, and the public on cleanup progress, training, and Navajo job and business opportunities.
- **Clawson Excavating:** Clawson Excavating: a Navajo-Woman owned/ Small Business was awarded a \$1 million contract to complete mine access and road upgrades for the mine sites in the Cove Chapter and performed a TCRA at Mesa II.



 Drone at Mesa V during the Drone Pilot Study in October 2022.

US EPA Region 9's contracts direct that best efforts shall be used to give Native American organizations and Native American-owned economic enterprises the opportunity to participate in subcontract awards. RAES specifically acknowledges the Navajo employment goals and reports progress in reporting on those goals.

Approved Grant Expenditures

US EPA provides grant funding to agencies in support of community interests and to fund partner agencies' activities that support the assessment and cleanup of Tronox NAUMs. Funding has been provided to the Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico and Diné College. The purposes and levels of the funding are outlined below.

Navajo Nation EPA Over \$5.0 million has been provided to support technical review of remediation plans and final cleanup options, community involvement activities including coordination for community meetings, distribution of information, and collecting environmental samples.

Navajo Nation Abandoned Mines Lands Dept. \$2.1M has been provided for on-site construction activities and technical review of proposed remediation strategies.

Diné College Funding in the amount of \$809,000 supported studies of uranium effects on livestock and the Cove watershed. As part of these studies, Diné summer interns collected data and helped investigate potential mine impacts in the larger Cove watershed. This grant ended in July 22, 2022.



Pictured Left to Right during June 2023 Community meeting at Cove Chapter House: RPMs Gilbert Dayzie, Jesse Kass, Lee Anna Silversmith-Martinez, Krista Brown, Anna Duewiger, and Danielle Huang.



Trucks hauling soil off site during the 2023 Cove Transfer Station TCRA.

3.0 NAUM Approved Project Descriptions

REGION 9

RAES II Award

On May 30, 2023, US EPA awarded Tetra Tech the second Navajo Area Abandoned Uranium Mines Response, Assessment, and Evaluation Services (RAES) contract, worth \$65 million, to address risks to public health and the environment from former mines on Navajo land. Under this contract, Tetra Tech will focus on providing technical support to US EPA through all stages of work addressing abandoned Navajo uranium mines. At the Tronox sites where US EPA assumes cleanup responsibilities directly, the company will investigate mine sites, prepare analyses of possible cleanup plans, assist in designing final plans once they are selected, and provide technical support during and after cleanup actions. The RAES II contract will support EPA's coordination and outreach with its partners in the Navajo government, local Navajo communities, and many other stakeholders.

Drones Pilot Study (10/17-10/21/2022)

US EPA has been considering utilizing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drones in the scoping, characterization, and final status survey process of AUM sites. In October 2022, US EPA conducted UAV surveys over several mine sites that have already been investigated during the 2018 RSEs. The preliminary findings indicate that gamma data collected with UAVs is comparable to walkover gamma survey data, and therefore could be useful in further characterizing areas that are difficult to access on foot.

Time Critical Removal Action at the Cove Transfer Station

In February 2023, US EPA selected Arrowhead Contracting, Inc. for award of the Cove Transfer Station Time-Critical Removal Action project. This project represents the first task order awarded under

the Navajo Area Abandoned Mine Response and Construction Services (AMRCS) contract. The AMRCS Program was developed to provide construction and remediation services at numerous former uranium mine sites located throughout the Navajo Nation. Arrowhead will be supported by a highly experienced team of firms including Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA), Envirocon, Jacobs, and Perma Fix.

In July 2023, US EPA began a time critical removal action (TCRA) at the Cove Transfer Station (CTS), which includes both areas at CTS 1 and CTS 2. The TCRA included excavating soils at CTS 1 and transporting the soil to CTS 2, where EPA conducted a pilot study using a radiological soil sorter to separate soil with low levels of radiation from soil with higher levels. EPA transported soil with higher levels of radiation to a solid waste disposal facility in Deer Trails, Colorado. The TCRA is slated to be completed by fall 2024.

Supplemental Investigations

In June 2023, US EPA began site scoping and supplemental investigation/characterization field work at the Simpson Complex, Mesa VI Complex, Frank Jr. Complex, and Mesa I, West Complex. EPA will compile information collected into data transmittal reports, which will be incorporated into Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CAs) and will support planning for Time Critical and Non- Time Critical Removal Actions at the sites.

Cove Air Study

US EPA concluded the Cove air study in June 2022 and published the final report in February 2023. No samples from the air study were above the project action limits for metals, and particulate matter (PM) concentrations did not exceed the National Ambient

Air Quality Standard for PM2.5. The Cove Air Study can be found at [Tronox NAUM Cove Air Study Final Report \(2020-2022\)](#).

Community Meetings

US EPA attended the quarterly Northern Navajo Agency Council Meetings in March and July 17, 2023. US EPA Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) Krista Brown and Gilbert Dayzie provided updates on soil sorting, hauling and other TCRA activities at CTS 1 and CTS 2 and the plan to return mine-scarred lands to a state of harmony and balance with the surrounding terrain. US EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC), Elsa Johnson translated in Navajo and gave further update on proposed National Priority List (NPL) for the Lukachukai Mountains Mining District (LMMD).

In May 2023, US EPA presented information to the Cove Chapter of the Navajo Nation about the proposed listing of the LMMD site on the NPL. The presentation touched on the NPL proposal process, the site description, the benefits to the community and the closure of the 60-day public comment period at the end of May. Cove residents and the Cove Chapter President, James Benally, passed a resolution supporting the listing of the site on the NPL.

In June 2023, US EPA held a community meeting on the CTS TCRA at the Cove Chapter House.

In July 2023, US EPA gave updates on the CTS TCRA and sought support in allowing US EPA to utilize local soil sources for borrow material. The Red Valley Chapter and Cove Chapter passed resolutions supporting the proposed action. US EPA used the borrow material to backfill and restore the two transfer station sites.

Starting July 2023 US EPA held office hours on Thursdays 12-2 pm at the Cove Chapter House library and attended monthly Chapter meetings during TCRA activities.

US EPA Meets with Directors at Navajo Nation

In March 2023, US EPA met with Directors from Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Office, Lands Department, Forestry, Minerals Division and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to discuss on-going work and how the abandoned uranium mine work will soon intersect with the work they do within their respective divisions. US EPA's goal is to engage face to face, establish relationships and discuss forthcoming issues that removal construction will bring, and how the various Navajo Nation departments will be involved.



 Soil sorter and conveyor belts system at Cove Transfer Station 2 during the 2023 TCRA.



 September 2023 excavation of soil at Cove Transfer Station 1 during the TCRA.

Section 32/33

EE/CA Development

US EPA is working with NNEPA to draft the Section 32/33 mine site EE/CA.

Community Involvement Plan

US EPA is developing a Community Involvement Plan(CIP) for the Section 32/33 Mines site.

met with stakeholders from Region 9, including State of New Mexico Environment Department, State of New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division, NNEPA and Northwest New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority. Stakeholders discussed the community feedback from the Council meeting and a path forward in selecting a recommended alternative for waste at Quivira.

Quivira

EE/CA Development

US EPA is working with NNEPA to draft the Quivira mine site EE/CA.

Quivira and Red Rock Disposal Facility Site Tour

On August 9, 2023, US EPA joined a tour led by NNEPA of the Quivira Mine Site. The tour included driving the proposed haul route from the Quivira Mine Site to the landfill, and a walking tour of the red rock landfill. The tour was attended by approximately 15 community members including NGOs and a representative of New Mexico's Senator Heinrich's office, Jim Dumont.

Community and Interagency Meetings

In June 2023, US EPA presented at the Resource Development Commission of the Navajo Nation Council to discuss the cleanup alternative for Quivira and to elicit feedback. After this meeting, US EPA



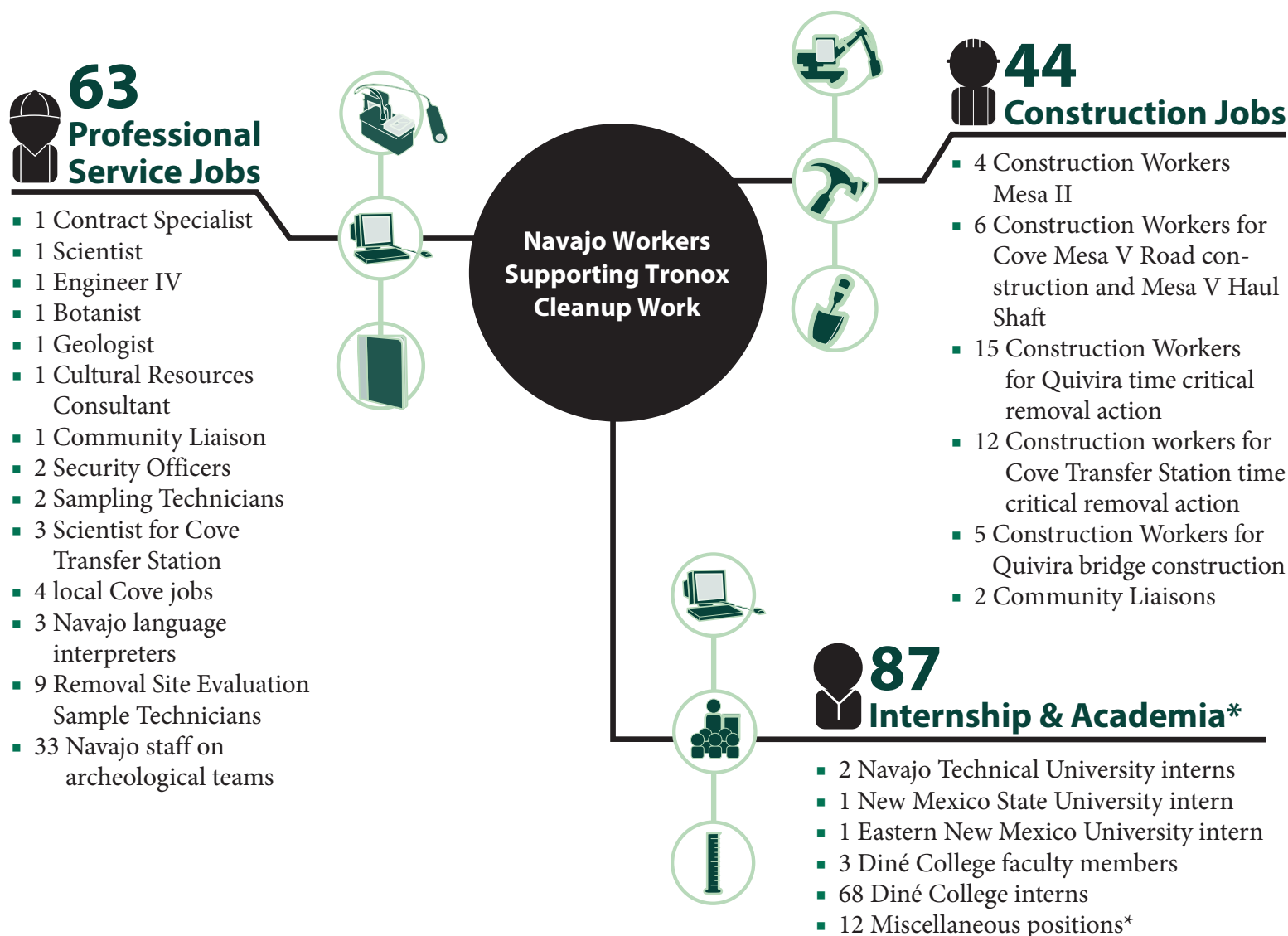
 CTS 1 excavation to naturally occurring radiological material (NORM) Chinle geological formation.

4.0

FY2023 Navajo Workforce Development

Cleaning up abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation creates jobs for Navajo workers and provides opportunities for Navajo businesses. The work is project specific and usually of a short duration. Some positions may be part-time, seasonal and/or limited to a specific project. These opportunities will increase as cleanup work at the mines accelerates. The following provides a summary of workers that have supported Tronox Mine Cleanup work:

Tronox: Cumulative Total Summary Types of Jobs Created FY14 to Present



*FY2023 total updated to correct calculation for FY14 – 2023



 **CTS 1 restoration prior to demobilization for winter 2023.**



 **Residential Excavation near north side of CTS 1**



 *View of Shiprock after a rainstorm.*

For More Information (US EPA Contacts)

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