



2025-2026 ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE TO ADDRESS URANIUM CONTAMINATION ON NAVAJO NATION

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Introduction

In February 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the [Federal Actions to Address Uranium Contamination on Navajo Nation 2020–2029](#), also known as the "Ten-Year Plan." EPA continues to issue annual updates on Ten-Year Plan commitments and accomplishments. This fact sheet provides Ten Year Plan updates, includes a summary of 2025 accomplishments and 2026 focus areas.



Updated Goals to Reach Cleanup Faster

At approximately the midpoint of the Ten-Year Plan, EPA is updating its goals for the remaining years of the plan. Meeting these goals will ensure protection of human health and the environment from historic uranium mine contamination on Navajo Nation lands.

EPA is adding two new goals, one for 2027 and another for 2029; these goals will document the volume of uranium mine contamination to be protectively managed under decision documents. Making decisions on the selected cleanup approach is a key milestone before implementing the cleanup approach in the field.

As EPA addresses large and small mines across Navajo Nation, we will add together the volumes to better represent our commitment to remove contamination from uncontrolled situations (for example, near homes, recreational areas, agricultural areas) to safely manage waste in protective solutions.

- **2027 GOAL** – Make decisions for 1.4 million cubic yards of uranium contamination.
- **2029 GOAL** – Make decisions for an additional 1.0 million cubic yards of uranium contamination.

New Waste-Based Volumetric Goals

(in Million Cubic Yards)

3.6 MILLION ADDRESSED THROUGH 2025	1.4 MILLION MORE TO BE ADDRESSED IN 2026-2027
1 MILLION MORE TO BE ADDRESSED IN 2026-2027	6 MILLION CUMULATIVE TOTAL ADDRESSED THROUGH 2029

Using 2025 as a baseline, EPA has already made decisions for 3.6 million cubic yards dating back to 2020.

As identified in the initial 10-year Plan, EPA is also updating our procedural goals for addressing sites through the steps of assessment, remedy selected, and cleanup starts. As sites progress through these steps, it allows us to show progress prior to completing a cleanup. Our updated procedural goals will result in faster protections for community members across the Navajo Nation. EPA is also implementing streamlined approaches and more efficient processes to reach our goals as soon as possible. Of particular note is that EPA will be finished with the assessment of 252 mines by the end of 2028.

Updated Abandoned Uranium Mine Cleanup Process Goals: 2020-2029

252 

Detailed Assessments

252 detailed assessments will be conducted to determine the extent and volume of contaminated material as a result of historical mining activities. Of these, 105 have already been conducted. An additional 147 will be completed between 2026 and 2029.

87 

Selected Remedies

87 remedies will be selected to help guide cleanup. These include Engineering Evaluations/Cost Analyses, and remedy cleanup designs. Of these, 19 have been completed; 68 more will be completed between 2026 and 2029.

20 

Cleanups

20 cleanups will be started at abandoned uranium mines between 2020 and 2029. Of these, two have been started; 18 more are planned between 2026 and 2029.

Year	Assessment	Remedy Selected	Cleanup Starts
	Completed		Final Construction Started
2020 and Prior	69	1	
2021	1	1	
2022	12	2	
2023	3	1	2
2024		7	
2025	20	7	
	New Goals		
2026*	43	2	2
2027	50	20	6
2028	54	20	5
2029	All completed	26	5
Total	252	87	20

Notes: *The year 2026 marks the beginning of use of the new process goals.

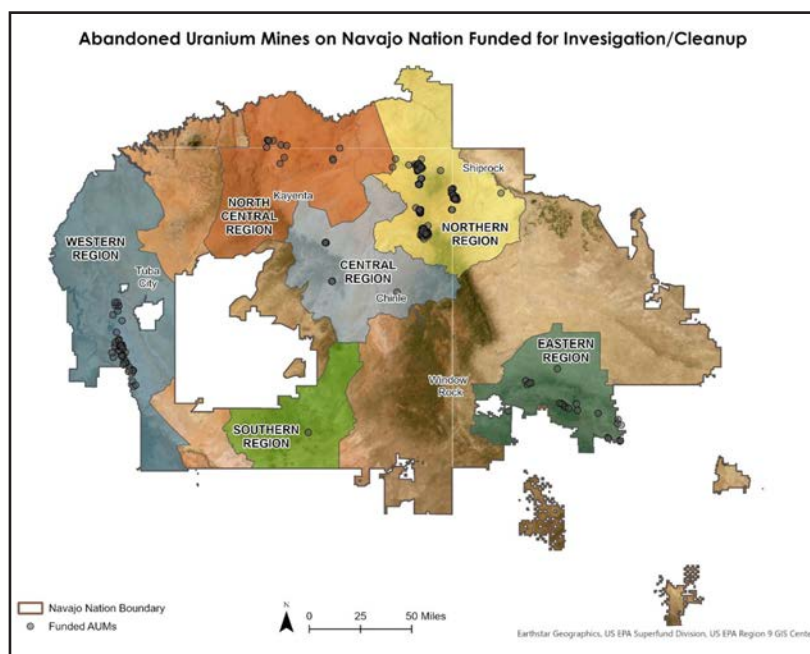
Table 1. Ten-Year Plan completed and new cleanup process goals for mine sites on Navajo Nation 2020-2029.

EPA will update our progress annually on our web page <https://www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup> and through these annual updates.

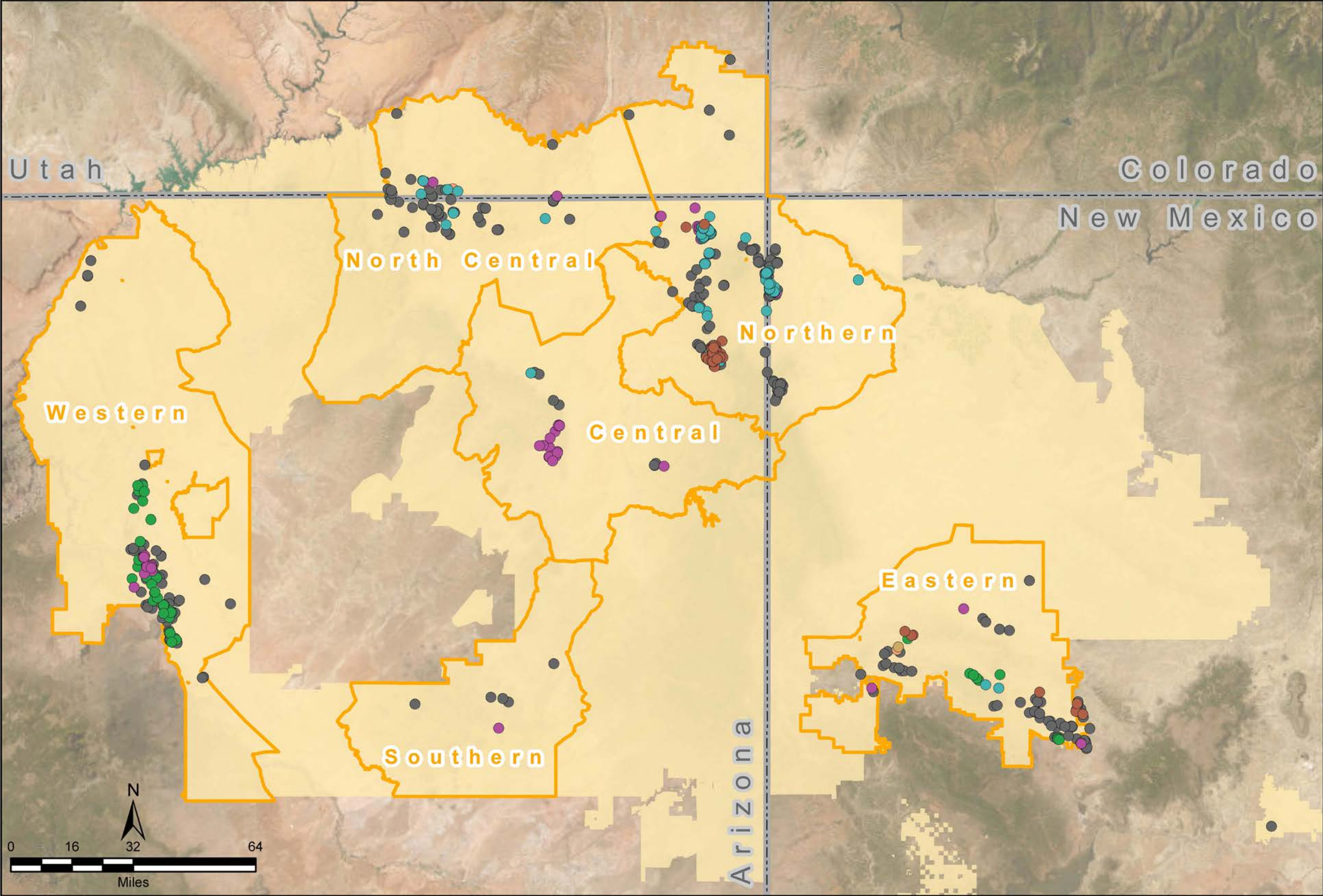
Significant Progress Made in 2025

During 2025, EPA made significant progress in a number of areas, all furthered our goals to cleanup uranium contamination on Navajo Nation.

- EPA signed Action Memoranda authorizing large-scale removal actions at multiple sites, including the Quivira Mines, Section 9 Lease Mines, and Section 32/33 Mines. Collectively, these decisions authorize the cleanup of over 1.2 million cubic yards of uranium mine waste, addressing risks to human health and the environment.
- For the Quivira Mines and Section 32/33 Mines cleanup, EPA selected an action: that will transport over 1 million cubic yards of uranium mine waste from areas near Navajo communities to a new off-site repository at the Red Rocks Landfill near Thoreau, New Mexico. Permitting the new facility is expected to take 2-4 years and construction will follow.
- For the Northeast Church Rock Mine (NECR) cleanup, EPA advanced negotiations with General Electric/United Nuclear Corporation to finalize a Consent Decree for the NECR site cleanup site near Gallup, New Mexico. The remedial action will begin in 2026.
- EPA completed 20 Removal Site Evaluations and initiated the investigation at the 11 previously unfunded mines within the Lukachukai Mountain Mining District (LMMD). In addition to those efforts within the LMMD, EPA also completed the Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) at the Cove Transfer Stations and initiated a TCRA at the Mesa V complex.
- EPA coordinated with Navajo Nation and state agencies to identify locations suitable for consolidating waste rock. These consolidated locations are identified as local and regional repositories. This effort is intended to identify locations where waste consolidation can occur to minimize the footprint of waste on Navajo Nation. EPA communicated this effort during their spring government-to-government consultation with Navajo Nation leadership.



(continued on page 4)



- Mines**
- Cyprus Amax/Western Nuclear
 - Other Private Companies
 - Phase 1 and Phase 2 Trusts
 - Tronox
 - Navajo Superfund Lead
 - US EPA Funded
 - Currently Unfunded

Navajo Nation Abandoned Uranium Mines Current Settlements and Funded Mines

- AUM Region
- Navajo Nation
- U.S. State



- EPA expanded workforce and community protection efforts through the Superfund Job Training Initiative. The effort was concluded by graduating 24 community members who are now utilizing the training on environmental jobs. EPA also continued their Contaminated Structures Program during 2025 and communicated their intentions to start sunseting the program in 2026.
- EPA engaged in extensive government-to-government consultations, quarterly technical meetings, and community outreach with Navajo Nation leadership, local chapters, regulatory agencies, and advisory commissions to ensure transparency, coordination, and incorporation of tribal input into cleanup decisions.



Bureau of Indian Affairs Update

In 2024, to initiate closure of the Tuba City Dump Site (TCD) pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, P.L. 93-638, the Hopi Tribe signed a self-determination contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Work includes access road and staging area construction, and the initial excavation, characterization, and transportation of TCD solid waste. In 2025, the Hopi Tribe focused on designing and planning this project accomplishing:

- Substantial completion of all necessary authorizations to construct the access road and staging area.
- Completion of designs and specifications for the construction of the access road and staging area, and the excavation, characterization, and transportation of 50,000 loose cubic yards of TCD solid waste.
- Advertisement of the construction project, with the award scheduled for 2026.



Nuclear Regulatory Commission Updates

United Nuclear Corporation Church Rock uranium mill site: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) continued coordinating with the EPA on next steps and timelines for construction activities to move mine waste from the North East Church Rock mine site to the mill site. NRC also coordinated with EPA on erosion control measures for the Pipeline Arroyo.

NRC coordinated with Department of Energy (DOE) and Navajo Nation for on-going work at the Tuba City, Shiprock, and Mexican Hat Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act sites.

Abandoned Uranium Mine (AUM) Subcommittee: The NRC continued to participate in the AUM working group on potential solutions for waste from Navajo and other uranium mine sites.

In September 2025, NRC staff issued a license to Disa Technologies, Inc. to allow use of the High-Pressure Slurry Ablation technology to remediate abandoned mine waste at inactive mine sites. NRC staff continued collaborating with the EPA on potential paths forward and additional studies on High-Pressure Slurry Ablation as a potential remedial option at inactive Navajo uranium waste sites.



U.S. Department of Energy Update

Abandoned Uranium Mines – DOE Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program

- Completed verification and validation of 55 Defense-Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) during the 2025 field season, completing work in the Northern and North Central AUM Regions. The DRUM Program has verified and validated 154 mines on the Navajo Nation in total.

Former Mills:

Shiprock, NM:

- Over 7.5 million gallons of contaminated ground water treated in accordance with an Interim Treatment Plan.
- Performed liner maintenance in the 11-acre evaporation pond.
- Initiated site-wide infrastructure upgrades for new water treatment unit.
- Erected new modular evaporation ponds on site to support new water treatment unit operation.
- Delivered new water treatment unit to site.
- Continued planning for water treatment unit startup and commissioning.
- Submitted Rights-of-Way application to Navajo Nation.

- Hired a new water treatment unit operator.
- Collected groundwater samples for isotope analysis proximal to 11-acre evaporation pond.
- Initiated planning for 11-acre evaporation pond interim stabilization.
- Hosted annual community meeting.
- Hosted Water Treatment Unit project briefing meeting with Navajo Nation tribal agencies.

Tuba City, AZ:

- Approximately 4 million gallons of contaminated ground water treated in accordance with Interim Treatment Plan.
- Completed fluxgate magnetometer and resistivity surveys of site disposal cell.
- Completed aquifer slug testing to support aquifer characterization.
- Completed sandstone characterization project to support additional aquifer characterization.
- Initiated site condition assessment to evaluate the functionality and capabilities of existing site infrastructure and soil conditions. A site condition assessment will assist in identifying upgrades or new infrastructure needs to support the installation of a water treatment unit and associated infrastructure to address mill-impacted groundwater.
- Completed Engineering Alternatives Analysis for handling water treatment unit byproducts.
- Completed initial design for Hopi interpretive exhibit.
- Hosted four community meetings in the Tuba City and Moenkopi area.

Monument Valley, AZ:

- Completed 3D model project of the geological layers within Monument Valley with Navajo Technical University.
- Completed Threatened and Endangered Species survey and Cultural Resource survey to influence the design of the fence reconfiguration.
- Completed lab testing for sediment sample collection, synoptic water level measurements, and slug testing and analysis for plume delineation in support of the draft Groundwater Corrective Action Plan.
- Hosted annual community meeting to provide site updates.

Mexican Hat, UT:

- Completed Phase II Geotechnical Sampling and Materials Testing Report.
- Implemented System Operation and Analysis at Remote Sites (SOARS) Telemetry System Enhanced Monitoring.
- Completed Aerial LiDAR Survey.
- Hosted annual community meeting to provide site updates.

DOE Community Outreach Network Update:

In 2015, federal and Navajo agencies created the Community Outreach Network (Network) to coordinate communication with residents and agencies about actions addressing uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation. The Network includes various tribal and federal representatives working together to deliver and conduct outreach to Navajo communities.



2023 Cove Transfer Station cleanup in Cove, AZ

2025 Network Accomplishments:

- Increased membership of Network to include additional members that provide services and information to community members.
- Set up information booth at the Tsaila Health Pop Up Event on April 3, 2025.
- In cooperation with the DOE Legacy Management (DOE-LM), the Network set up an information booth at the Navajo Nation Agency Council Meetings.
 - June 14th—Western Agency Council Meeting
 - June 21st—Northern Agency Council Meeting
 - July 21st—Navajo Nation Council Summer Session
- In partnership with the DOE-LM the Network provided an update to attendees and set up an information booth at the Southwestern Uranium Convention on September 12th-13th.
- Participated in in STEMsation event on October 20, 2025 at Window Rock High School.
- Updated the Network Resource List and Information Sheet.

<https://www.energy.gov/documents/navajo-nation-community-outreach-network-resource-list>

- Created promotional Uranium 101 Flyer for Network members to distribute to Chapter House officials interested in hosting Uranium 101 events.
- Continued to hold a monthly virtual meeting with Network members.

<https://www.energy.gov/lm/tribal-collaboration>



Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Update

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) was available in 2025 to coordinate with community, federal, and Navajo Nation partners to address community questions about prevention of non-occupational exposure to uranium. ATSDR continued to provide printed health education materials on uranium and radon for local events and activities when requested.

In addition, ATSDR began [public health assessment activities](#) at the newly listed EPA National Priorities List (NPL) named Lukachukai Mountain Mining District. ATSDR is the lead agency within the Public Health Service for implementing health-related provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). ATSDR is charged to assess the presence and nature of health hazards at specific NPL sites, to recommend actions to prevent or reduce further exposure and reduce potential risks to health that might result from such exposures.



Closed portals in Cove Mesa Mines.

Project Area	Summary of Focus Areas for 2026
Abandoned Uranium Mines – EPA	• Complete 43 Removal Site Evaluations. • Select Final Clean-up Actions for two Mine Sites. • Begin North East Church Rock Final Clean-up Action. • Begin Time Critical Removal Action at the Old Church Rock Mine. • Publish two Regional Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis documents for public comment.
Abandoned Uranium Mines – DOE Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program	• The DRUM Program sunsets September 30, 2026, and will complete the remaining 45 of the 199 total DRUM on the Navajo Nation. The remaining DRUM are in the Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern AUM Regions.
Former Mills – NRC	United Nuclear Corporation Church Rock uranium mill site: • Once construction of the mine waste repository begins in 2026, NRC staff plans to inspect construction activities. Shiprock, NM: • In 2026, NRC staff anticipates DOE's water treatment unit installation will be completed. Staff will monitor construction progress and startup of the treatment system. Tuba City, AZ: • In 2026, NRC staff anticipates completion of DOE's site condition assessment report and continued planning and design for the remediation system upgrades.
Former Mills – DOE	Shiprock, NM: • Start-up and commissioned new water treatment unit. • Execute interim stabilization of 11-acre evaporation pond. • Perform site wide electrical upgrades. • Begin to treat groundwater via electrocoagulation and reverse osmosis at site, optimize treatment to increase effluent volumes, and reduce brine volume. • Continued engagement with local community through public meeting. Tuba City, AZ: • Complete secondary source term characterization and sentinel/characterization well drilling. • Complete Site Condition Assessment project. • Complete domestic water system upgrades. • Submit Rights-of-Way application to Navajo Nation.

Project Area	Summary of Focus Areas for 2026
Former Mills –DOE (continued)	• Complete modelling efforts in support of future groundwater remediation strategies. • Initiate fabrication and installation of Hopi interpretive exhibit. • Continue engagement with local community through community meetings. Monument Valley, AZ: • Host Groundwater Compliance Action Plan project planning introduction meeting with Navajo Nation tribal agencies. • Continue engagement with local community, chapter, and leadership through community meetings, e-mails, phone calls, and in-person notifications. • Complete fence reconfiguration project. • Complete geochemical laboratory summary report. • Complete draft Post-Characterization Conceptual Site Model Update Summary Report. • Initiate revision of Baseline Risk Assessment. • Initiate Groundwater Protection Standards evaluation. Mexican Hat, UT: • Develop targeted evapotranspiration cover enhancement recommendations for the disposal cell cover. • Propose viable remediation options to DOE-LM. • Utilize inputs and data from Phase II Geotechnical Sampling and Materials Testing Report for more informed modeling inputs. • Continue to work with Collaborative Working Group to complete climate, hydrologic, and hydraulic modeling and develop Hydrus modeling.
Tuba City Dump – BIA	Construction of the TCD access road and staging area, and the excavation, characterization, transportation and disposal of TCD waste are planned. Objectives include: • Completion of all necessary authorizations to construct the access road and staging area, and excavate, characterize and transport TCD solid waste to the disposal facility. • Selection of the construction contractor and awarding the work. With the selection and award of the work to Haley Aldrich, this objective has been completed. • Completion of a contract with Waste Management, Inc for the use of the Painted Desert Landfill, and possible completion of a cooperative agreement with the City of Flagstaff for the use of the Cinder Lake Landfill. • Construction of the access road and staging area. • Excavation, characterization, transportation, and disposal of TCD solid waste off Tribal land, completing the removal of at least 50,000 loose cubic yards of TCD solid waste.

Project Area	Summary of Focus Areas for 2026
Community Involvement	In 2026, the Community Outreach Network will: • Host a Uranium 101 tentatively in Shiprock, NM. • Host an in-person bi-annual Network meeting in Window Rock to establish outreach for the next two years. • Provide confrontational stakeholder techniques training in cooperation with the Office of Legacy Management. • Continue to hold monthly virtual meetings. • In partnership with DOE-LM, continue to set up information booths at Navajo Nation Agency Council meetings to include the Council Summer Session. • Research other health-oriented events and gatherings to attend and provide Network information. • Annual update to Resource List and Network information sheet.
Health	• ATSDR is available to coordinate with community, federal, and Navajo Nation partners to address questions about prevention of non-occupational exposure to uranium. • ATSDR will continue public health assessment activities at the Lukachukai Mountain Mining District NPL site.
Navajo Workforce Development	• EPA will continue to implement job training programs under the Superfund Job Training Initiative on Navajo Nation in the course of abandoned uranium mine cleanups.

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