

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Navajo Nation *Five-Year Plan*

Update on Activities

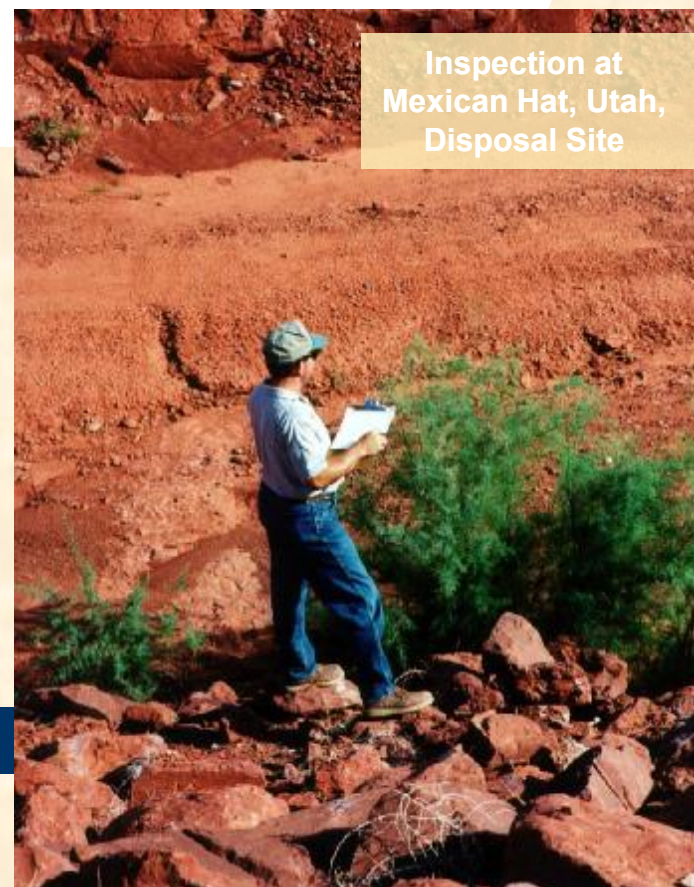
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DOE Office of Legacy
Management

EPA Uranium Stakeholder
Workshop

Gallup, New Mexico

April 16, 2013



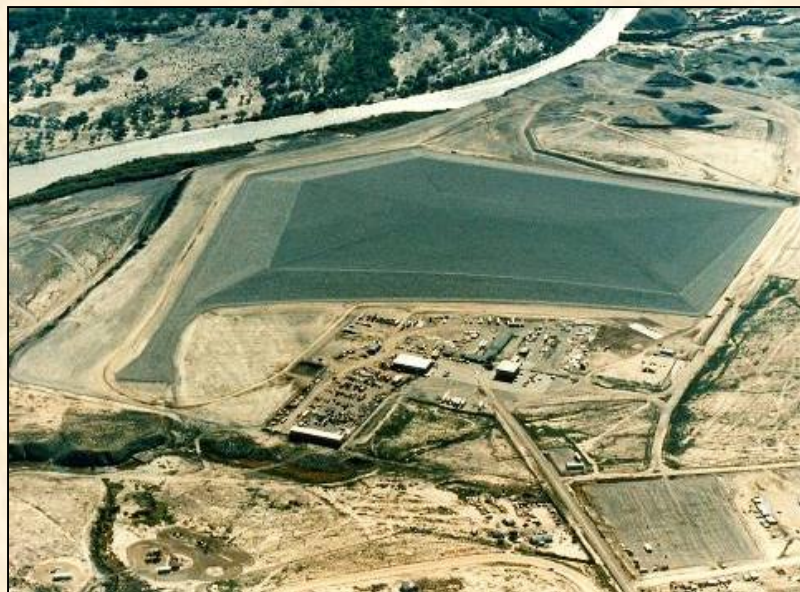
DOE is implementing the actions outlined in the Navajo Nation *Five-Year Plan*

- ◆ Conduct long-term monitoring and site maintenance to ensure the disposal cells remain protective of human health and the environment
- ◆ Provide funding to the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe to support participation in site activities under Cooperative Agreements
- ◆ Collaborate with other participating agencies to update the Navajo Nation *Five-Year Plan*



DOE is implementing the actions outlined in the Navajo Nation *Five-Year Plan* (continued)

- ◆ Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site
 - ❖ Contaminated groundwater is pumped into evaporation pond
 - Results show that system is working effectively
 - ❖ Studies continue to better understand contamination



DOE is implementing the actions outlined in the Navajo Nation *Five-Year Plan* (continued)

- ◆ Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site
 - ❖ Active mechanical groundwater pump and treatment system
 - ❖ Reevaluating treatment strategy to determine if a better process can be identified and used
 - Groundwater is a precious resource



DOE is implementing the actions outlined in the Navajo Nation *Five-Year Plan* (continued)

- ◆ Monument Valley, Arizona, Processing Site
 - ❖ Uranium levels are below regulatory standards
 - ❖ Studying the use of native plants to cleanup of other contaminants in groundwater



DOE is implementing the actions outlined in the Navajo Nation *Five-Year Plan* (continued)

- ◆ Mexican Hat, Utah, Disposal Site
 - ❖ Monitor seeps and maintain disposal cell



Navajo Nation and DOE completed remediation of the Highway 160 Site (update)

- ◆ DOE transferred \$4.4 million to the Navajo Nation through a new cooperative agreement
 - ❖ Navajo Nation managed the design, remediation, and reclamation
- ◆ DOE operates the Grand Junction, Colorado, Disposal Site cell for disposal and placement of contaminated materials
 - ❖ Excavation and transportation of contaminated materials was completed in August 2011
- ◆ Navajo Nation plans to use remaining funds (\$1 million) for remediating additional properties



Northeast Church Rock (NECR) Mine Site

- ◆ NECR mine waste is to be placed on top of an existing disposal cell
- ◆ DOE participates in EPA design work group along with State, NRC, Navajo Nation, United Nuclear Corporation representatives
- ◆ Technical and regulatory issues are challenging
- ◆ Agencies are cooperating and key issues are being addressed



DOE's Next Steps

- ◆ Expand outreach activities
 - ❖ Continue to provide financial support to Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe to provide technical oversight of our programs
- ◆ Consult with other agencies, tribes, and states to develop Abandoned Uranium Mines Report to Congress, due July 2014*
- ◆ Participate in developing the next Navajo Nation *Five-Year Plan*
- ◆ Continue to collaborate on uranium-related issues with Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe, states, and federal entities through the five-year plans, cooperative agreements, and other initiatives
 - ❖ Partnering with others so environmental remedies are more effective

*A presentation on the report is scheduled tomorrow afternoon