

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Contaminated Structures Project

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**Superfund**



**Gallup, NM**  
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# Background

- Radioactive waste sand/rock used for building homes
- 2007 – EPA mapped and identified ~500 structures near mines
- Plan: Assess 100 structures per year, clean up or replace contaminated homes
- 5-Year Plan initiated 2008

# Project - Update

- Total number of structures screened till now: 878  
(including Phase I)
- Remediated: 34
- Residential yards cleaned-up: 12

# Building Capacity of NSP

- In 2008, USEPA was the lead and NSP built capacity while assisting USEPA
- NSP purchased similar equipment used by USEPA, completed assessment of 763 structures, and referred to USEPA only structures above Investigation Level

# Equipment Calibration

- Our equipment is calibrated by third party annually to get reliable and legally defensible data
- Everyday, we do calibration before and after work in the field with source to make sure standard calibration is valid

# Improved Work Strategy

- We have now revised and improved work strategy, while working in the field to avoid re-work
- We have data dictionary set-up on GPS unit

# Field Work

- Once we are in the field, we get access agreement and perform radiological survey inside/outside home/structure
- Investigation Level = Average Background Reading + 10 x (Standard Deviation)



# Referral to USEPA

- Any structure or yard above Investigation Level

# Priority of Selecting Home sites

- Residents who live within a quarter mile around the AUMs
- Residents who request for home radiation survey, saying mine materials might have been used to build it

# Community Outreach

- Announce CSP work in the region
- Provide sign-up sheet for CSP work at chapter meetings
- Word of mouth

# Work Progress

- Northern Agency (2008)
- Eastern and Northern Agency (2009-2010)
- Western Region (2011)
- Northern, North-Central, Central, Southern Region (2012)

# Phase I

AUM Region	Chapters	No. of Structures Surveyed Inside
Northern	Teec Nos Pos	18
	Cane Valley	40
	Red Valley	56
	Sub-Total	114
Western	Tuba City	1
	Sub-Total	1
	Grand Total	115

# Phase II to Phase V

AUM Region	Chapters	No. of Structures Surveyed	AUM Region	Chapters	No. of Structures Surveyed
Northern	Cove	28	Eastern	Baca/Prewitt	160
	Newcomb	6		Breadsprings	5
	Red Valley	100		Church Rock	222
	Shiprock	3		Iyanbito	3
	Sweetwater	22		Mariano Lake	1
	Teec Nos Pos	11		Nahodishgish	13
	Sub-Total	170		Standing Rock	4
North Central	Dennehotso	1	Thoreau	5	
	Oljato	44	Sub-Total	413	
	Sub-Total	45	Bodaway/Gap	5	
Central	Tachee/Blue Gap	7	Western	Cameron	84
	Tselani/Cottonwood	1		Tonalea	3
	Sub-Total	8		Tuba City	29
Indian Wells	5	Sub-Total		121	
Southern	Jeddito	1			
	Sub-Total	6		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>763</b>

# Plan for 2013

- Complete continued survey of North-Central, Central and Southern AUM Regions
- Conduct Requested Home Sites Survey in all regions
- Go beyond a quarter mile radius priority

# Haystack Area Removal Work

- Spring, Summer and Fall 2013
- 9 structures replacements and 7 yards clean up planned
- Community Housing and Infrastructure Department (CHID) will rebuild structures



# Issues and BIA Support

- Home Site Residential Lease Renewal
- BIA supported accelerating process
- Provided training on the process of renewal of home site residential lease renewal

# Community Voices

- Residents are optimistic to get home replacements
- Some residents are frustrated that we did not start CSP work well in advance  
(Past 30-40 years)

# Examples



**Before**



**After**





Questions ?