

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

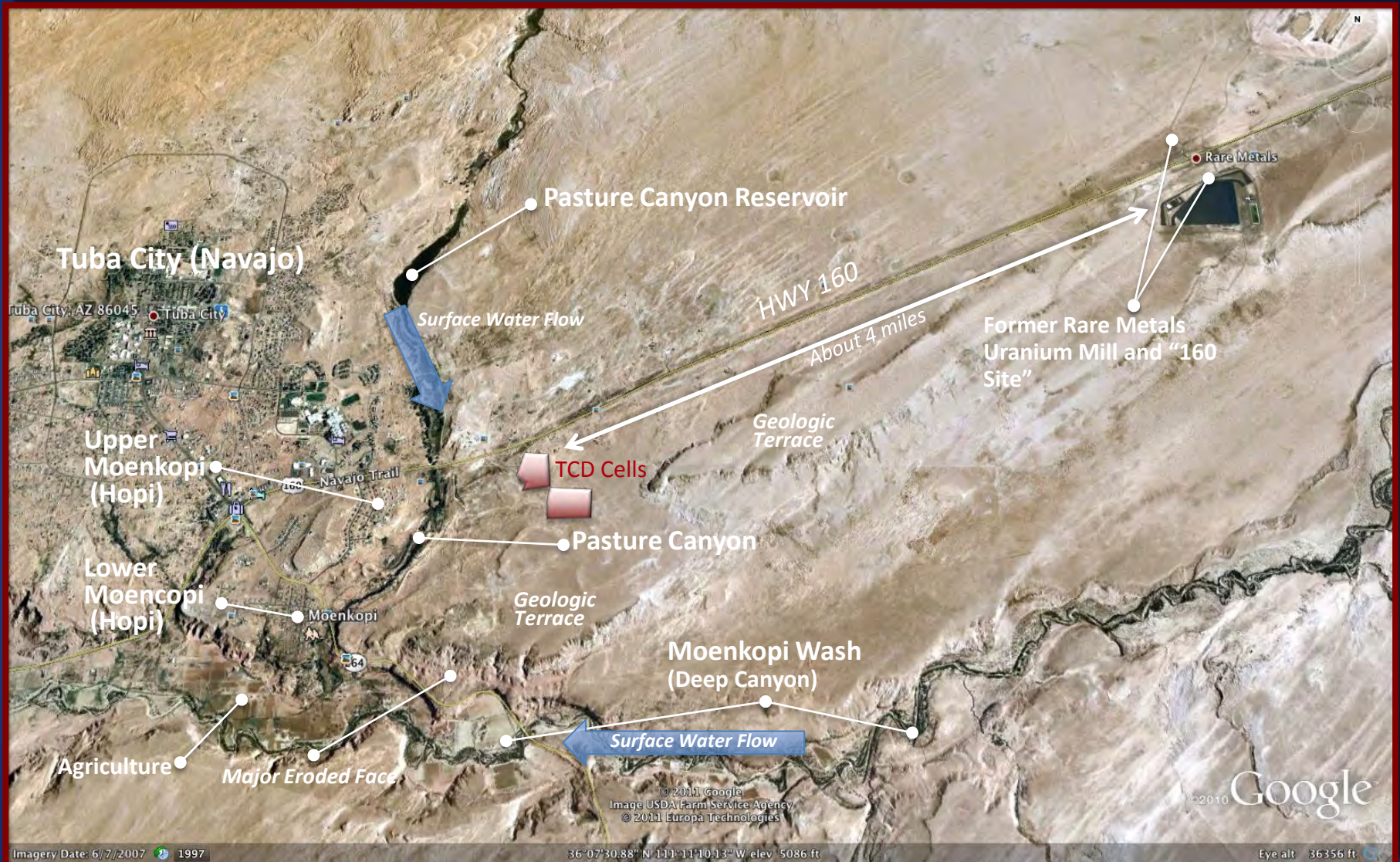


Superfund RI/FS for Tuba City Dump

Tuba City Dump

- Municipal solid waste dump operated by BIA from 1950s to 1997
- Dump is mostly on Hopi land, partially on Navajo land.
- Much of the waste was burned before being covered
- Two monitoring wells near dump found to contain high levels of uranium. Other secondary contaminants also found.
- Other monitoring wells with uranium above drinking water standards located sporadically within area among cleaner wells
- Protection of health of water users and preserving the scarce groundwater resource is of primary concern

Tuba City Dump and Surroundings



Tuba City Dump and Surroundings



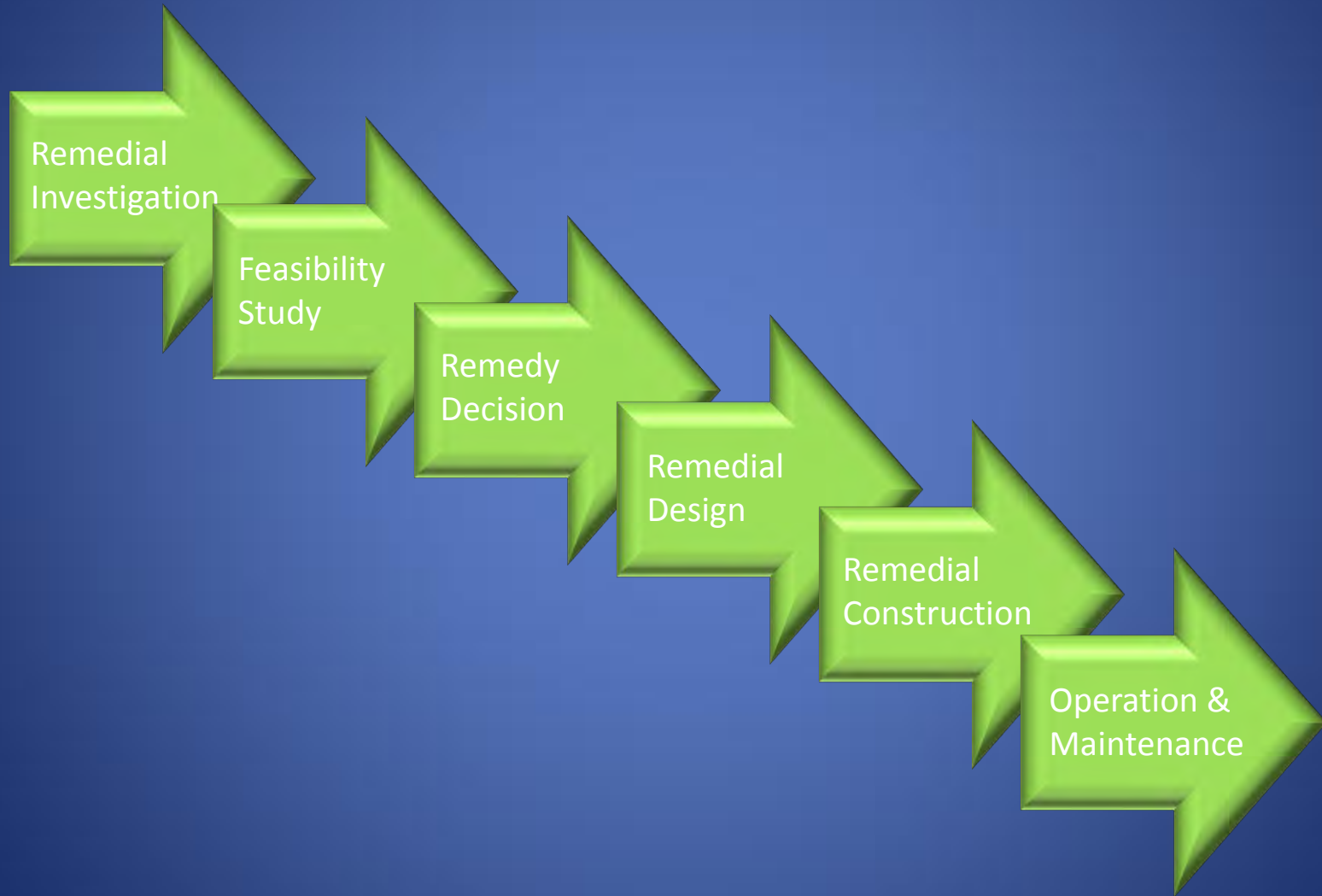
Complex Layering Profile at Moenkopi Wash



The Situation and New Direction in Superfund

- Geology, topography, movement of water in the ground is very complex
- Many highly technical studies over the last 13 years, conducted by many differing parties; interpretations and conclusions vary
- Some important technical issues not addressed to understand why contaminants are there and how they will move
- EPA now will consider all previous work, collect data necessary to fill the needed data gaps, and progress to a cleanup decision under Superfund

The Superfund Process



What are the Goals of Bringing TCD under Superfund?

- Provide a unified process for reaching a technically defensible cleanup decision for all contamination issues
- Provide for an enforceable schedule to project completion
- Resolve differing technical interpretations, where possible and necessary for selecting a cleanup
- Provide a framework for U.S. government/Tribal coordination

EPA has not yet determined...

- Whether the dump is a source of the uranium found in groundwater; extensive studies have so far not identified uranium waste or hazardous wastes in the dump
- Whether drainage systems may be carrying uranium into the area
- How groundwater moves both east and west of Pasture Canyon
- Whether groundwater with uranium from the area near the dump can move to the other side of the Canyon and to the drinking water wells

Presently...

- BIA has signed an enforceable agreement with EPA requiring BIA to do the RI/FS and all field work; work began in July.
- EPA is coordinating with the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation, BIA, and other agencies to arrive at a cleanup decision and a resolution to the contamination issues near the dump
- The work plan and schedule is being adjusted to address several new data needs
- We anticipate the field work requiring 8-12 months from now