

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

New Mexico Uranium Permitting Activities

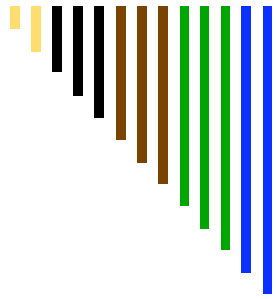
Navajo Uranium Stakeholder Workshop

Gallup, New Mexico

November 3, 2009

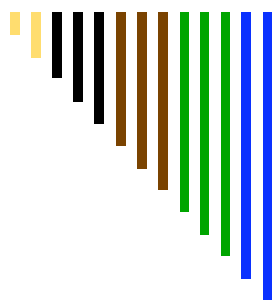
Bill Brancard, Director, Mining & Minerals Division

New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department



New Mexico Agencies Involved in Uranium Permitting

- Mining and Minerals Division (MMD), Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
- Office of State Engineer (OSE)
- Department of Game & Fish (DGF)
- Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)



Who Has Jurisdiction over New Uranium Mining Operations on Non-Indian Land in New Mexico?

Exploration

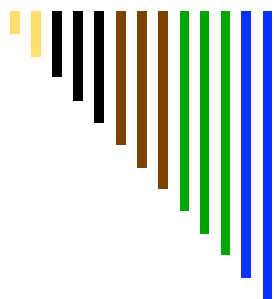
MMD - Mining Act

Conventional Mining:
Underground and Open Pit

MMD - Mining Act
NMED – Water Quality Act

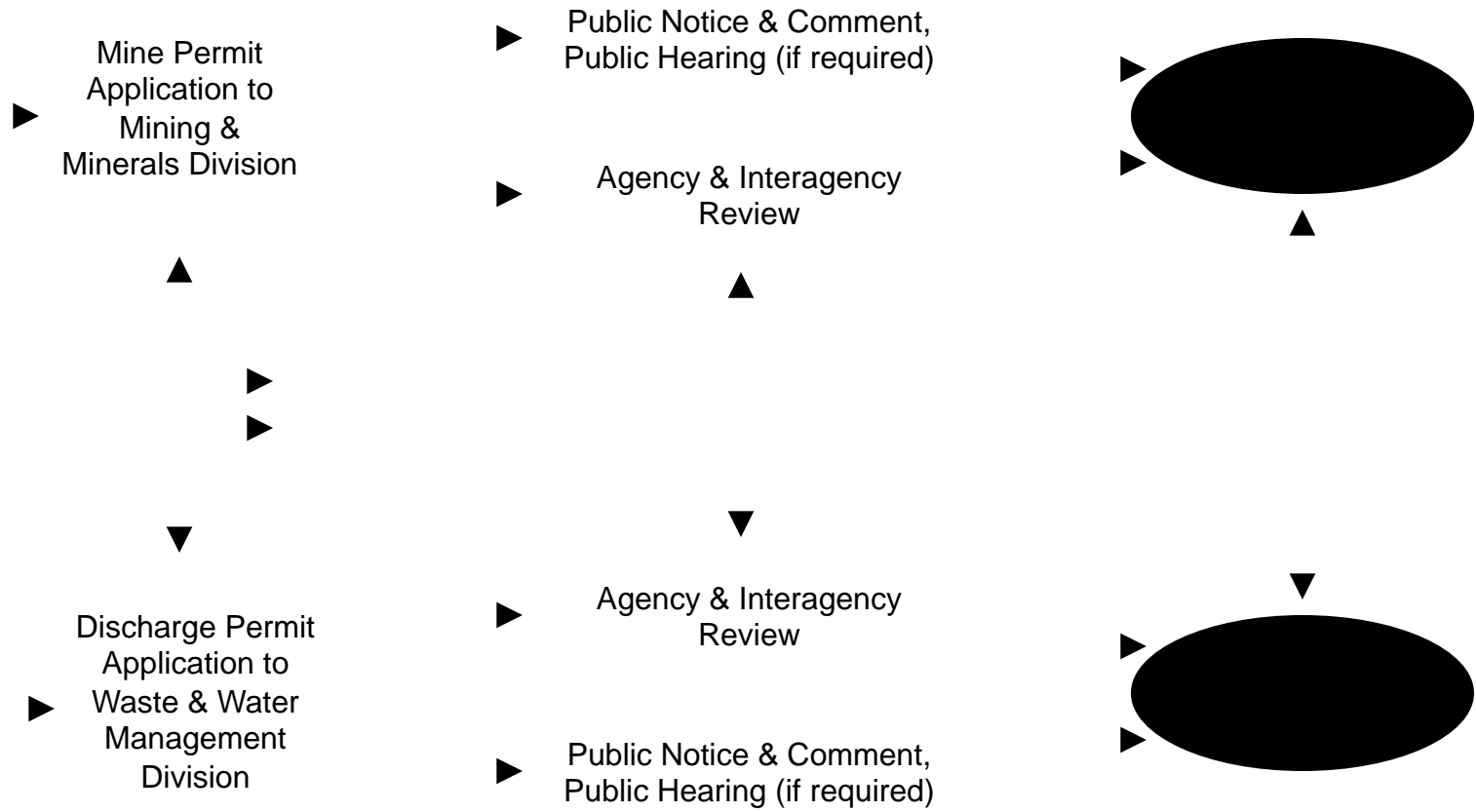
In Situ Leach Operations &
Uranium Milling

NRC – Atomic Energy Act
NMED – Water Quality Act

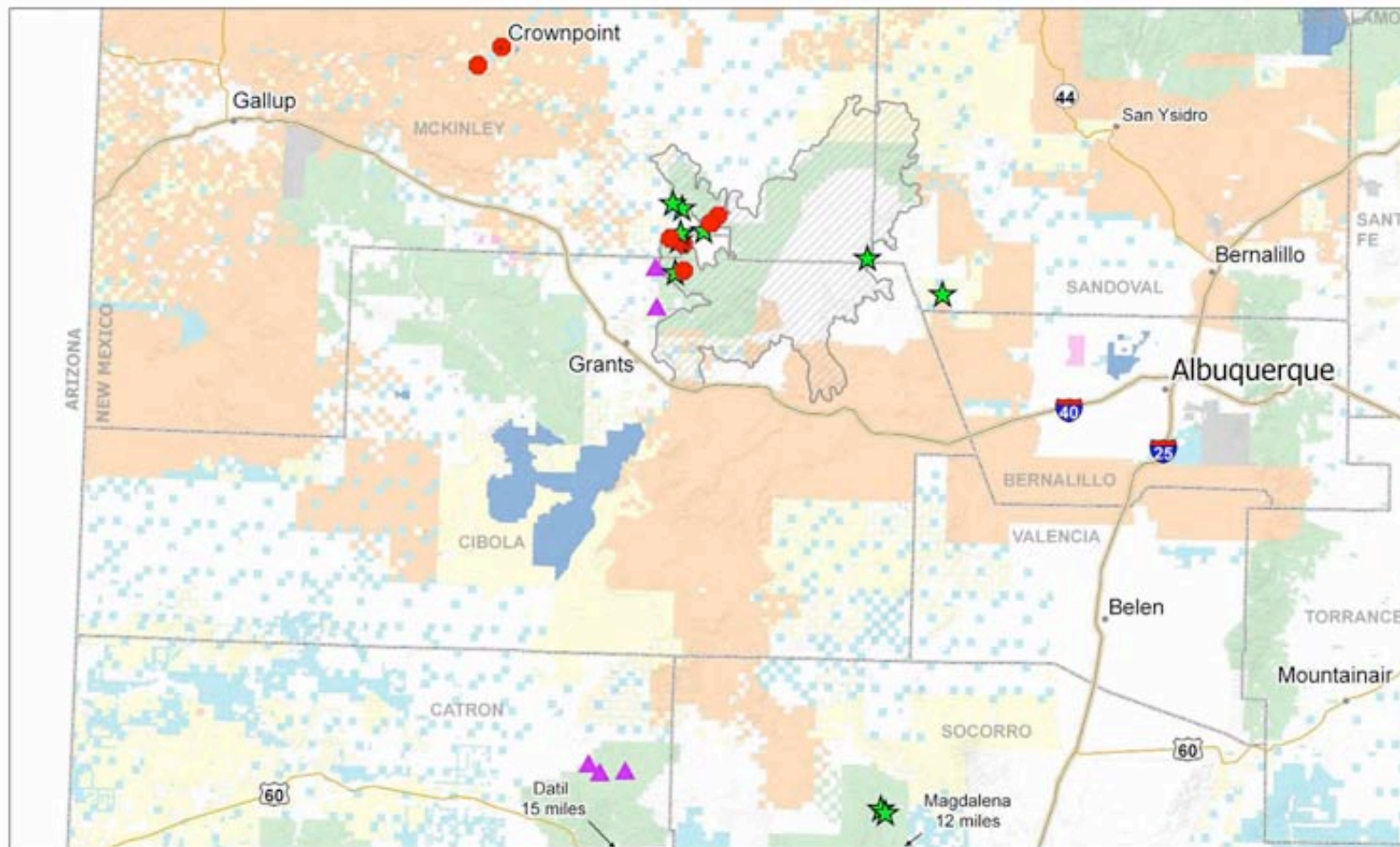


New Mexico Mining Act Permit Categories

- **Regular Existing:** 2 yrs production between 1970 and 1993; > 10 acres of disturbance.
- **Minimal Impact Existing:** 2 yrs production between 1970 and 1993; < 10 acres of disturbance.
- **Regular New:** Operation started in 1993 or later: > 10 acres of disturbance.
- **Minimal Impact New:** Operation started in 1993 or later; < 10 acres of disturbance.
- **Regular Exploration:** > 5 acres of disturbance.
- **Minimal Impact Exploration:** < 5 acres of disturbance.



Uranium Exploration Applications



Uranium Exploration Permits

- ★ Approved (n = 10)
- Denied (n = 9)
- ▲ Pending (n = 5)

Land Surface Ownership

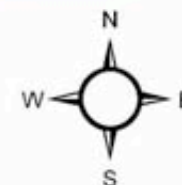
- Bureau of Land Management
- Dept of Defense
- US Forest Service
- Tribal Lands
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- State Parks

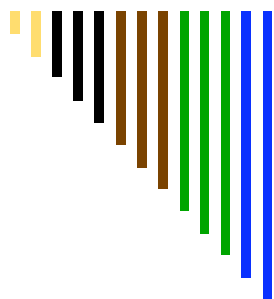
0 10 20 40 Miles

Mt Taylor TCP

Interstates
Major Roads

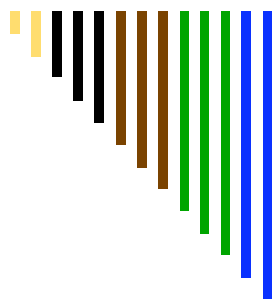
Counties





New Mexico Mining Act New Mine Permit Requirements

- Application must include 12 months of baseline data. Agency must prepare an environmental evaluation which includes an analysis of the reasonably foreseeable impacts of the proposed activities on the environment and the local community. 69-36-9.F, G
- Application must include a determination of the probable hydrologic consequences of the mining and reclamation, both on and off the permit area, including water quantity and quality of surface and groundwater. 69-36-7.I(6)
- Agency must find that the proposed mining operation is designed to meet without perpetual care all applicable environmental requirements imposed by the Mining Act and other laws; 69-36-12.B(4)



New Mexico Mining Act New Mine Permit Requirements

- New mine reclamation must achieve a self-sustaining ecosystem appropriate for the surrounding life zone. 69-36-7.H

- All pits and waste units must be designed to facilitate contemporaneous reclamation. 69-36-7.H

- Applicant must file financial assurance sufficient to assure completion of permit requirements if the work had to be done by the State. 69-36-7.Q

- Before Mining Act permit can be issued, the New Mexico Environment Department Secretary must determine that the mining activities will achieve compliance with all applicable environmental standards. 69-36-7.P