

Status of Proposed New Uranium Mines In New Mexico

David (“D.J.”) Ennis, P.G.

Program Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program

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Mining Act Reclamation Program

- Regulatory program for hard rock mining and exploration
 - Copper, gold, silver, uranium, perlite, pumice, humate
 - Focus on post-mining reclamation
 - Return land to a productive use: typically grazing, wildlife habitat
 - All land status in New Mexico except Tribal Lands

- Nine (9) person program:
 - Geologists
 - Soil Scientists
 - Land Reclamation Scientists
 - Biologists
 - Chemists
 - Wildlife Scientists



Mining Act Reclamation Program

- New Mexico Mining Act of 1993
- Title 19 Chapter 10 New Mexico Administrative Code
 - a.k.a. “Mining Act Rules”
- Mining Act Rules:
 - Definition of “Minerals” *does not* include:
 - Clay, adobe, flagstone, potash, sand, gravel, caliche, borrow dirt, quarry rock used as aggregate in construction, coal, surface water or subsurface water, geothermal resources, oil and natural gas together with other chemicals recovered with them, commodities, byproduct materials and wastes that are regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Emphasis Added) or waste regulated under Subtitle C of federal Resources Conservation and Recovery Act



Mine Permitting – State Laws

Predominant State Laws:

- New Mexico Mining Act – reclamation, financial assurance
- New Mexico Water Quality Act – surface and groundwater *quality* protection
- Water Law Code – surface and groundwater *quantity* protection
- MMD works with other State and Federal agencies to permit hard rock mines and exploration sites:
 - Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, NM State Land Office
 - NM Environment Department, State Land Office, Game and Fish, State Historic Preservation Division, NM Forestry



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

Mine Permitting – Federal Laws

- Federal Laws/Regulations

- General Mining Law of 1872
- 43 CFR 3809 Surface Management (BLM)
- 36 CFR 228 Surface Resources (USFS)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 1969



- Similar to State permitting process:

- Notice of Intent or Plan of Operations for exploration or mining

- Coordination between the State of NM and USFS or BLM

- Site specific Memoranda of Understanding

- Federal permitting subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Categorical Exclusion (CE)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



New Uranium Projects

Two (2) uranium mine projects in progress by NM Mining and Minerals Division:

- La Jara Mesa Mine www.laramide.com
- Roca Honda Mine www.energyfuels.com

One (1) uranium exploration project in progress by NM Mining and Minerals Division:

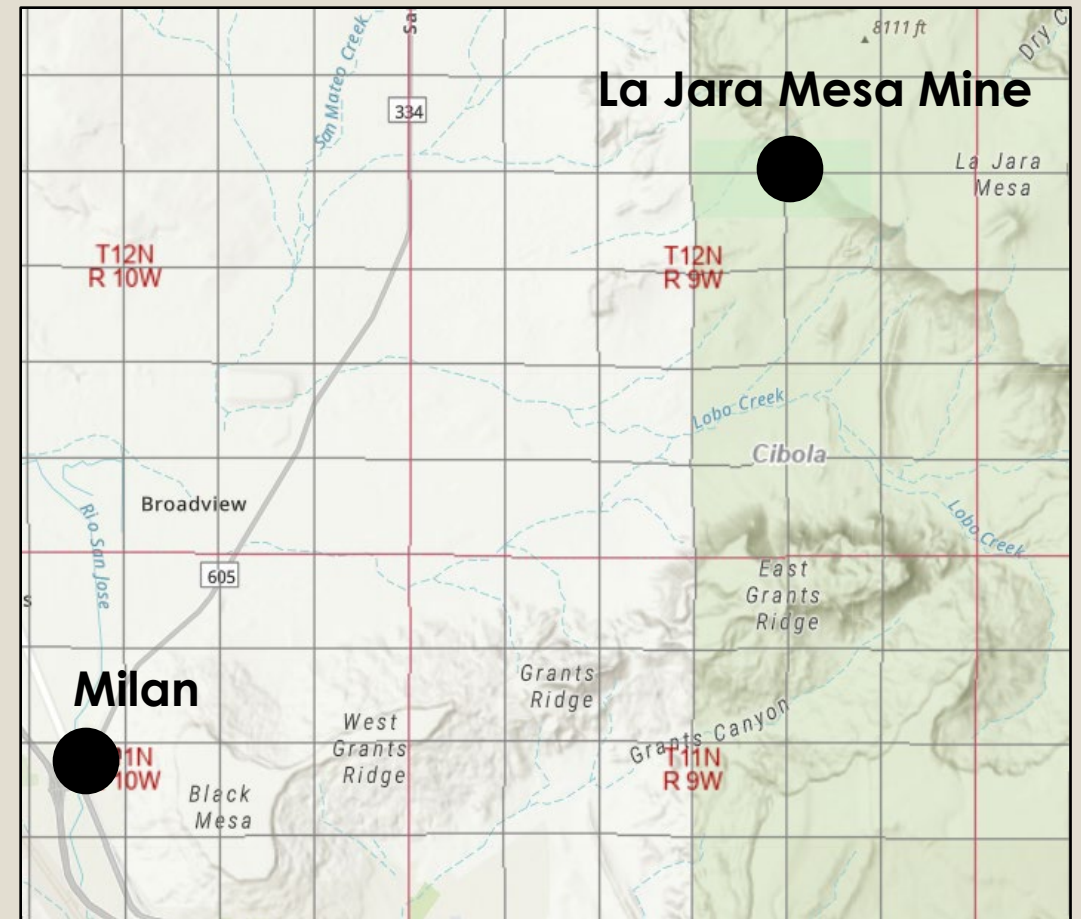
- Cebolleta Exploration www.premierur.com

Two (2) projects are *exempt* from New Mexico Mining Act due to regulation by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC):

- Grants Precision In-Situ Recovery www.grantsenergy.com
- Churchrock / Crownpoint In-Situ Recovery www.laramide.com

La Jara Mesa Mine

- Laramide Resources LTD
- Cibola County
- Private and U.S. Forest Service land
- Conventional underground mine
- Two lateral entrances/inclines
- Orebody is above the water table
- “Dry mine” – no dewatering for mine operations
- Commercial water use (septic, showers, dust control)
- Located inside the Mt. Taylor Traditional Cultural Property



La Jara Mesa Mine

State Permitting

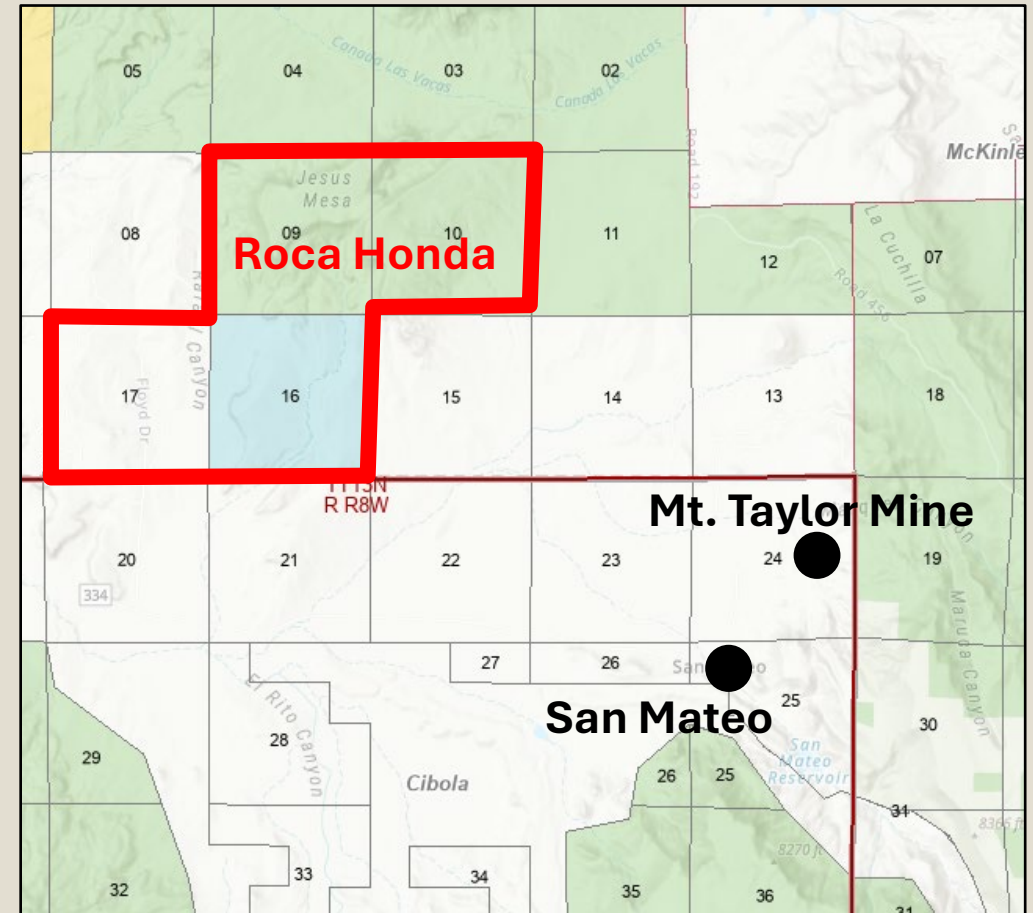
- Started by operator 2009
- Paused by operator ~2012-2024
- Resumed by operator 2024
- Milestones:
 - Sampling and Analysis Plan
 - *In progress by Operator*
 - Baseline Data Report
 - *In progress by Operator*
 - Mining Operation and Reclamation Plan
 - *Still needed from operator*
 - Environmental Evaluation
 - *MMD to complete*
 - Financial Assurance
 - *Still needed from operator*
 - Tribal Communication and Consultation
 - *In progress; partnership with USFS*
 - Public notice/hearings
 - *MMD to complete*

Federal Permitting

- Started 2009
- Draft Env. Impact Statement 2012
- Operator pause from 2012-2024
- Resumed Activities 2024:
 - Section 106 Tribal Consultation
 - MOU discussions
 - Resumption of NEPA Evaluation

Roca Honda Mine

- Energy Fuels
- McKinley County
- Private, Forest Service and State Land Office
- Deep conventional mine
 - ~2,000' deep vertical shaft
- Orebody is below the water table
- “Wet mine” – Dewatering required
 - 2,000 to 4,500 gallons per minute
 - Treated discharge pipeline to Rio San Jose
 - Federal Clean Water Act for discharge
- Located inside the Mt. Taylor Traditional Cultural Property



Roca Honda Mine

State Permitting

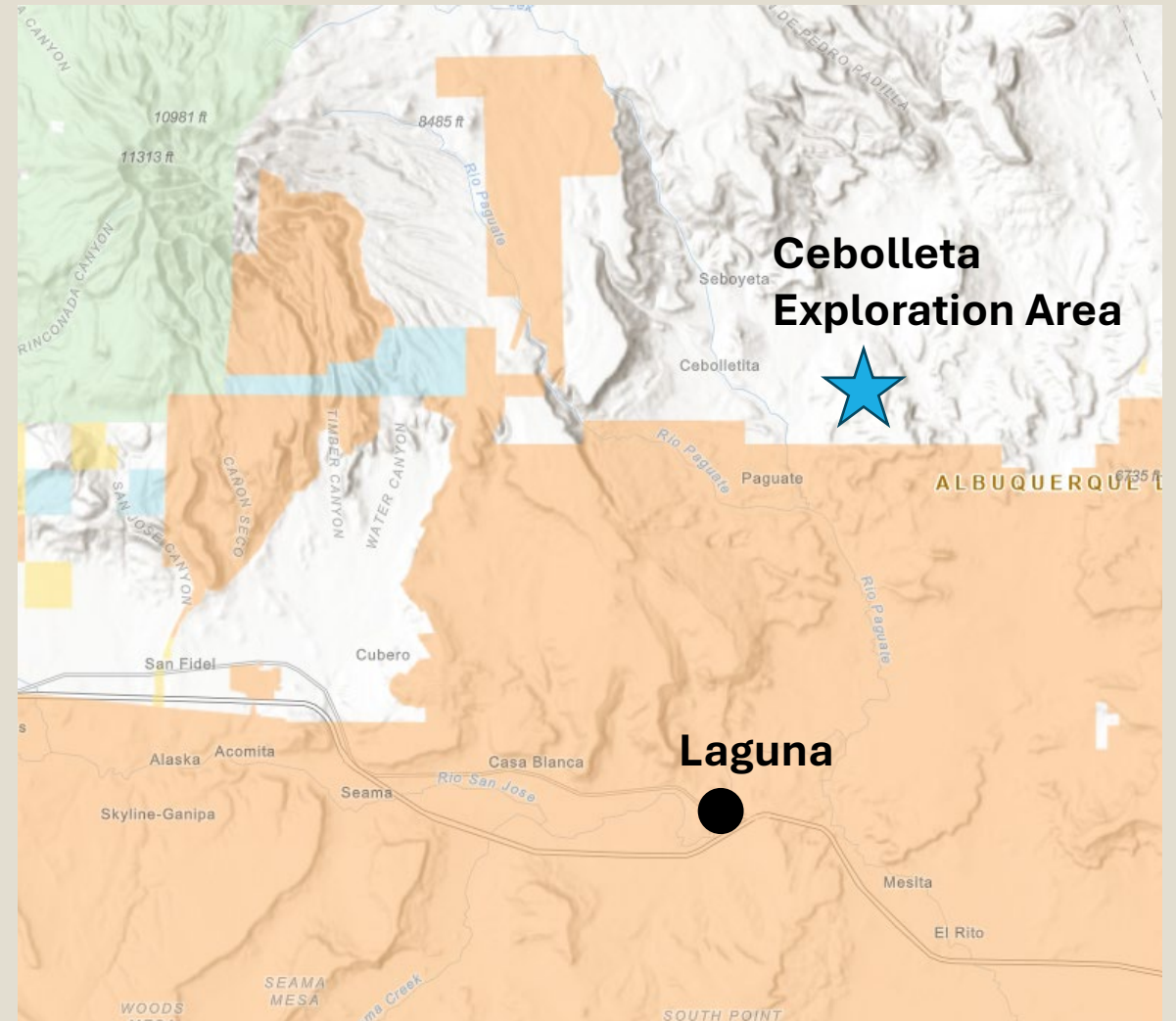
- Started by operator 2009
- Active 2009-2015
- Little to no activity by operator 2015-2018
- Active 2018-2020; inactive 2020-2024
- 2024-2025:
 - Preliminary re-engagement with State
 - MOU discussions
 - Sampling and Analysis Plan
 - *Technically complete*
 - Baseline Data Report
 - *Technically complete*
 - Mining Operation and Reclamation Plan
 - *Still needed from operator*
 - Environmental Evaluation
 - *MMD to complete*
 - Financial Assurance
 - *Still needed from operator*
 - Tribal Communication and Collaboration
 - *To be resumed; partnership with USFS*
 - Public notice/hearings
 - *MMD to complete*

Federal Permitting

- Started 2009
- Draft Env. Impact Statement 2012
- Started supplemental EIS 2015
 - New pipeline alternative
- Operator pause 2015-2024
- 2024-2025:
 - MOU discussions

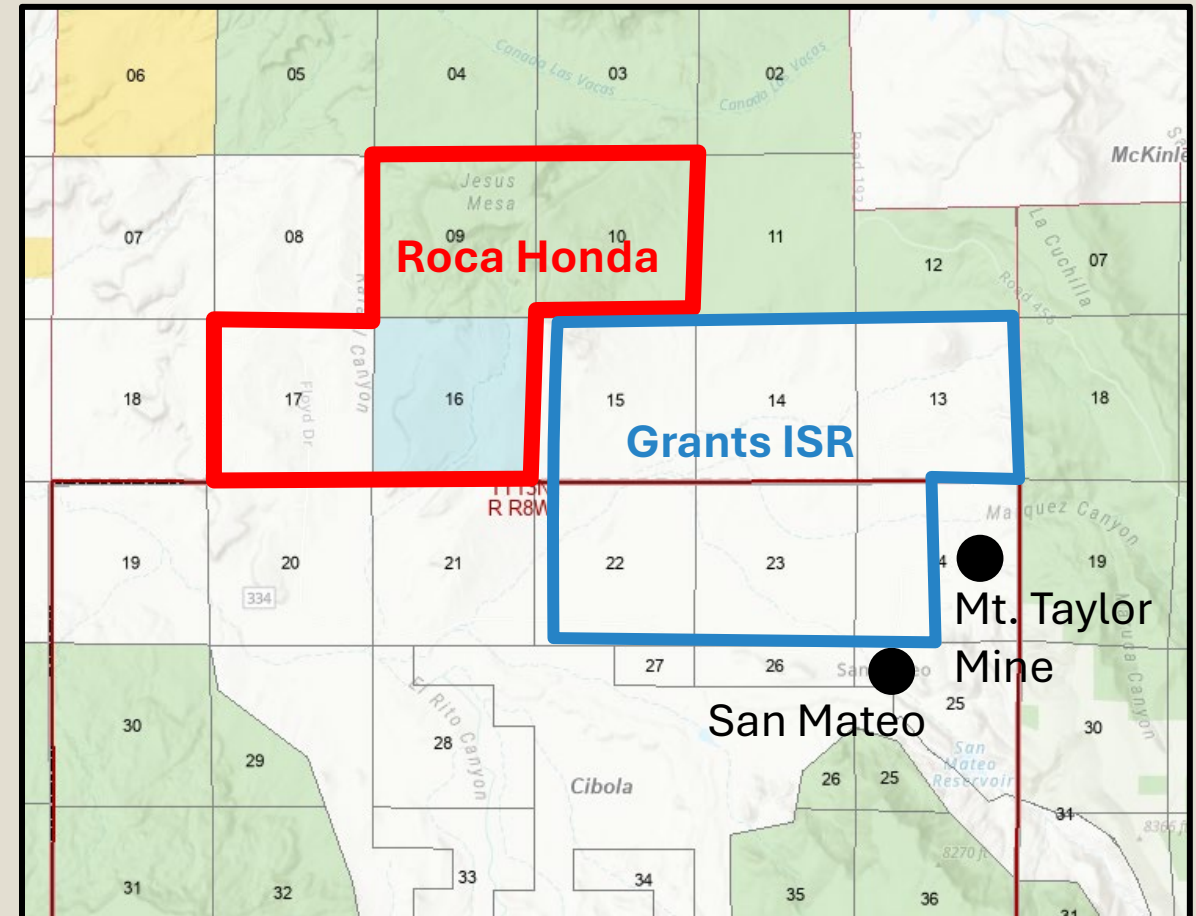
Cebolleta Uranium Exploration

- Premier American Uranium
- Cibola County
- Cebolleta Land Grant (private land) north of the Laguna Pueblo
- Exploration/Multiple Drilling Phases
- State Permitting:
 - Exploration permits issued 2023
 - Renewed 2024 and 2025
 - Some exploration completed
 - Additional exploration proposed
- Federal Permitting:
 - Not applicable



Grants Precision In-Situ Recovery (ISR)

- Grants Energy
- McKinley and Cibola Counties
- In-situ recovery (ISR) is recovery via a wellfield
- Injection of bicarbonate (HCO_3^- and oxygen) and extraction of uranium rich water
- State Permitting:
 - New Mexico Environment Department
 - *ISR is exempt from the New Mexico Mining Act*
- Federal Permitting:
 - Nuclear Regulatory Agency



Churchrock / Crownpoint In-Situ Recovery (ISR)

- Laramide Resources LTD
- McKinley County
- Two separate areas: Churchrock and Crownpoint
- In-situ recovery (ISR) is recovery via a wellfield
- Injection of bicarbonate (HCO_3^- and oxygen)
- State Permitting:
 - New Mexico Environment Department
 - *ISR is exempt from the New Mexico Mining Act*
- Federal Permitting:
 - Nuclear Regulatory Agency



Discussion/Questions

Thank you for your time.