



Navajo Nation
Environmental Protection Agency
Superfund Program (NSP)



Presentation For NM Legislature's Indian Affairs Committee & Radioactive and Hazardous Material Committee at Nenahnezah, NM

By:

Navajo Superfund Program (NSP)

August 22, 2017



Outlines

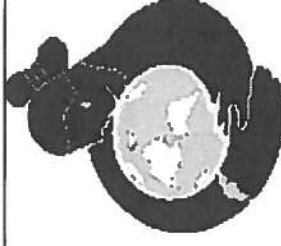


- Background
- Facts
- Project Status
- Current Issues
- Budget Need





Background



- In 2007, following a delegation of Navajo testimonials provided at a hearing, Rep. Henry Waxman, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform mandated for five federal agencies to address the health and environmental impacts from uranium mining and milling activities that occurred on Navajo. The five agencies are the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Indian Health Service, and Environmental Protection Agency.
- The first five-year plan from 2008 - 2012 was developed to address uranium contamination in consultation with NNEPA.
- The second five-year plan from 2014 - 2018 was needed to continue the work that is ongoing. Work is expected to continue beyond 2018 as there is a tremendous amount of remaining work to address the uranium legacy.



Facts



- 523 abandoned uranium mines (AUMs) exist; 521 underwent initial assessment with 2 added; 30 underwent detailed assessment
- 170 AUMs are being addressed with 140 recently cited under court ordered settlements
- 3 AUMs of have Interim Repositories
- Enacted May 2015 Establishment of the Dineh Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission will advise on uranium issues such as waste disposal



Facts



- **AUM remediation by assessment and cleanup complies with the required CERCLA based law process; NNCERCLA enacted in March 2008 follows CERCLA.**
- **Remediation is not Reclamation; Reclamation is guided by SMCRA which does not address risks, instead addresses physical hazards and safety issues**
- **Remediation cannot be used interchangeably with Reclamation**



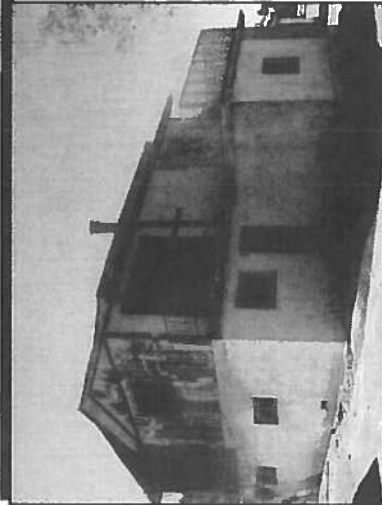
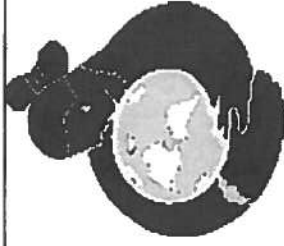
Facts



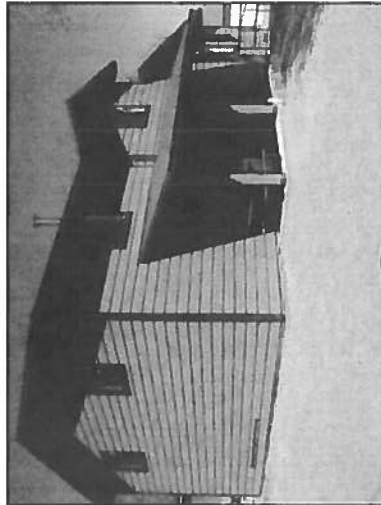
- Under the Contaminated Structures Project, there have been greater than 1100 hundred structures assessed
- Greater than 44 homes have been replaced
- Greater than 22 yard have been removed
- Several homeowners opted for compensation



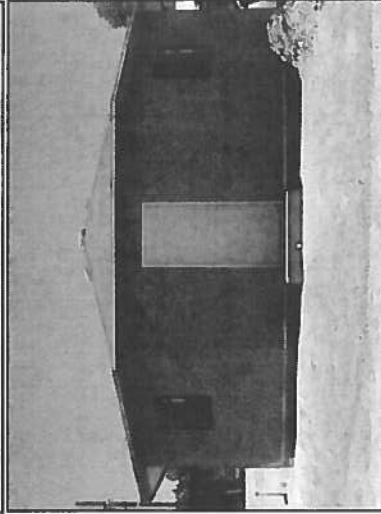
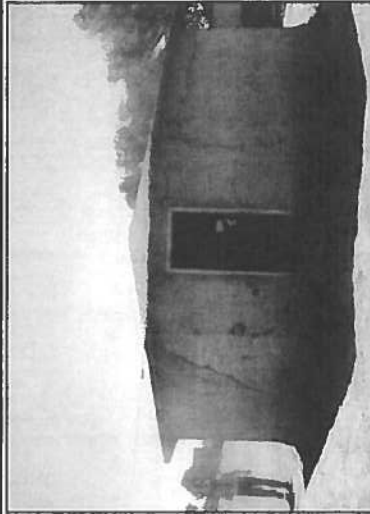
CSP Photos



Before



After





Project Status



- Northeast Church Rock AUM is at the 60% Design Phase
- Quivira AUM is undergoing Interim Action
- Mariano Lake is awaiting an EE/CA
- Black Jack/Mac AUMs RSE is undergoing comments
- Haystack recently had AOC completed
- Cove AUMs undergoing studies of watershed, irrigation with the Ecological Report recently completed and CSM to result in 16 AUM RSEs



Project Status



- Cameron AUMs underwent a modified AOC for background issues with RSE to be completed at end of 2018 by EPNG
- Haystack recently had AOC completed with RSE undergoing comments
- Cameron AUM undergoing negotiations with Coltec
- Cameron AUM, Section 9 not on Navajo and sets adjacent with potential migrating contamination onto Navajo



Current Issues



- Funding is required for 353 unaddressed AUMs
- Need seek more responsible parties
- Funding and action are also necessary to address family structures that have been unknowingly built on elevated uranium contained regions



Budget Need



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- Next 5 years (2019-2023): \$1.9 M
 - Next 5 years (2024-2028): \$1.9 M
 - Next 5 years (2029-2033): \$1.9 M