

Indian Affairs Committee

August 9, 2023

University of New Mexico, Gallup

Susan Gordon, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment

Teracita Keyanna, Red Water Pond Road Community Association

Jonathan Perry, Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining

Goals of presentation

- Report back from the US EPA meeting held on August 6 at the Thoreau Chapter House
- What is an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis
- Transportation Options
- Red Water Pond Road Perspective
- Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining Perspective

**Slides were taken from the US EPA Presentation on August 6, 2023.



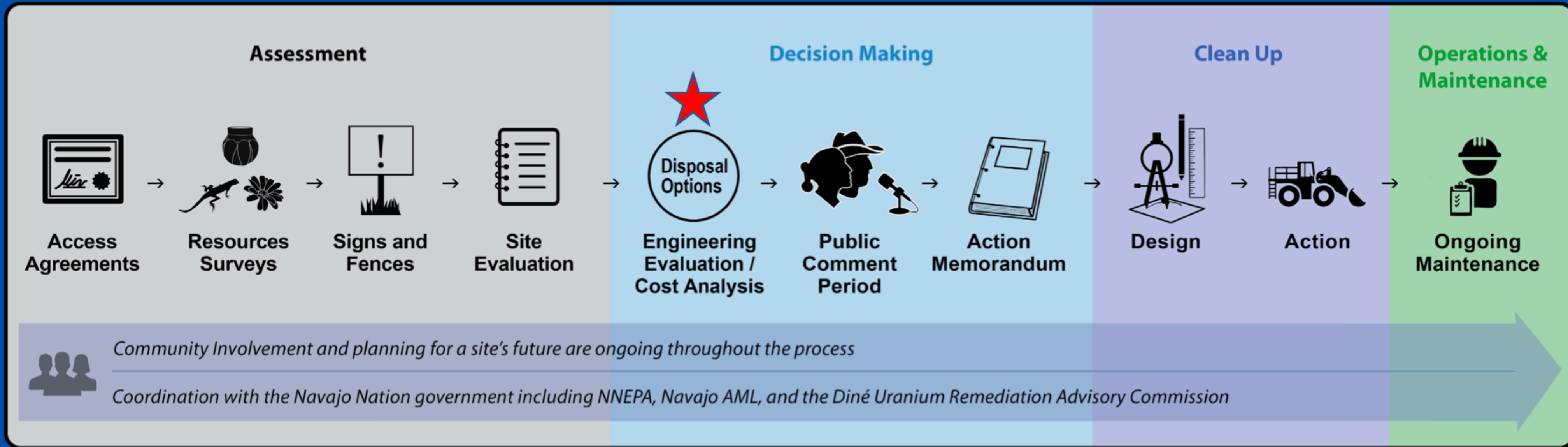
Quivera Mine Waste in Red Water Pond Road Community

Site Background

- Quivira was mined between 1972 – 1986 by Kerr-McGee
- Large underground mine - 1,500 to 1,800 below ground
- Wet Mine – Access to ore and mining required pumping out water ~57 billion gallons
- Produced approx. 4.6 million pounds of uranium ore (3rd largest mine on Navajo)



Superfund Process on the Navajo Nation

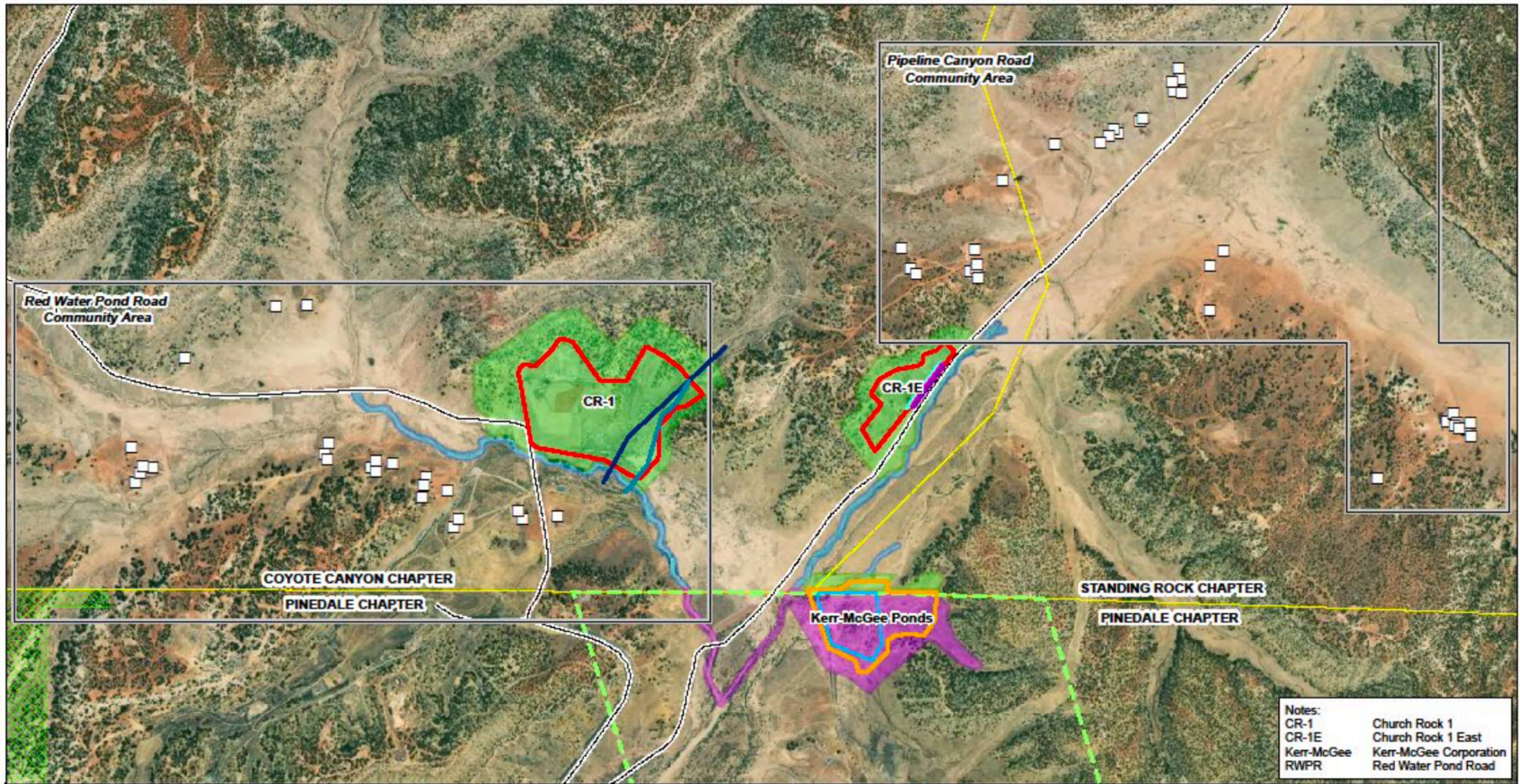


Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis

Clean Up Alternatives in EE/CA

- Alt 1: No Action
- Alt 2: Consolidate and Cap All Waste On Site Under ET Cover
 - Isolated Box Canyon within Mine Lease Area
 - Recontoured at CR-1
 - Isolated CR-2 Site On Top of Mesa
- Alt 3: Dispose of All Mine Waste Off Site at Red Rock Disposal Facility
- Alt 4: Dispose of All Mine Waste Off Site at a RCRA- or LLRW Licensed Facility¹

¹ Clean Harbors in Deer Trail, CO



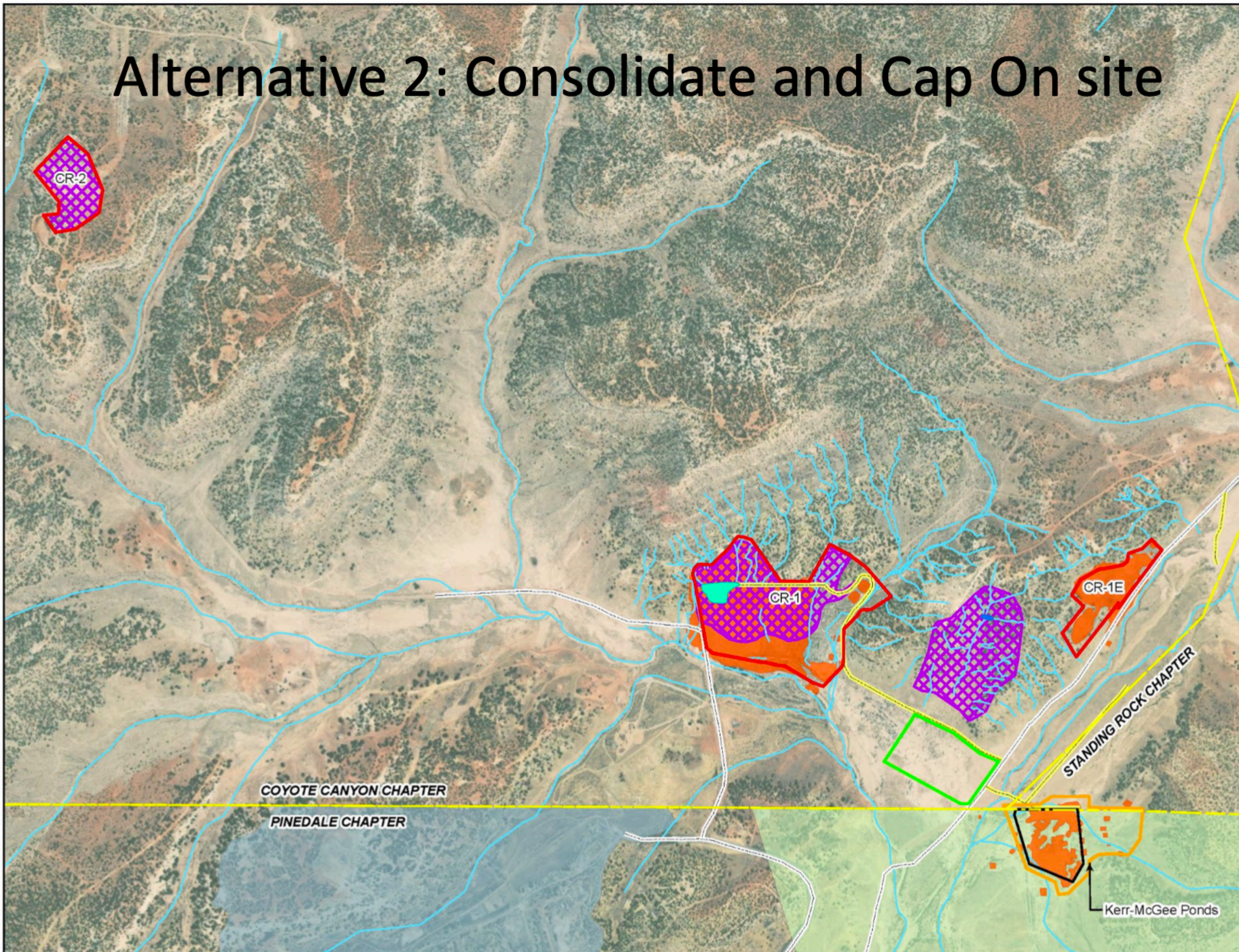
Notes:
 CR-1 Church Rock 1
 CR-1E Church Rock 1 East
 Kerr-McGee Kerr-McGee Corporation
 RWPR Red Water Pond Road

Legend

□ Homesites	□ Community Area	Land Use
— Road	▨ Bureau of Land Management Property	■ Navajo Residential
— Navajo Nation Chapter Boundary	— Existing Water Pipeline Easement	■ Navajo Difficult Access Open Space
▭ Mine Boundary	— Proposed Water Pipeline Easement	■ United Nuclear Corporation Outdoor Worker
▭ Kerr-McGee Pond Fenceline	— Communication Line	
▭ Kerr-McGee Ponds Investigation Boundary	— Natural Gas Line	
▭ United Nuclear Corporation Site Boundary (Private Property)	— Petroleum Line	

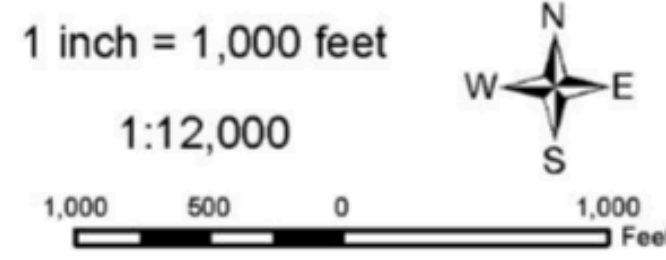
Prepared for: U.S. EPA Region 9		LAND USE DESIGNATIONS		
 Prepared By:		Task Order No.: 0003	Contract No.: EP-S9-17-03	Figure No: 8
		Location: QIVIRA MINES	Date: 5/30/2023	

Alternative 2: Consolidate and Cap On site



- Mine Lease Boundary
- Kerr-McGee Pond Lease Boundary
- Kerr-McGee Ponds Investigation Boundary
- United Nuclear Corporation Site Boundary (Private Property)
- Northeast Church Rock Mine
- Chapter Boundaries
- Removal Action Extent
- Potential On Site Disposal Areas
- Laydown Area
- Detention Pond
- Low Lying Ponding Area
- Proposed Access Road
- Existing Road
- Drainages

Notes:
 CR-1 Church Rock 1
 CR-1E Church Rock 1E
 CR-2 Church Rock 2
 Kerr-McGee Kerr-McGee Corporation



DRAINAGE PATHWAYS, REMOVAL AREAS, AND POTENTIAL ON SITE DISPOSAL AREAS

Prepared For: U.S. EPA Region 9

Prepared By:

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Task Order No.: 0003	Contract No.: EP-S9-17-03
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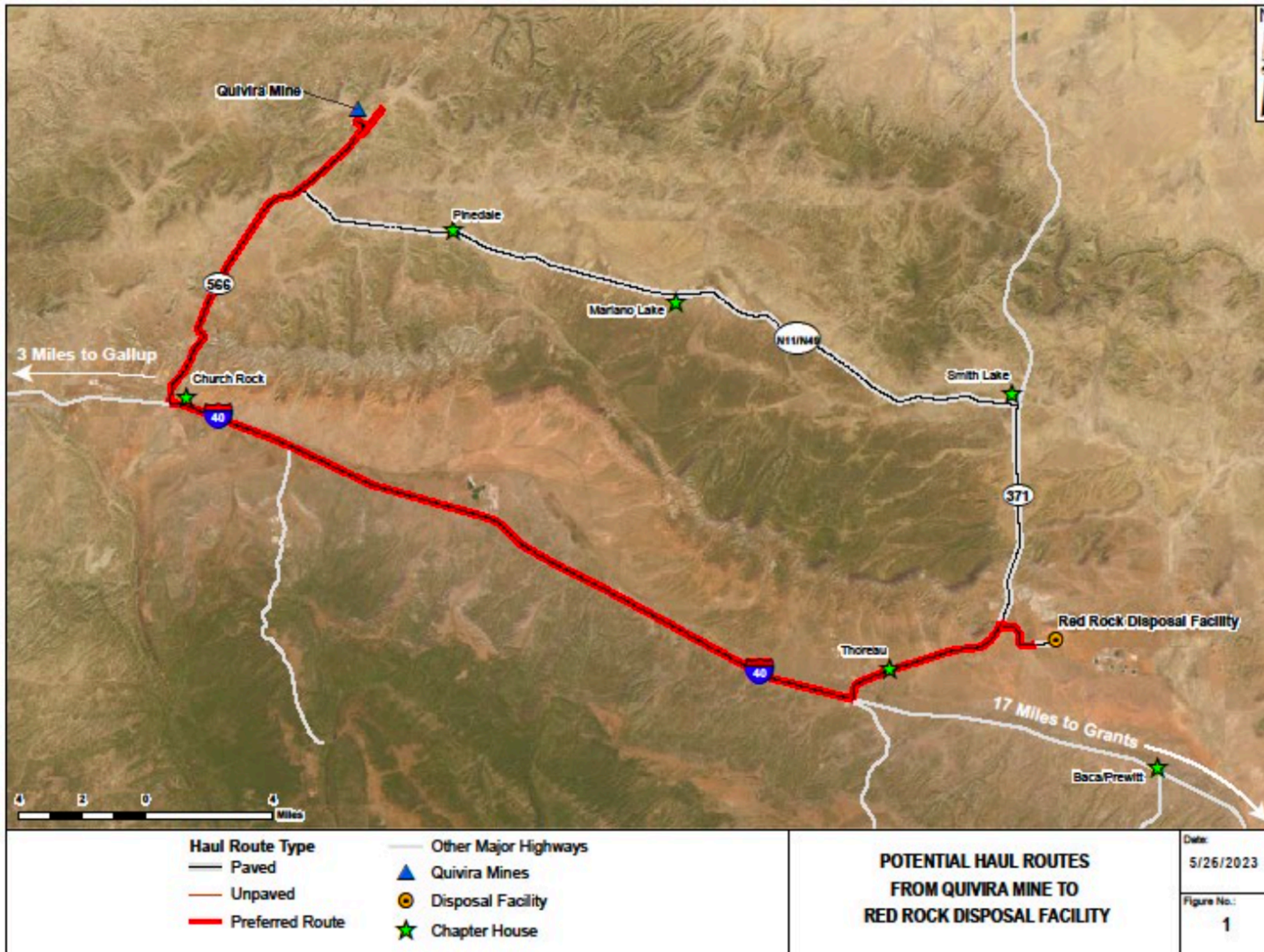
Location: QUIVIRA MINES	Date: 4/19/2023
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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane New Mexico West FIPS 3003 Feet Transverse Mercator	Figure No.: 1
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Alternative 3: Disposal at Red Rock Landfill

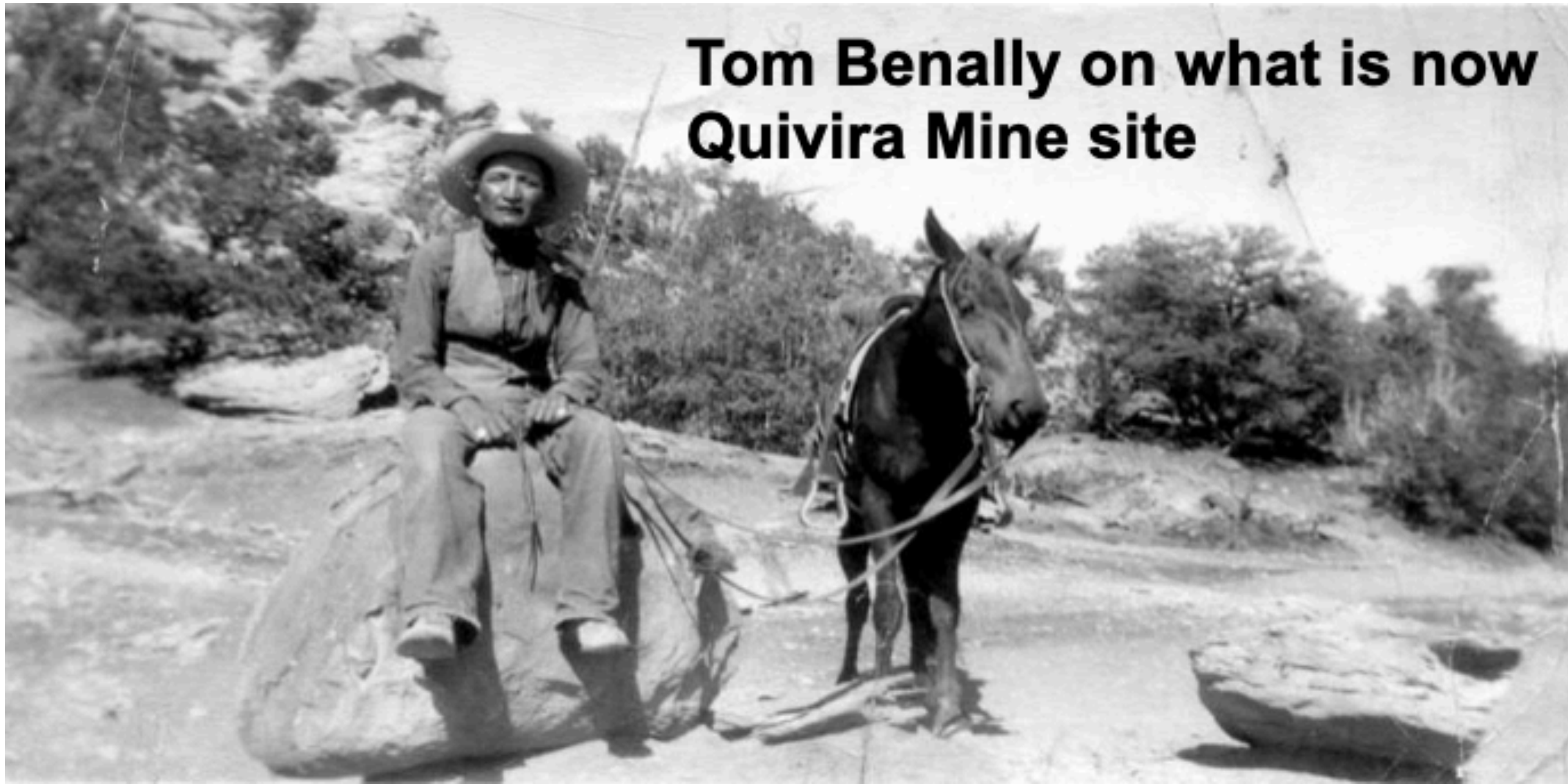
- Solid waste (Subtitle D) regional landfill in Thoreau, New Mexico (Cibola and McKinley Counties)
- Operated and owned by Northwest New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority (*7 politically appointed board members: Gallup (2), Grants (2), Thoreau, Cibola, and McKinley*)
- Covers approximately 640 acres, but only half is Subtitle D
- Approximately 65 employees (mostly Navajo)
- Estimated to have capacity for up to 57 years





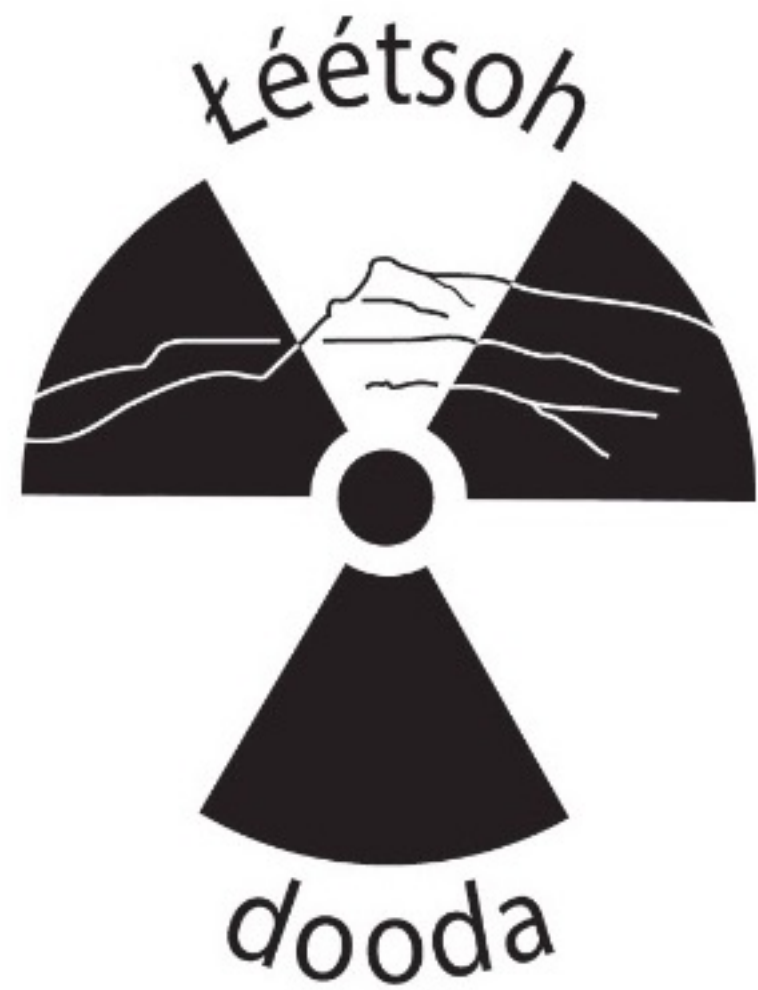
Alternative 3:
Possible Haul
Route to Red
Rock Facility

**Tom Benally on what is now
Quivira Mine site**



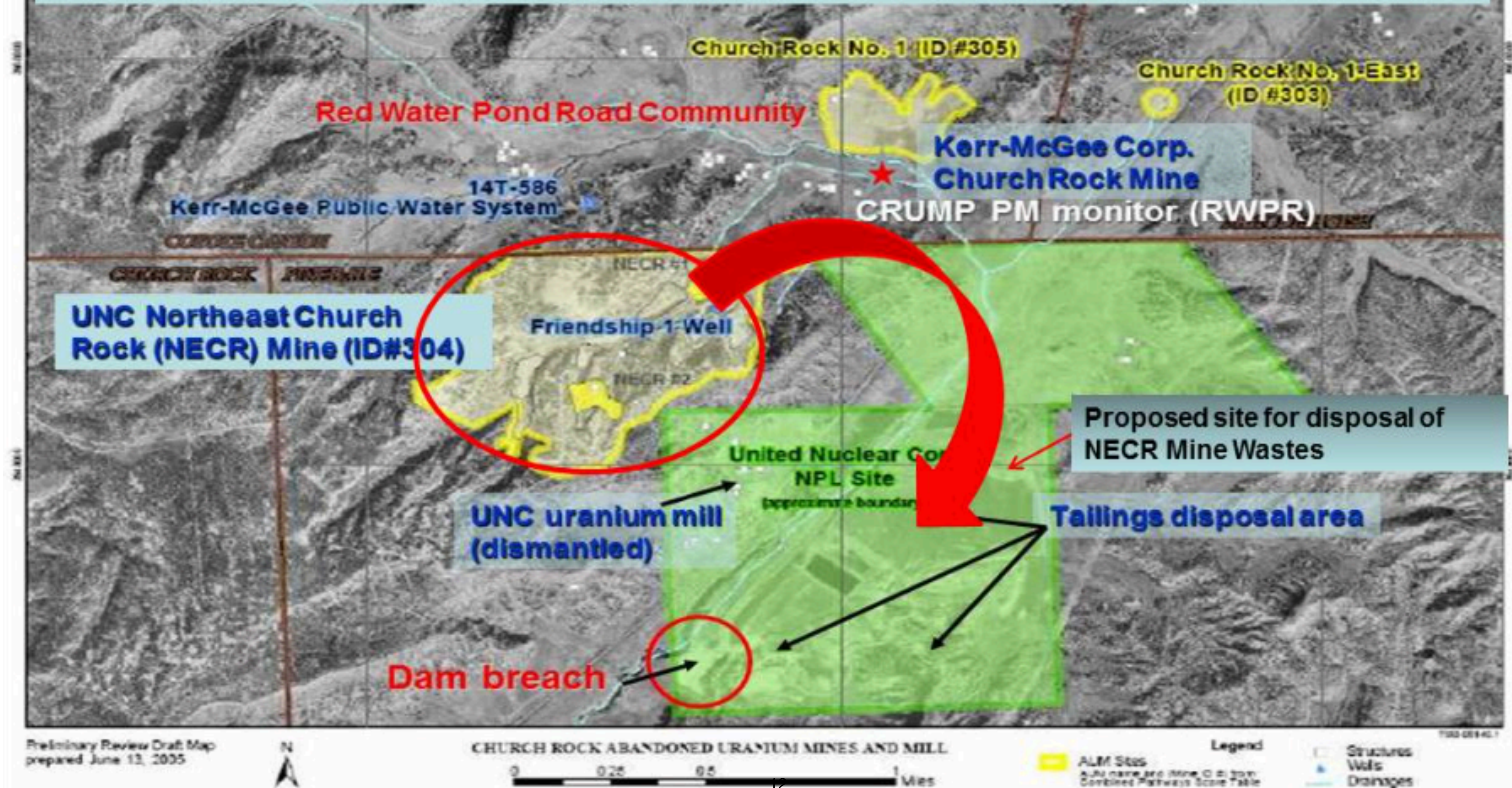
Red Water Pond Road Community

July 16, 1979 The largest radioactive
accident in US.history



EPA's Clean-up Plan:

Approved in 2011 and 2013, the plan would move the NECR mine wastes to the UNC uranium mill tailings disposal facility, a process that could take 7 years. The plan awaits approval by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. No plans have been proposed for the Church Rock 1 (Kerr-McGee) mine wastes.

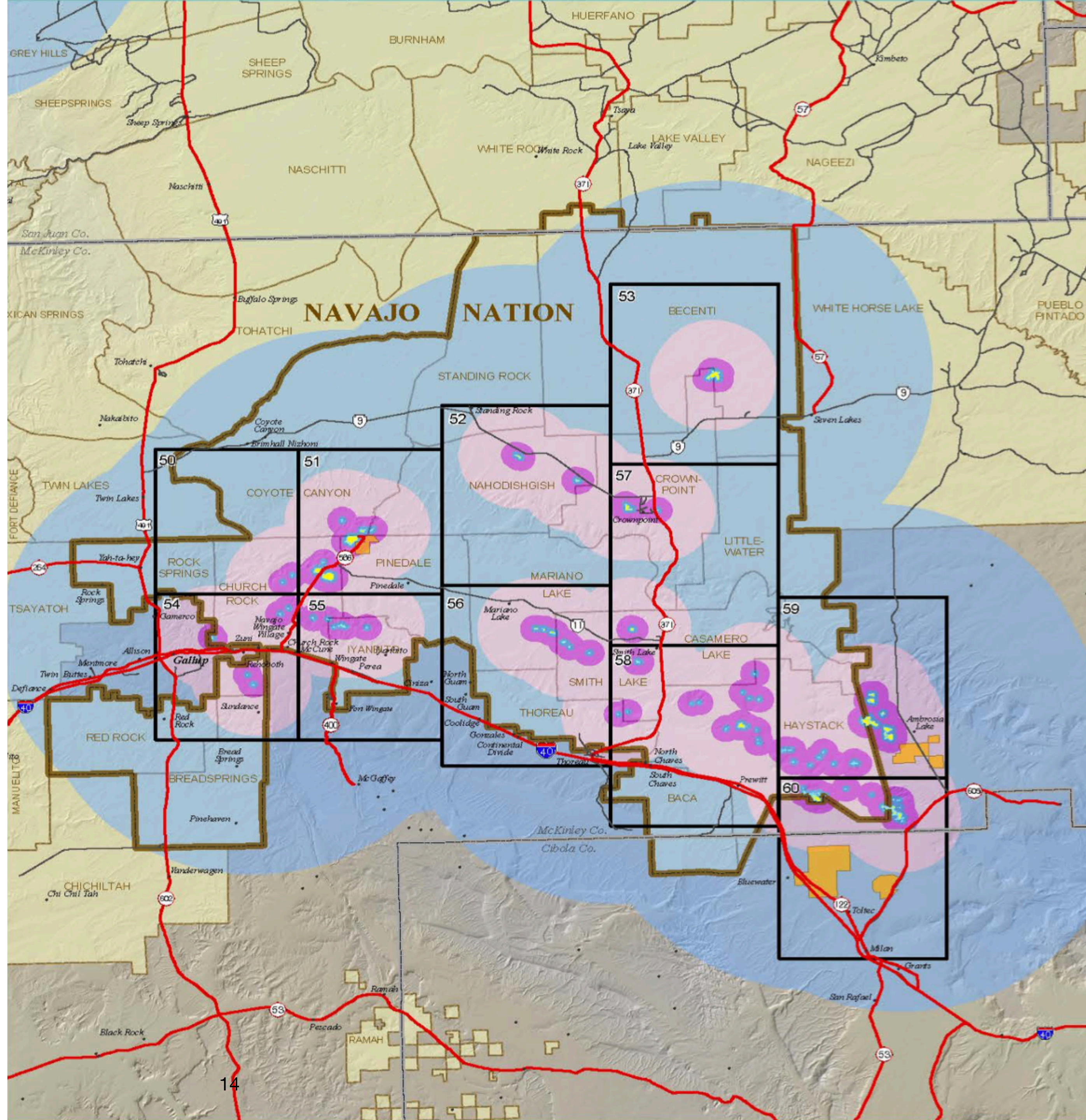




Edith, front now in middle, testified before Rep. Henry Waxman (middle, back row) and House Oversight Committee, 2007



ABANDONED URANIUM MINES EASTERN AUM REGION COMBINED PATHWAYS MAP







Promotional visit was organized by local non-governmental organizations

- * **Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining**
- * **Red Water Pond Road Community Association**
- * **New Mexico Environmental Law Center**
- * **Southwest Research and Information Center**
- * **Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment**

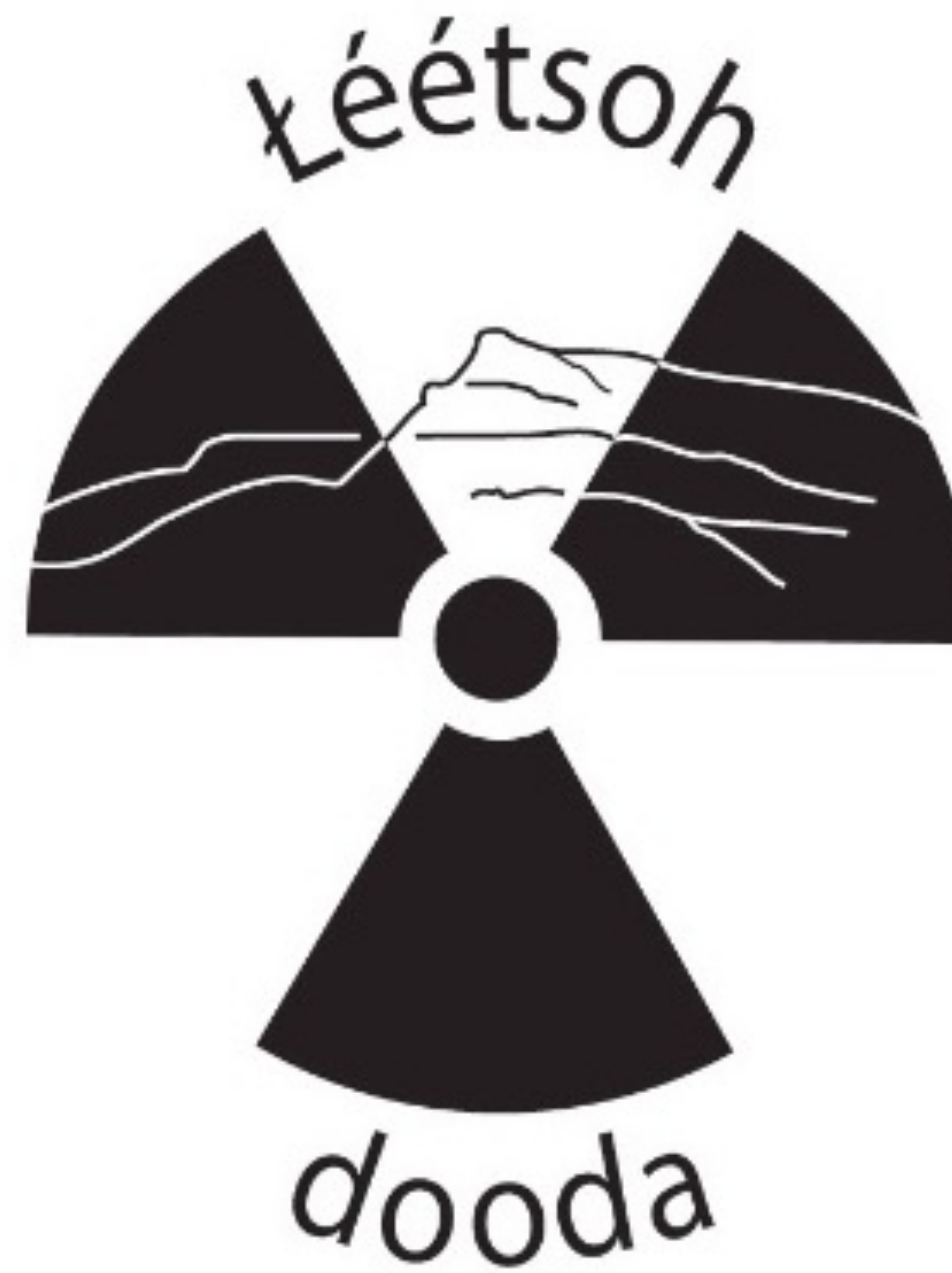
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Promotional visit to Church Rock Chapter House and Crownpoint Chapter House on Navajo Nation



Susan Gordon

Multicultural Alliance
for a Safe Environment

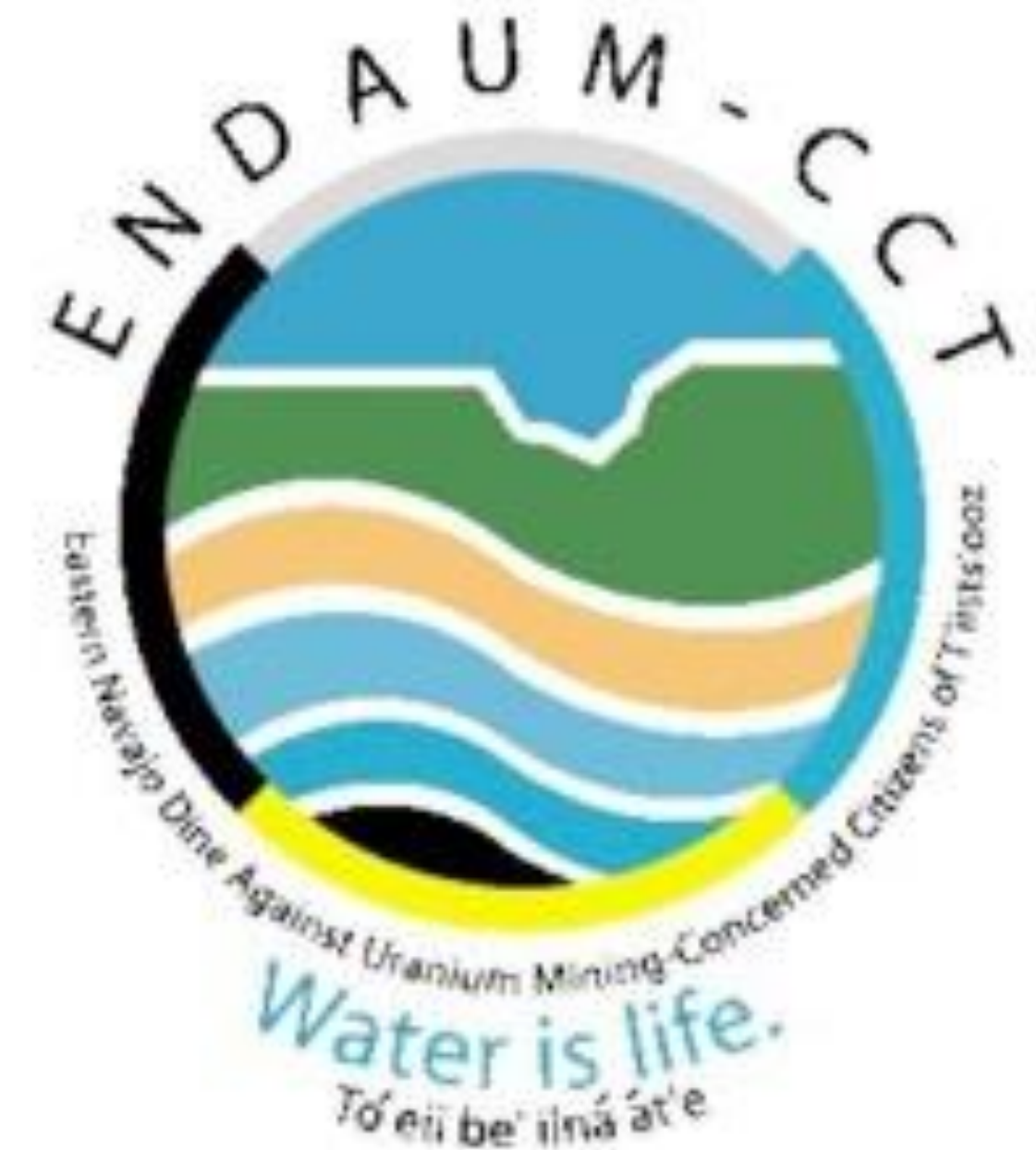
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