



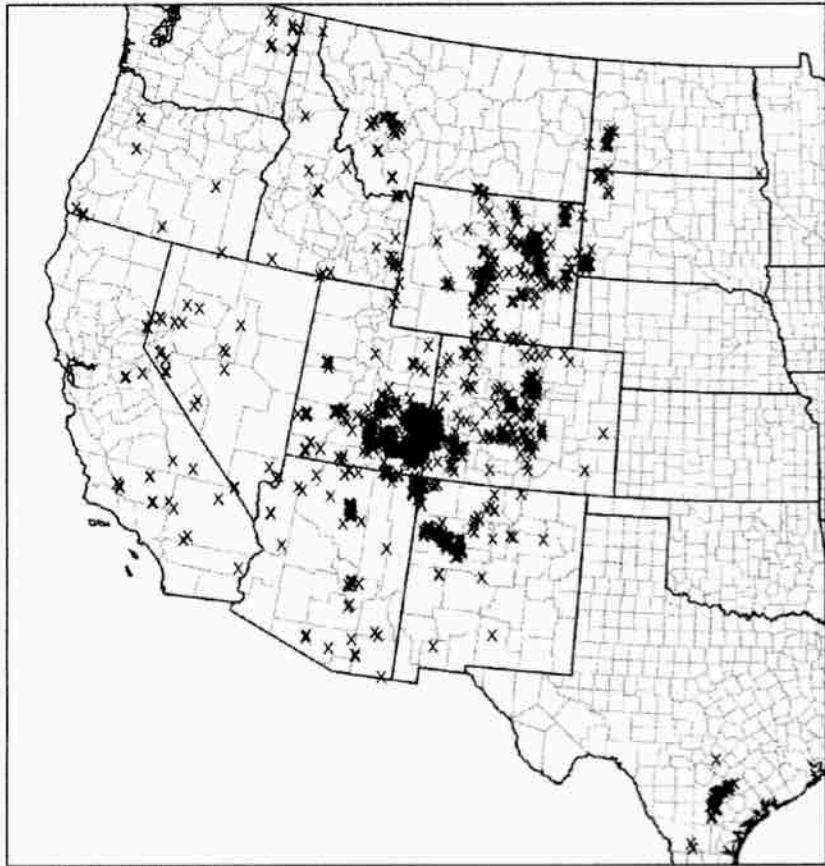
**Presentation to the Interim
Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee**

September 20, 2021

**Teracita Keyanna, Red Water Pond Road Community
and Susan Gordon, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment**

Over 15,000
Abandoned Uranium Mines (AUMs) in U.S.

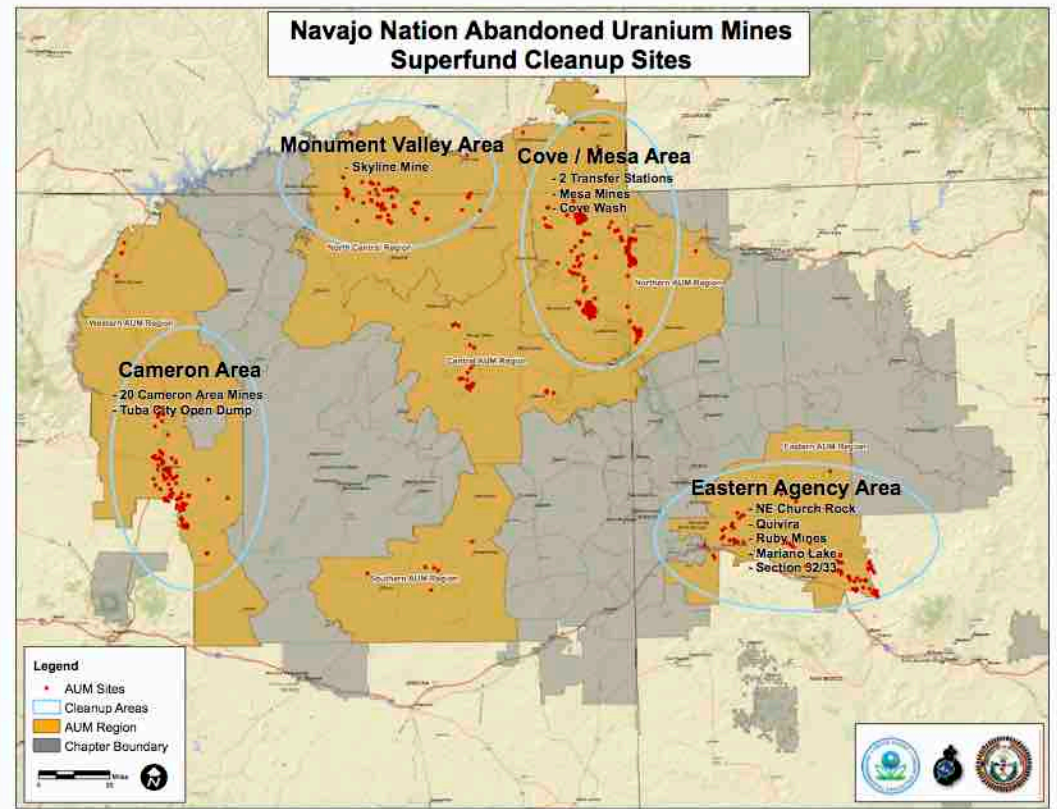
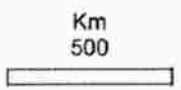
Over 550 AUMs on Navajo Lands

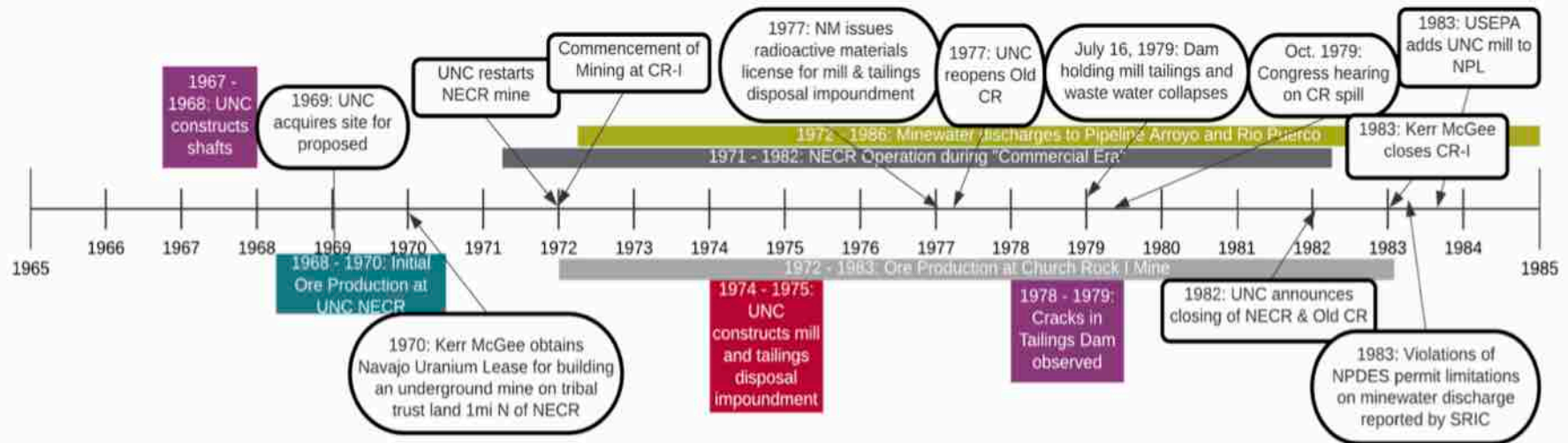
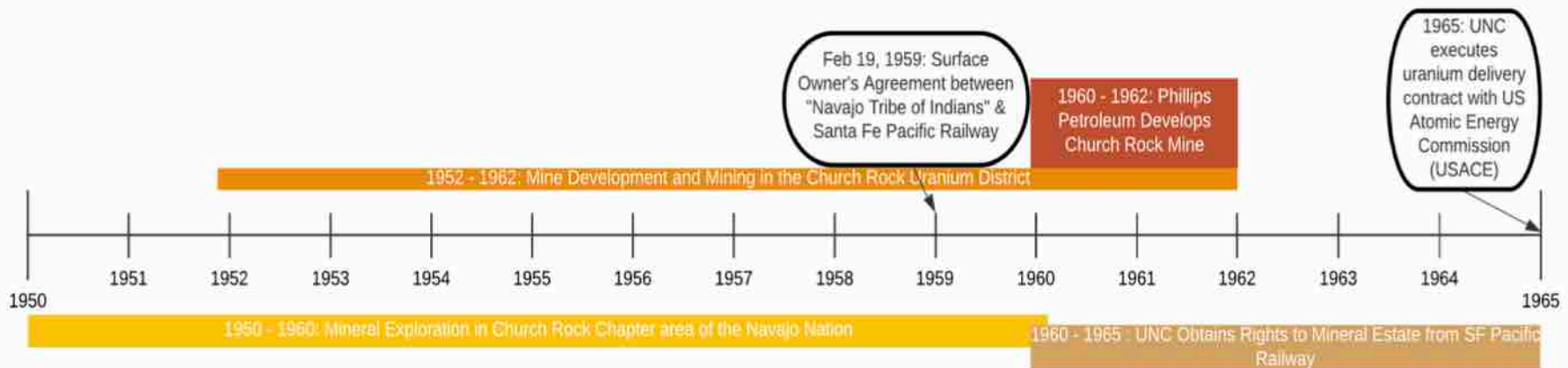


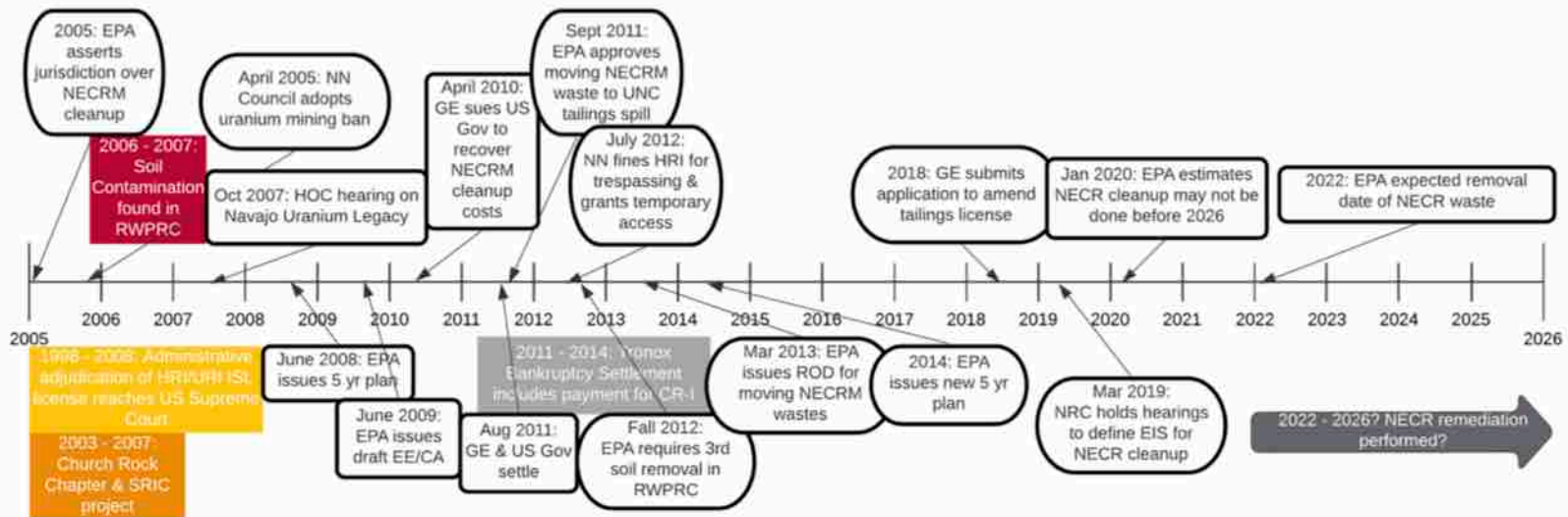
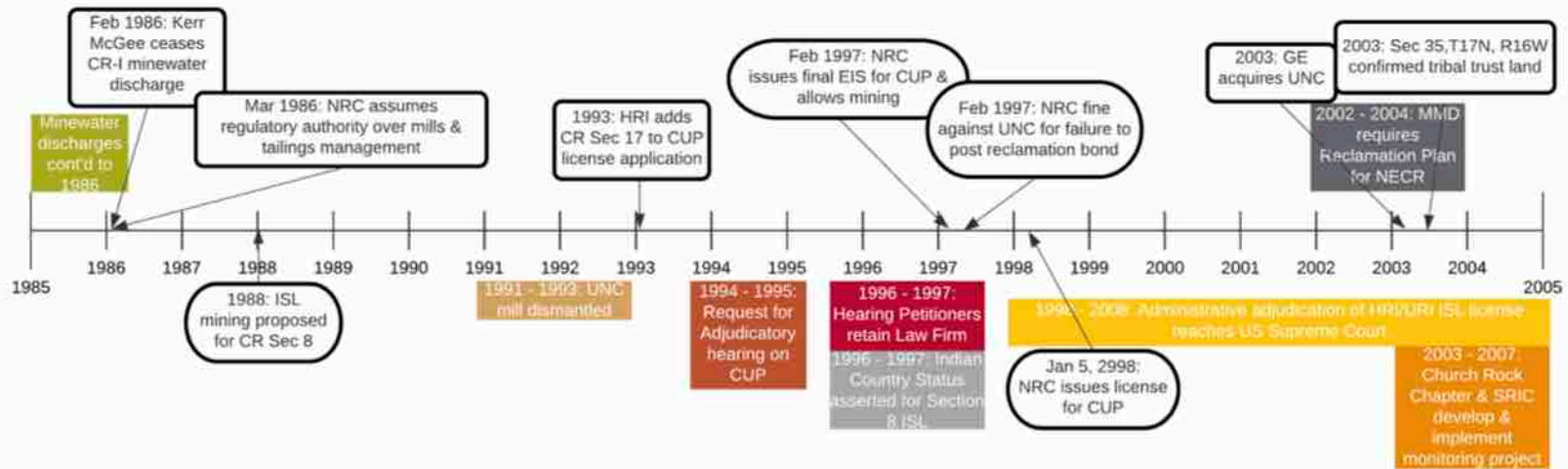
Legend

x MAS/MILS Uranium Mines

Source of Mine Information:
EPA Uranium Location Database







Living with Uranium Wastes for 50 Years and Four Generations



<https://swuraniumimpacts.org/anna-benally/>

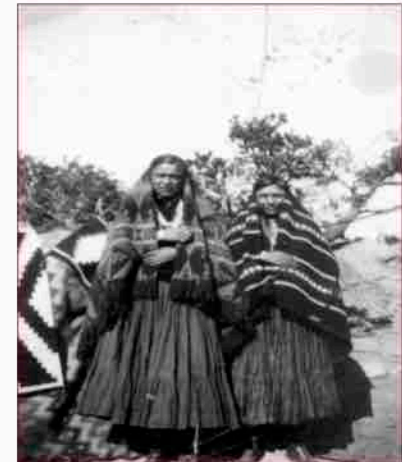
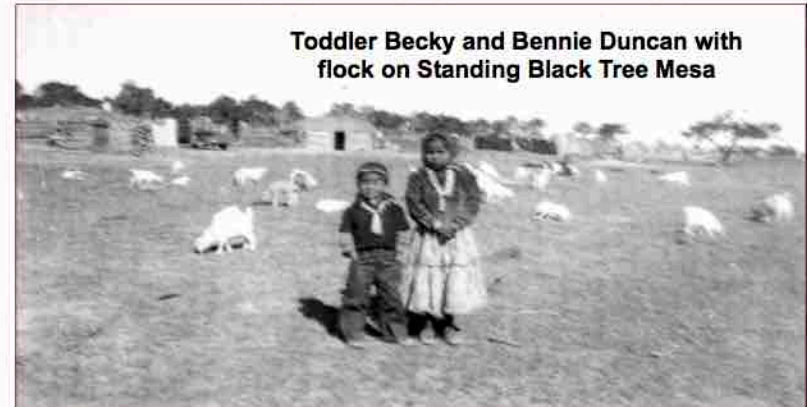
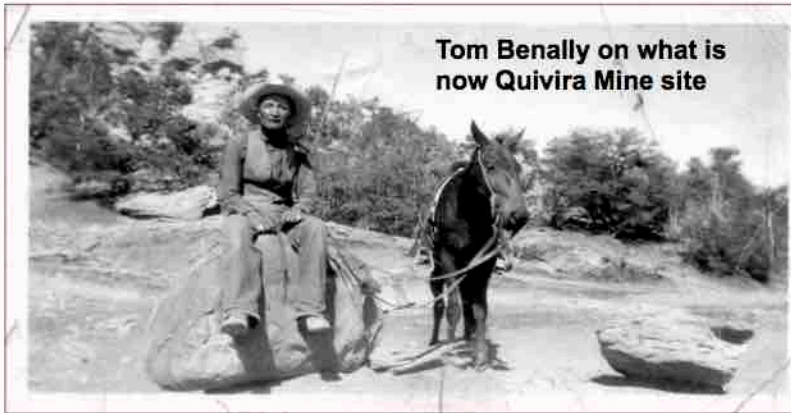


<https://swuraniumimpacts.org/teracita-keyanna/>



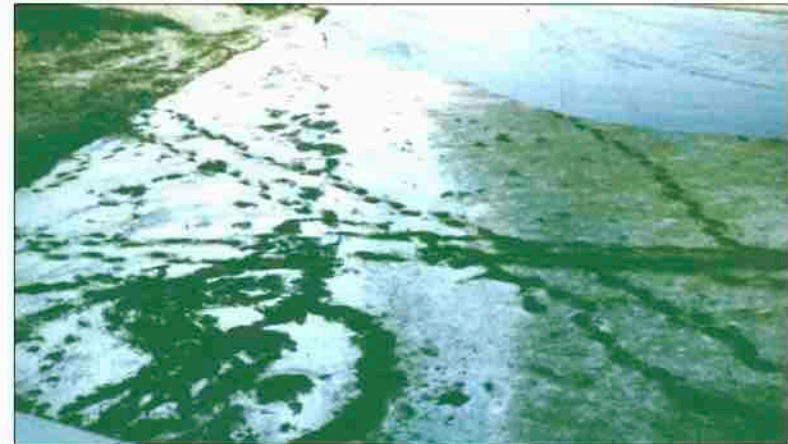
<https://swuraniumimpacts.org/larry-king-long-version/>

Family's presence dates back to 1920s: these photos from 1930s-1940s



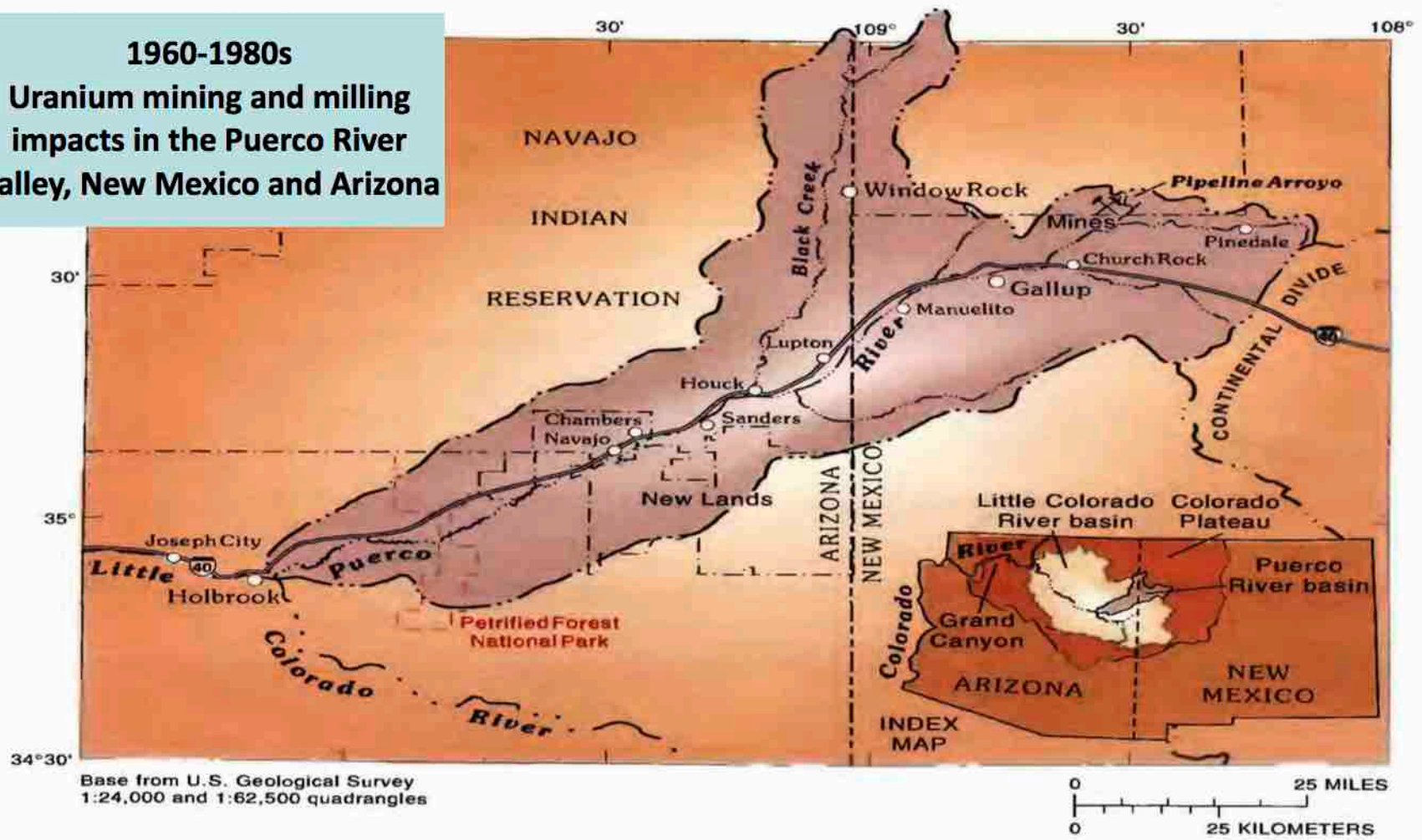
Church Rock Uranium Mill Tailings Spill July 16, 1979

1,100 tons of radioactive uranium tailings and 94 million gallons of toxic wastewater into the Rio Puerco, contaminating the river for at least 80 miles.



Photos courtesy of Southwest Research and Information Center, New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division, Albuquerque Journal

1960-1980s
Uranium mining and milling
impacts in the Puerco River
Valley, New Mexico and Arizona



The Puerco River is a major tributary of the Little Colorado River. Recent population growth and changing lifestyles have created an increased demand for water in the basin.

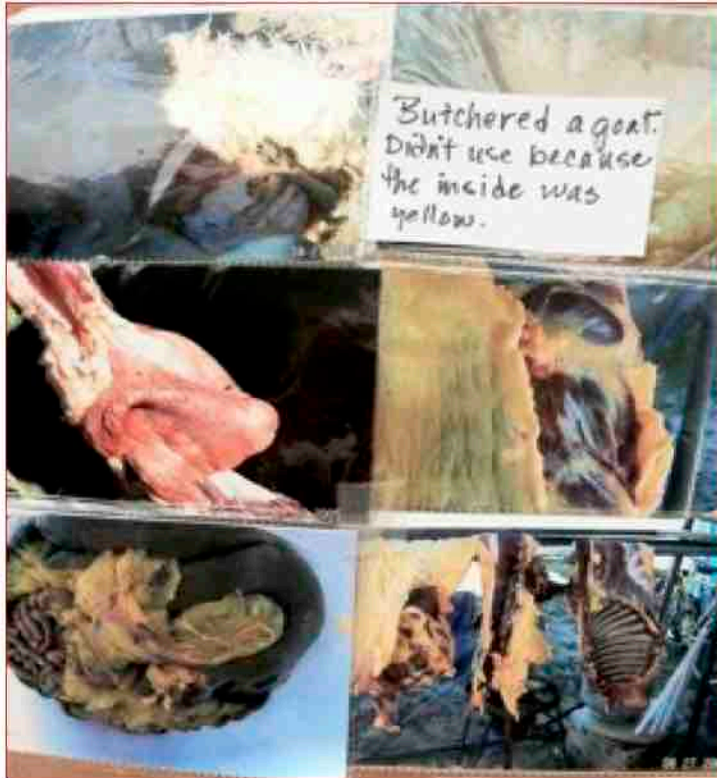


Annual Commemoration of the Church Rock Uranium Spill in 1979



This remains the largest radioactive accident in US history.

RWPRCA documented problems with livestock, 2006-2007

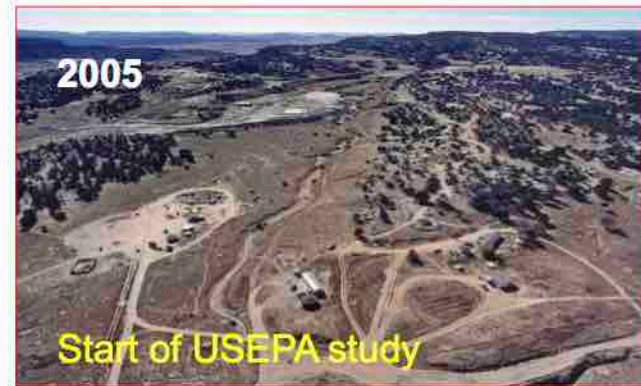


These photos show discoloration of sheep meat (left) and goat born without hair (right). The goat lived for less than an hour. These sheep were raised in Red Water Pond Road area.

Photo montages made by Bertha Nez.

Environmental Trauma

RWPR Community, NECR Mine, Temporary "Relocation"



Above: Community members working with Southwest Research and Information Center helped document radiation levels around homes next to the NECR Mine, leading to a USEPA-mandated study in 2005-2006.

Below: USEPA ordered GE to remove radium- and uranium-contaminated soils from around homes in 2007, 2009-10, and 2012. Residents lived in hotels in Gallup for 3 to 7 months each time.



Photo credits - Southwest Research and Information Center



Health Studies on Navajo Nation

Navajo Birth Cohort Study

The Navajo Birth Cohort Study (NBCS) is a collaborative effort to better understand the relationship between uranium exposures and early developmental delays on the Navajo Nation. The five-year Study was funded by Congress at the request of the Navajo Nation and in response to concerns expressed by women about health impacts of living near abandoned uranium mines. Partners in the Study include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Navajo Area Indian Health Service, Navajo Nation Division of Health, University of New Mexico Community Environmental Health Program, UNM Pediatrics Department Center for Development and Disability, and Southwest Research and Information Center. Eligible women are between the ages of 14 and 45 who have lived on the Navajo Nation for five years, are pregnant, and will deliver at the designated hospitals in Chinle, Gallup, Shiprock, Ft. Defiance, and Tuba City.

http://sric.org/nbcs/docs/NBCS_2016_annual_report_supplement_CS_ver4_081316.pdf

For more information: www.sric.org

Thinking Zinc Beesh Dooti'izh Bantsáhákees



Metals Exposure and Toxicity Assessment on Tribal Lands in the Southwest

Many different metals are found in abandoned uranium mine and milling waste sites throughout the Navajo Nation. These metals can get into your body through food, water or dust. Studies have shown that metals such as uranium and arsenic can damage cells in your body. There is information that damage from metals may be reduced when enough zinc is present. This research study will ask whether taking daily zinc pills at the USDA recommended daily allowance helps to protect the body from the effects of exposure to harmful metals.

<http://sric.org/Zinc/index.php>

Research Partners

- UNM METALS Superfund Center
- UNM College of Pharmacy
- Southwest Research & Information Center
- Indigenous Education Institute

Research Sponsors

- NIEHS Superfund Research Program 1P42ES025589
- UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center P30 CA118100
- UNM Clinical Translational Science Center UL1TR001449

For More Information

email: zinc@sric.org phone: 877.545.6775 web: www.sric.org/Zinc
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Community Advocacy for Cleaning Up the Uranium Legacy in Red Water Pond Road Village



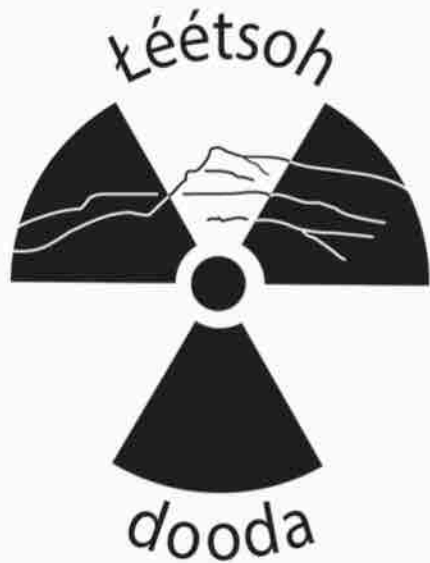
House Oversight Committee 2007,
Edith Hood testified before Rep. Henry
Waxman (front now in middle)



Edith with
Rep Ben Ray
Lujan in DC



Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Hearing - April 4, 2016
Representatives of Indigenous, working class, and minority populations testified
on water and sanitation crises in the US (Edith - front row, 4 from left)



Red Water Pond Road
Community Association



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Special Thanks to Southwest Research and Information Center for their contributions to this presentation.