

NPL Site Narrative for United Nuclear Corp.

UNITED NUCLEAR CORP. Church Rock, New Mexico

Conditions at listing (October 1981): United Nuclear Corp. has operated a uranium mill on a 640-acre site near Church Rock, New Mexico (approximately 17 miles northeast of Gallup) since May 1977. Tailings from the mill are deposited in a large impoundment on-site. A break in the tailings dam in 1979 released 93 million gallons of tailings fluid to the Rio Puerco River. Subsequently, seepage from the impoundment contaminated the Upper Gallup aquifer in the vicinity of the pond.

Status (July 1983): New Mexico is requiring the company to address ground water contamination through a Ground Water Discharge Plan. For the State to approve the plan, it must include monitoring of ground water around the site, a program to control the migration of contaminants, and neutralization of the contents of the impoundment. The plan has not been approved as yet.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.