



U.S. EPA Community Update

Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Superfund Site

April 2026

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, in consultation with the Pueblo of Laguna (POL) Environmental Natural Resources Department (ENRD), is working with Atlantic Richfield Inc. (AR) to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Superfund Site. The RI/FS is being performed based on the Site's listing on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) following prior Site Assessment and Removal Action efforts performed at Paguate Village and nearby residences and properties. The purpose of the RI/FS is to characterize current site conditions, determine where potential risks to human health and the environment may exist, and if present, provide the information needed to evaluate, select, design, and implement a site remedy or remedies.

Activities Completed in 2026 to Date

The following photographs show various RI/FS investigations, site maintenance, and community support activities performed through March 2026.



The meteorological station, which monitors precipitation, evaporation, wind, and temperature, underwent a semi-annual audit in January. During the audit, all components are checked for proper operation and all bearings and other parts requiring service are replaced. In January, the wind vane was replaced, as shown in the photo above.



Field team member conducting a radon monitor exchange in January 2026. The black detector sits within the white housing and monitors radon over the span of one quarter (3 months). 46 radon monitoring stations were installed across the site to measure seasonal radon variations. The final radon collection will occur in April 2026.



Field team member executing the monthly exchange of an air particulate filter at one of the five radiological-in-air monitoring stations located throughout the site in February. The filter is connected to a pump that draws air in to collect dust particles on the filter. An up-close look of the filter is included in the photo above.



Field team member measuring a groundwater level in a monitoring well in February. Groundwater level monitoring is conducted quarterly to monitor seasonal changes in groundwater conditions across the site. The picture well is a "nested well" meaning that there are three groundwater wells at three different depths within the yellow casing.



In February, a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey was conducted of the Mesita Dam and Rio Channels onsite with an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). The UAV uses a sensor to capture elevation data which is used to monitor erosion and deposition at the Site. Pictured is a field team member replacing a UAV battery before continuing to survey.



In March, AR conducted a pilot study of the Mesita Dam sediment sampling program. The pilot study was used to test drilling methodology, sampling technique, and laboratory analysis. Later this year, the full program will be executed where samples will be taken from the entire Mesita Dam area to determine concentrations of metals and radionuclides, and depositional rates of the area.

Anticipated Activities for 2026

Goals for 2026 are to perform a variety of RI/FS investigations, reporting, and site management activities, such as:

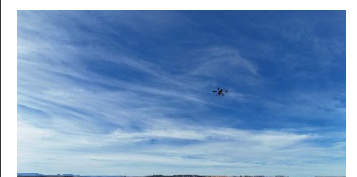
- Performing detailed evaluations of Phase 1 Remedial Investigation data collected to date for groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, airborne particulates and radon to evaluate site environmental conditions.
- Characterizing sediment transport within the Rio Paguate and sediment deposition near the Mesita Dam.
- Identifying and evaluating specific site locations and features whose conditions may require taking action to address immediate safety concerns and/or environmental impact to the Rio Paguate and Rio Moquino.
- Continuing to perform quarterly monitoring of groundwater elevation levels and radon and gamma radiation levels. Continuing to perform monthly exchanges of air particulate filters and checks of ISCO stations.
- Disposal of Investigative derived waste (IDW) from the storage area as per EPA and POL approval.
- Interactive data kiosks providing updates on the Jackpile RI/FS are available at the POL ENRD office and the village of Paguate Community Center.

A Closer Look: Drone LiDAR Survey

From February 23-27, AR conducted a Drone LiDAR survey across the Mesita Dam and Rio Channels within the Jackpile Paguate Uranium Mine Site.

Prior to conducting the survey, field team members pre-programmed the drone with flight routes to ensure the entire survey area is scanned (see photo 3). Upon arrival to the Site, the team spent the first two days setting ground control points (GCPs) which are points of known GPS coordinates used for data processing and analysis (see photo 1). The drone was then flown using pre-set routes over the Mesita Dam area and the Rio Channels (see photo 2). In flight, the drone utilizes a sensor to capture elevation data which is then compared with previous scans to monitor erosional and depositional changes across the Site.

The survey was completed on February 27 and data gaps were filled with an additional flight on March 18th. The data is currently being processed and will be completed in the coming months.



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For more information, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/superfund/jackpile-paguate