## Red Water Pond Road Community Association Conceptual Plan for Uranium Mine Cleanup and Community Restoration February 2010 Version

**RWPRCA Goal:** Heal our individual and community health and restore our environment with traditional and Western values and medicine.

## **Objectives:**

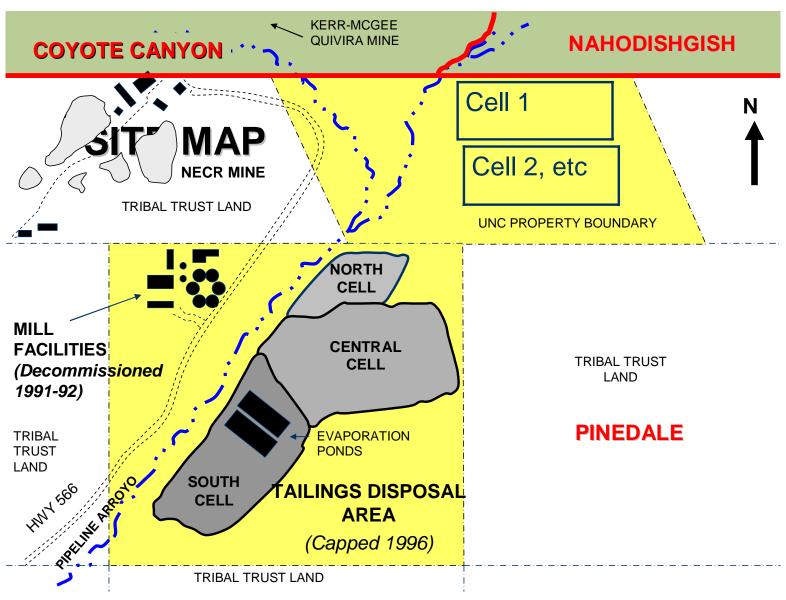
- 1. Conduct a rigorous study of possible sites near the Navajo Nation for permanent disposal of uranium mine wastes.
- 2. Remove all uranium contaminated mine wastes from our community.
- 3. Make major improvements in roads serving the community; realign and extend State Rt. 566 north to Navajo Route 9; provide new and improved access from SR 566 to the Red Water Pond Road and Pipeline Road residential areas.
- 4. Build a new sustainable energy and appropriate technology community for Red Water Pond Road residents west or north of the abandoned Quivira Church Rock I Mine. This area includes the top of Red Point Mesa and the lowerelevation canyon to the west of Red Point Mesa.
- 5. Build a multi-purpose facility in the community to serve as a Navajo Nation center for health, environmental research and uranium waste management. Establish document repository at this location.
- 6. Conduct a comprehensive health study among residents of uranium-mining communities, taking into account existing and planned studies by university, tribal and federal organizations.
- 7. Use the Red Water Pond Road situation to evaluate and demonstrate the potential for new economic development and jobs through full reclamation of uranium mines and restoration of mining sites throughout the Navajo Nation.
- 8. Work with the Navajo Nation and New Mexico Congressional Delegation to develop and enact policies to achieve full restoration of mine sites and just compensation for local residents and the Navajo Nation.

## **Preliminary Components of the RWPRCA Conceptual Plan**

Objective	Step or Option 1	Step or Option 2	Funding/Contingencies	Western	Traditional
1. Investigate uranium waste disposal sites options including "Conceptual Site Options in NECR Area" (see Map attached below)	Secure funds to hire an independent, qualified contractor to advise Red Water Pond Road Association.  Timeframe: 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter, 2011	Carry out, report and obtain public comment on Navajo Uranium Disposal Sites Study.  Timeframe: Calendar Year 2011	■ Appropriation by Congress ■ Contributions from Responsible Parties for NECR and Quivira Mines ■ Tronox bankruptcy funds	Repository Site NRC's High- Level Waste (HLW). Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982	The respect for, honor, belief and trust in the Diné bi beenahaz'áanii preserves, protects and enhances the following inherent rights, beliefs, practices and freedoms
2. Remove all mine wastes from community	Consider sites recommended in the Disposal Sites Study under Objective #1.	Consolidate wastes from NECR Mine and Church Rock I and IE mine at centralized disposal facility on non-tribal land.	■ Include UNC mill tailings in regional waste management site? ■ Litigate USEPA decision to leave NECR Mine wastes at current site? ■ Sue GE and RAM for damages?	Disposal at an off-site TSDF (Treatment, Storage, Disposal Facilities) meet 40 CFR 264.221	Healing of Human Health and Environmental Health
3. Make major improvements in local infrastructure	(a) Conduct analysis of alternative routes for extending SR 566 from the bend in the road north of the UNC mill site to an intersection with Nav Rt 9 between Standing Rock and Coyote Canyon.  (b) Examine acquisition of right-of-ways along alternative routes.	(c) Make new ingress to Pipeline Road from SR 566 north of Pipeline Arroyo.  (d) Make new ingress for Red Water Pond road off of re-aligned SR 566.  (e) Make new ingress to new RWPR housing area off of re-aligned SR 566.	■ Has NNDOT or NMDOT developed plans for extension of SR 566 to Navajo Rt. 9?  ■ What are the costs of SR 566 extension?	Make new road for Red Water Pond road off of re-aligned SR 566. Develop plans for extension of SR 566 to Navajo Rt. 9?	Make new road to new RWPR housing area off of re-aligned SR 566
4. Build sustainable housing development for RWPR residents	Conduct analysis of alternative sites for new community. Options include the canyon north of Red Water Pond Road between the two mesas, or sites on the mesa top north of the current Quivira/RAM mine site.	Develop plans for an eco- village powered by wind turbines (donated by GE?) and consisting of homes made with appropriate technologies. Estimate costs of homes for 20 to 25 families. Timeframe: 2011-2012	■ Funding alternatives: (1) GE and RAM, through negotiations or litigation; (2) Tronox bankruptcy; (3) Congressional appropriations. ■ Is mesa top north of Quivira mine suitable for residential-scale wind farm to provide power to Coyote Canyon- Standing Rock- Crownpoint corridor?	Comprehensive Plan focus on what seems to be a central theme: how active should the RWPR Community in promoting central redevelopment?	All creation, from Mother Earth and Father Sky to the animals, those who live in water, those who fly and plant life have their own laws, and have rights and freedom to exist

5. Build multi- purpose center for health and environmental research, document repository and community education uses.	(a) 2011: Develop online document retrieval system and eventually a document repository at this location (b) 2011: Form committee of community members, Navajo Nation agencies and federal officials to develop concept, design, and location building. Include meeting and office spaces and a prayer hogan.	Construct building by 2012. Use building as center for research and development for mine waste management, public health studies, land and water restoration.  Timeframe: 2012-2013	■ Develop partnerships with McKinley County Schools, Diné College, UNM, Navajo EPA, Navajo AML, Navajo DOH, Sandia Labs, private companies.	Research Center. Train local people to run the center.	Four sacred elements of life, air, light/fire, water and earth/pollen in all their forms must be respected, honored and protected for they sustain life
6. Conduct comprehensive health study	Prepare inventory of past, current and proposed health studies on uranium exposures on the Navajo Nation; identify gaps in knowledge.	Enact federal legislation authorizing a comprehensive study and providing long-term funding for it.  Timeframe: 2011	■ Congressional appropriation ■ Contributions from responsible parties ■ Tronox bankruptcy funds	Comprehensive health study	Healing of Human Health and Environmental Health
7. Evaluate economic development potential of uranium waste reclamation and renewable energy applications in mining-impacted communities	(a) Conduct inventory of all expenditures to date on fixing uranium mine safety hazards, closing mines, reclaiming and restoring contaminated lands and water, rehabilitating contaminated homes or building new homes. (b) Post these data in electronic document retrieval system and at repository proposed in Objective 5(a).	Conduct analysis of job- development potential of reclamation of Navajo Nation uranium mines and installation of renewable energy applications at mining-impacted sites.	■ Use Tronox bankruptcy funds to develop policy plan	Economic development. Data warehouse.	The traditional Diné life way is a holistic ceremonial existence with a very passionate traditional, cultural and spiritual bond to the lands.
8. AUM policy development for Navajo Nation.	(a) Educate members of NM congressional delegation on plan. (b) Seek political support of Cong. delegation, Navajo Nation President and Council. (c) Include community impacts in RECA reform.	(d) Formulate and develop policies with respect to disposition of uranium mine wastes and coal power plant fly ash. (e) Analyze AUM wastes volumes needing disposal, and disposal sites.	■ Use Tronox bankruptcy funds to develop policy plan	Outreach and educated elected officials on our issues and concerns	Fundamental laws placed by the Holy People remain unchanged

Conceptual Site Options in NECR Area for Uranium Mine Waste Storage Cells to be Included in EPA Investigation EPA Site Assessment and Detailed Engineering Design should include characterization and remediation of the lateral and vertical extent of contamination in surface and subsurface soils at the area



View of Location of Conceptual Site Options in NECR Area for Uranium Mine Waste Storage Cells Using 2005 Aerial Imagery from Google Earth and Oak Spring Topo Map

