

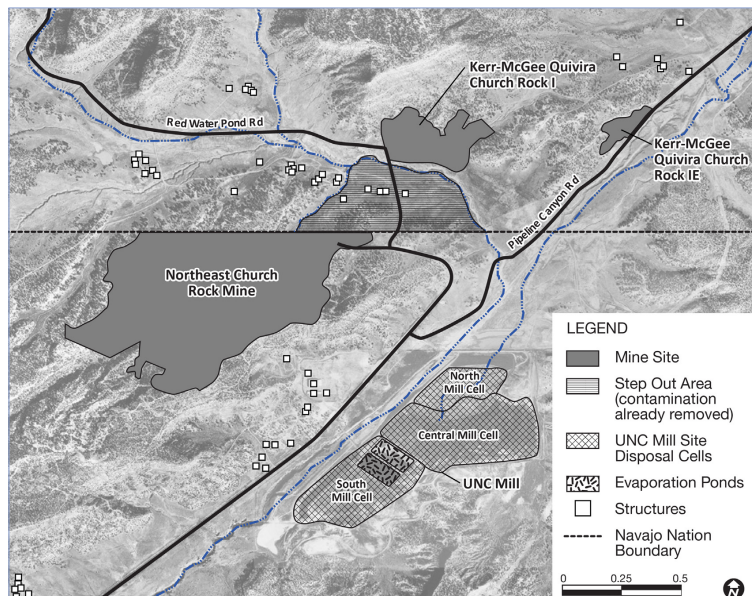
EPA Kerr - McGee Quivira Mines Site Update

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Background

The two Kerr-McGee Quivira Mines are former uranium mines located at the northern end of State Highway 566 approximately 17 miles northeast of Gallup, New Mexico in the Coyote Canyon and Nahodishgish Chapters of the Navajo Nation. Kerr-McGee operated the mines from 1974 to 1985.

The mines produced about 1.2 million tons of ore, making them among the top 10 highest producing mines on the Navajo Nation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (Navajo Nation EPA) identified these mines as a high priority to address due to the proximity of the residents to the mine site.



Northeast Church Rock Mine, Kerr-McGee Quivira and UNC Mill Superfund sites map.

What Has Been Done?

- Over 20,000 tons of contaminated soil have been removed from the residential area and brought back to the mine pile.
- EPA hired a Navajo-owned contractor who has completed repairs to the bridge on Red Water Pond Road and removed another 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from grazing areas.
- The mine pile has been temporarily covered and stabilized.
- USEPA set aside \$85 million from the recent \$1 billion Tronox settlement to address contamination at the Quivira mines.

What is Happening Now?

USEPA is conducting an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to evaluate options to address the contamination.

What Will Happen Next?

USEPA plans to release a comparison of options for the final response action for the Quivira Mines called the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for public comment in 2020. USEPA then plans to coordinate the timing of the final Quivira response action with the cleanup at the NECR mine. EPA expects the cleanups to begin around 2022.



The Quivira mine waste pile and the newly repaired bridge.

Who is Involved?

- USEPA is working in consultation with the Navajo Nation EPA to determine options.
- The Red Water Pond Road and Pipeline Road communities are impacted by the mine sites. USEPA Regions 6 and 9, and Navajo Nation EPA are consulting with the communities and working towards a cleanup solution. The community members are registered with several Navajo Nation chapters, including Coyote Canyon, Standing Rock, Churchrock, Pinedale, and Nahodishgish.

How Can You Learn More?

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USEPA Eastern Region Abandoned Uranium Mine site page:
<https://www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup/eastern-region-abandoned-uranium-mines>

Five Year Plan to Address Impacts of Uranium Contamination 2014-2018:
<http://www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup>