# Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine

# **Site Screen Report**

This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits, pits and waste piles. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands that may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.

The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, and record all immediate site information associated with the mine site. Decisions and recommendations on what additional steps are needed will be provided on a separate document.

# John Kee 4 AUM Site

Navajo AUM Northern Region

# **Prepared by:**

# Weston Solutions, Inc.

# Contract: W91238-06-F-0083

# 12767.063.496.1111

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#### Part I Site Identification, Location and Status

#### Site Names and ID numbers as applicable

**Mine ID:** 284

Map ID: N11

**CERCLIS:** NNN000909009

Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: NA-0931, NA-0901

Local name / Aliases: John Kee Tracts #3 and 4

Chapter and local area: Teec Nos Pos

County: Apache State: Arizona

Lat/Long: 36.963148612 N / -109.318501879 W

Nearby road and highway: Highways 160 & 64 Local Post Office: Teec Nos Pos

Surface Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below

Tribal Trust Land	$\bowtie$	Public lands
Private		<b>Tribal Fee Land</b>
Bureau of Land Mgmt		Allotment
State		Fee land

### **Subsurface Mineral Rights:**

No information on subsurface mineral rights ownership was found in the EPA/AUM Database.

#### **Claim and operator information:**

The mine site surface land status is classified as Tribal Trust Land. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Uranium Reserve Corp. in 1955. No other historical ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

Number of residential structures within 200 feet of mine: None

**Estimated volume of mine waste onsite:** 465 yd<sup>3</sup>

#### Part II Summary of radiological readings

#### Highest gamma radiation measurement:

83,006 counts per minute (cpm)

#### Describe any other radiological measurements:

A total of 4,498 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 5,835 cpm to 83,006 cpm. Measurements collected in the vicinity of the waste debris were found at levels ranging from approximately 50,000 cpm to 80,000 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

#### **Background Locations**

Average background = 7,759 cpm

#1 7,759 cpm

#### **Distribution Chart and Statistics:**

The following chart and statistics were generated by ESRI ArcGIS 9.3.1, and show the general distribution of the site gamma radiation measurements. The horizontal X axis represents the gamma radiation reading levels in cpm (lowest levels to the left). The vertical Y axis represents the frequency of each gamma radiation level.



Count:	4498
Minimum:	5835.00000
Maximum:	83006.00000
Sum:	53175928.00000
Mean:	11822.12717
Median:	9066.50000
Standard Deviation:	9254.73795

#### Part III Status of Reclamation and Mine Waste

The following information was obtained from the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) Point Features Database:

NAMLRP Status of the mine site: Reclaimed : Yes Waste Pile onsite : No

NAMLRP Project Number: NA-0931, NA-0901

NAMLRP Mine features: Waste Pile, Rim Strip / Pit

The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2010 site screening:

Provide description and status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all caps.

**Observed reclamation work and status:** 

Adits None

**Waste Piles** Scattered waste piles in the N portion of site, total of 100' x 25' x 5'

Pits None

Shafts None

**Other Debris and Mine Features** None

#### Part IV

**Site observations and Environs** 

**Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:** 

0 to 200 feet: None

200 feet to 0.25 mile: None

Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:

0 to 200 feet: None

200 feet to 0.25 mile: None

Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):

None

Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:

0 to 0.25 miles: None

0.25 miles to 4 miles: None

Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species, habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.

None observed

# Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents. Note information on mine ownership, type of mining operation, period of operation, known amount of production, and any other information as provided.

John Kee 4 mine consists of an area of 172,928.04 m<sup>2</sup>. The mine was identified as being operational in 1955. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Uranium Reserve Corp. in 1955. While operational, the mine had a total reported production volume of 926 tons. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

#### Part V Response Action Summary

Site Name(s): John Kee 4 Chapter: Teec Nos Pos

#### **Decision Criteria**

Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site? Yes

At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located? None

At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources? None

Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site? No

Is the cap/seal functionally intact? No

Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases? No

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located? None

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source? None

#### Summary of emergency response factors

None

#### Summary hazard ranking system factors

None

#### **Summary of reclamation factors**

Unreclaimed waste piles

# Part VI Photos



Photo 1. Temporary wood structure



Photo 2. Waste pile



Photo 3. Outcrop and road



Photo 4. Waste pile



Photo 5. Multiple waste piles



Photo 6. Waste piles



Photo 8. Outcrop exposed between dunes

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX, San Francisco

#### Part VII Contacts Reports and Information

Name: Stanley Edison (928) 871-6861

Eugene Esplain (928) 871-7331

Title or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund Program

Address\_\_\_\_PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515

Information provided <u>Lead Regulatory Agency</u>

Name

Title or official role (if any)

Address

Information provided

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any)

Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_

Information provided\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any)

Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_

Information provided\_\_\_\_\_





## Legend

Gamma Radiation Measurements

- 0 10,000
- 10,000 15,000
- 15,000 20,000
- 20,000 50,000
- 50,000 100,000
- > 100,000



- **General Direction Down-Slope**
- **Mine Claim Boundaries**

**Observed Waste Pile** 

Gamma survey conducted 06/2010 Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Feet 400

Average background 7,759 cpm