

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.

Cottonwood Butte AUM Site

Navajo AUM Northern Region

Prepared by:

Weston Solutions, Inc.

Contract: W91238-06-F-0083

12767.063.496.1111

March 2010

Part I Site Identification, Location and Status

Site Names and ID numbers as applicable

Mine ID: 28

Map ID: N129

CERCLIS: NNN000908835

Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: NA-0411

Local name / Aliases: Plot 8; VCA Plot 8; East Reservation Lease Plot 8

Chapter and local area: Red Valley Chapter

County: San Juan **State:** New Mexico

Lat/Long: 36.772056073 N / -109.040215832 W

Nearby road and highway: Indian Route 63 **Local Post Office:** Beclabito, NM

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

Tribal Trust Land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public lands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Fee Land	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureau of Land Mgmt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allotment	<input type="checkbox"/>
State	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fee land	<input type="checkbox"/>

Subsurface Mineral Rights:

The mineral rights ownership was identified as Indian.

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 Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Vanadium Corp. of America in 1949 and 1954, and Alfred Nelson from 1950 to 1951. 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:

None

Part II Summary of radiological readings

Highest gamma radiation measurement:

78,200 counts per minute (cpm)

Describe any other radiological measurements:

A total of 4,859 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 5,552 cpm to 78,200 cpm. Measurements in the vicinity of the reclamation cap were found at levels above 65,000 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

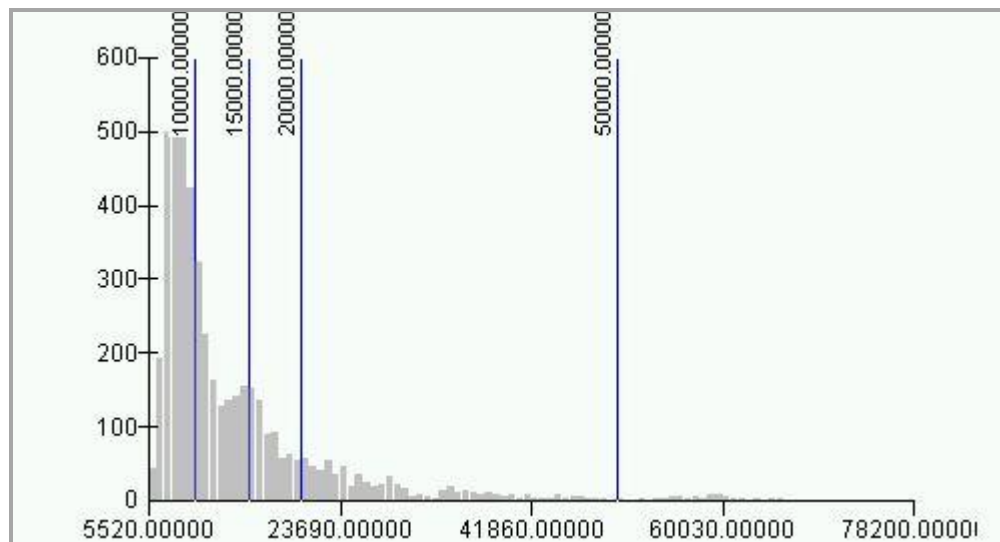
Background Locations

- #1 7,546 cpm
- #2 7,294 cpm

Average background = 7,420 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:	4859
Minimum:	5520.00000
Maximum:	78200.00000
Sum:	67177535.00000
Mean:	13825.38279
Median:	10344.00000
Standard Deviation:	9260.93429

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-0411

NAMLRP Mine features: 1 Portal, 1 Rim Strip / Pit

The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2009 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

Sealed adit with stacked stone monument

Waste Piles

None

Pits

None

Shafts

None

Other Debris and Mine Features

Possible reclamation cap, 20' x 60', red clay mixed with waste rock

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: Livestock well approximately 0.3 miles east of site

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.

Cottonwood Butte mine consists of an area of 9,923.02 m². The mine was identified as being operational from 1950 to 1954. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Vanadium Corp. of America in 1949 and 1954, and Alfred Nelson from 1950 to 1951. While operational, the mine had a total reported production volume of 250 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): Cottonwood Butte **Chapter:** Red Valley

Decision Criteria

Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site? No

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? Yes

Is the cap/seal functionally intact? Yes

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?

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source? 0.3 mi

Summary of emergency response factors

None

Summary hazard ranking system factors

None

Summary of reclamation factors

1 sealed adit; 1 possible reclamation cap

Part VI Photos



Photo 1. Livestock well approximately 0.3 miles east of mine site



Photo 2. Livestock well approximately 0.3 miles east of mine site



Photo 3. Mine site down slope area



Photo 4. Stacked rock marking adit location



Photo 5. Clay reclamation cap

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 Lead Regulatory Agency

Name _____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Information provided _____

Name _____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number _____

Information provided _____

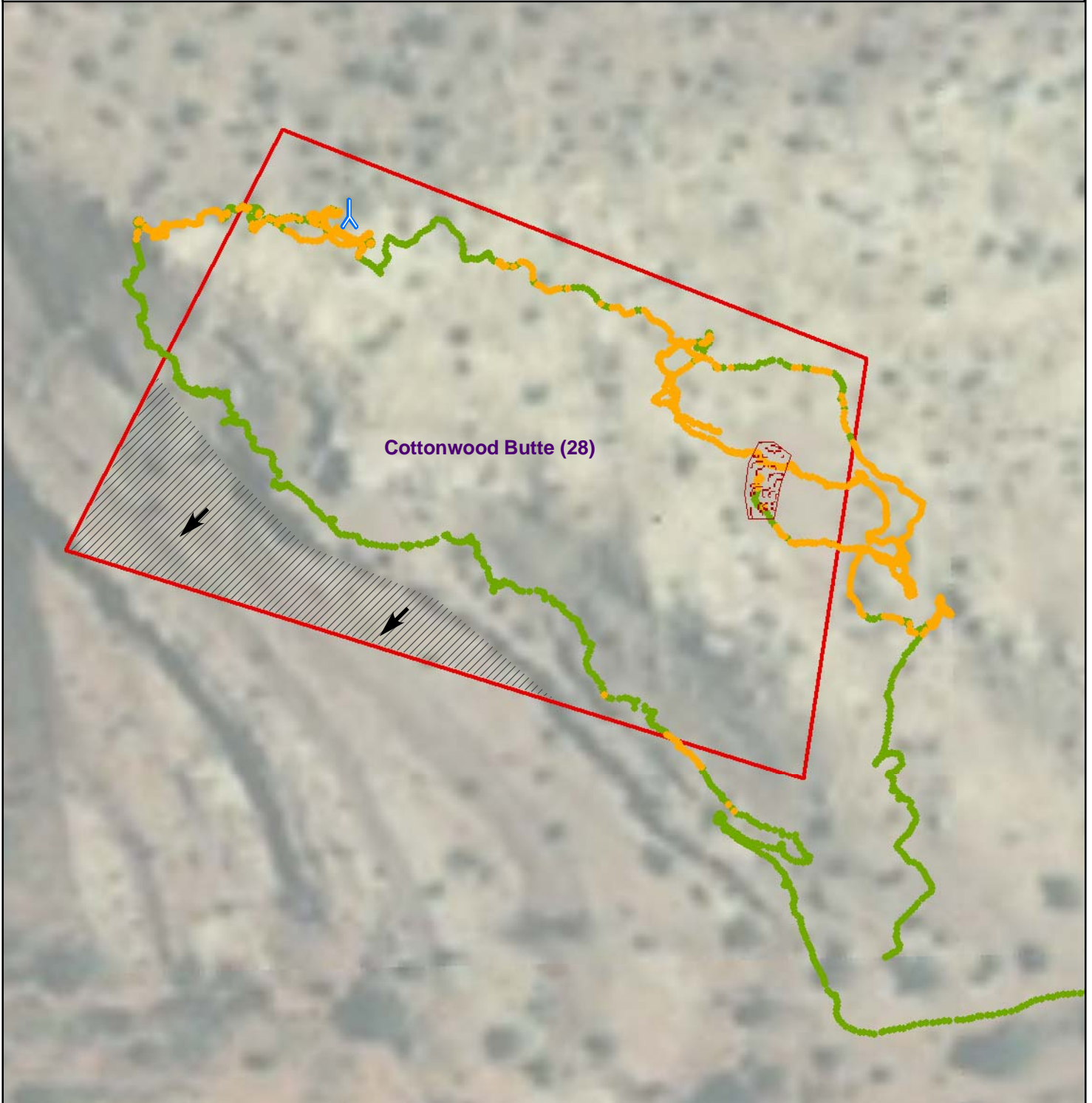
Name _____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number _____

Information provided _____

**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background
Cottonwood Butte Mine (28)
Red Valley Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona**








Legend

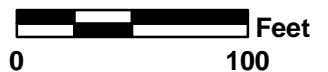
Gamma Radiation Measurements

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

Gamma survey conducted 10/2009
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background = 7,420 cpm

-  Observed Waste Pile
-  Observed Adit
-  Inaccessible due to steep grades
-  General Direction Down-Slope
-  Mine Claim Boundaries



**Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements
Cottonwood Butte Mine (28)
Red Valley Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona**



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

- Observed Waste Pile
- Observed Adit
- Inaccessible due to steep grades
- General Direction Down-Slope
- Mine Claim Boundaries

Gamma survey conducted 10/2009
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background = 7,420 cpm

