

# 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.*

### Julius Chee No. 3 AUM Site

**Navajo AUM Western Region**

**Prepared by:**

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**

**Contract: W91238-06-F-0083**

**12767.063.599.1111**

**January 2011**

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

**Site Names and ID numbers as applicable**

**Mine ID:** 549

**Map ID:** W113

**CERCLIS:** NNN000909126

**Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program:** NA-0194

**Local name / Aliases:** Ryan No. 3

**Chapter and local area:** Coalmine Mesa Chapter

**County:** Coconino **State:** Arizona

**Lat/Long:** 35.6512674208 N / -111.302852199 W

**Nearby road and highway:** Indian Route 6730 **Local Post Office:** Cameron, AZ

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

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

**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 Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as L.V. Trettle from 1956 to 1957, and Leon Sterling, Jr from 1962 to 1963. No additional 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:**

37,990 counts per minute (cpm)

**Describe any other radiological measurements:**

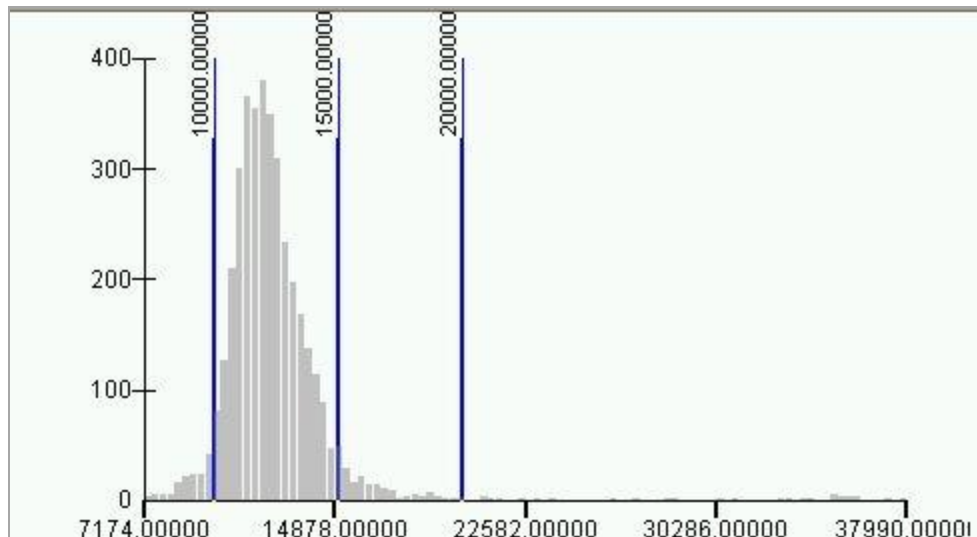
A total of 3,840 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 7,174 cpm to 37,990 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

**Background Readings:** 9,513 cpm; 9,768 cpm

**Background Average:** 9,641 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:	3840
Minimum:	7174.00000
Maximum:	37990.00000
Sum:	47710664.00000
Mean:	12424.65208
Median:	12069.00000
Standard Deviation:	2498.83176

### **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-0194**

**NAMLRP Mine features: None**

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**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**

None

##### **Pits**

None

##### **Shafts**

None

#### **Other Debris and Mine Features**

Series of reclamation berms, over area identified on old topo maps as "tailings", berms cover the corner area between sites 159, 549, 550, and 1041, breached in the southwest

## 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:** Little Colorado River Basin approximately 1 mi W of the 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.**

Julius Chee No. 3 mine consists of an area of 61,376.78 m<sup>2</sup>. The mine was identified as being operational from 1956 to 1963. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as L.V. Trettle from 1956 to 1957, and Leon Sterling, Jr from 1962 to 1963. While operational, the mine had a total production volume of 218 tons. The Julius Chee No. 3, Julius Chee No. 4 (159), and Emmett Lee No. 1 (550) sites reportedly mined from a single common pit. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

**Part V          Response Action Summary**

**Summary of Evaluation Factors:**

***Accessibility:***

**Was the mine easily accessible to potential human activity?**

Yes

***Radiological Measurements:***

**Were any gamma radiation measurements collected at the mine greater than two times the site-specific background levels?**

Yes

***Waste Piles:***

**Were any unreclaimed waste piles observed at the mine with gamma radiation measurements greater than two times the site-specific background levels?**

No

***Structures:***

**Were any structures observed within 200 feet of the mine?**

No

***Potential Drinking Water Sources:***

**Were any potential drinking water sources observed within 4 miles of the mine?**

Yes

***Reclamation:***

**Was the mine reported to be previously reclaimed, or did the mine appear to be reclaimed?**

Yes (reclamation berms)

**Part VI      Photos**



Photo 1. Julius Chee No. 3 mine site



Photo 2. Julius Chee No. 3 mine site, berm area



Photo 3. Julius Chee No. 3 mine site, berm area



**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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

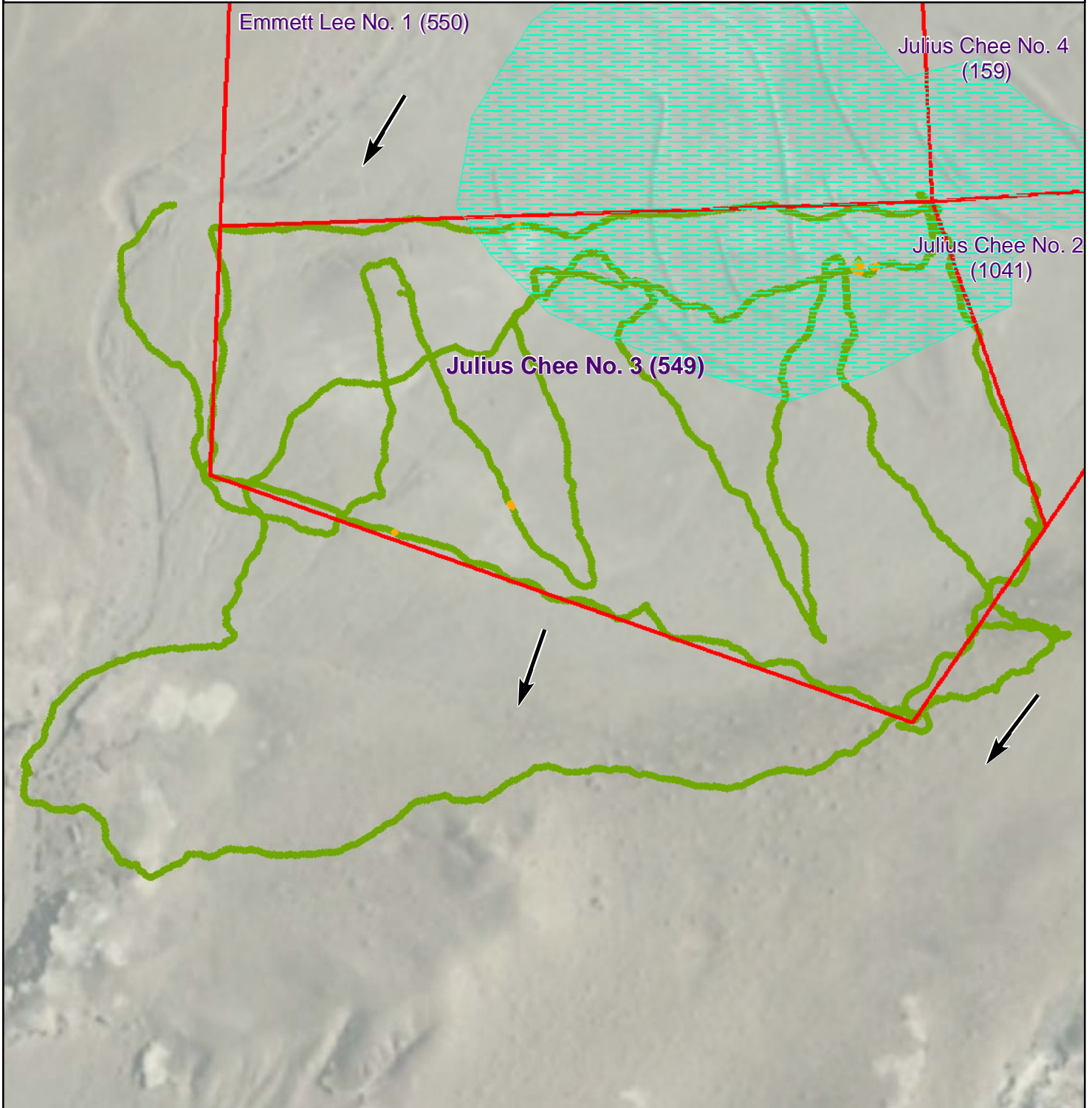
Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background  
 Julius Chee No. 3 (549)  
 Coalmine Mesa Chapter, Navajo Nation**



**Legend**

**Gamma Radiation Measurements**

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

- ➔ General Slope Direction
- ▨ Observed Reclamation Area
- ▭ Mine Site Boundary

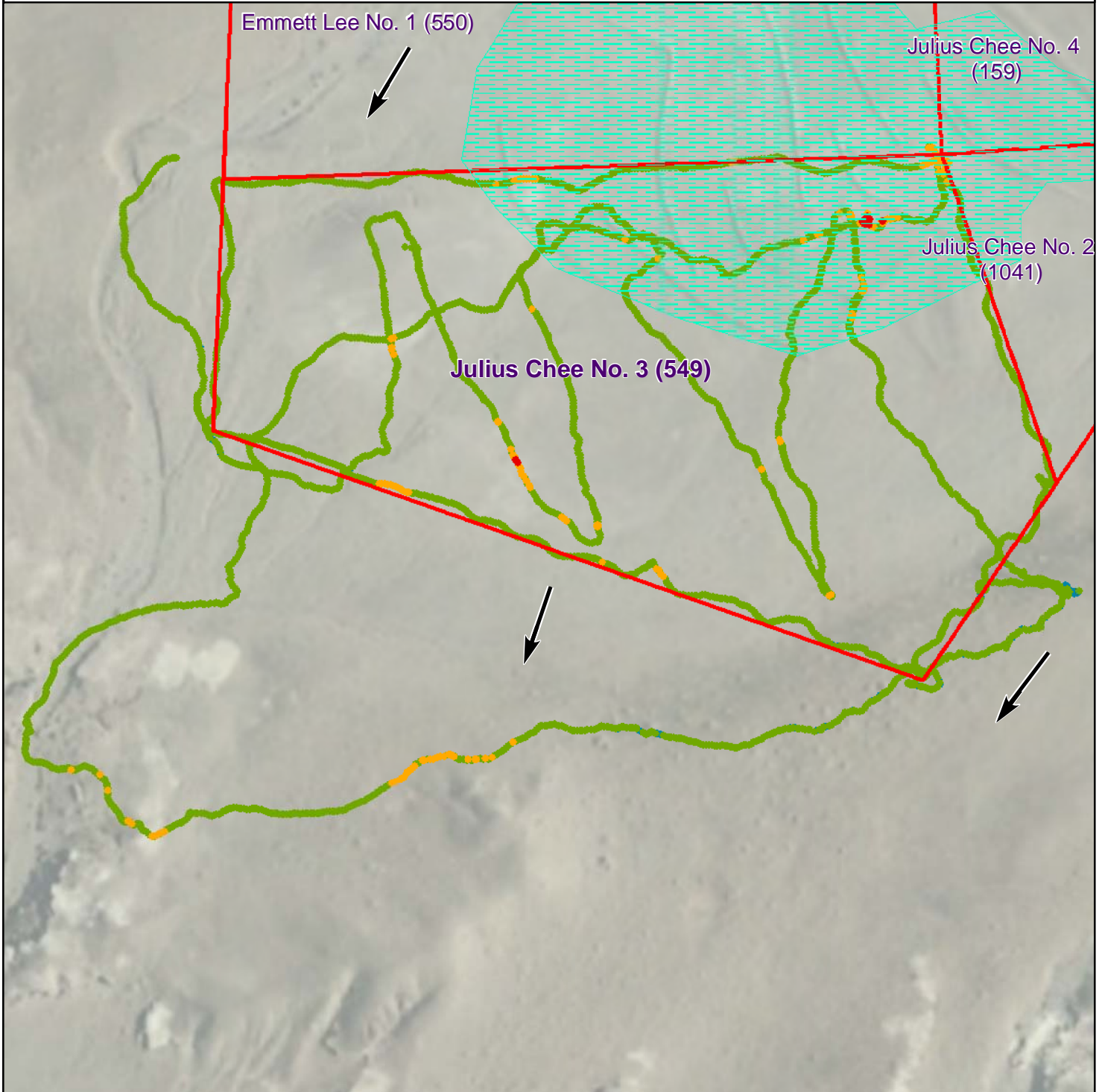


Gamma survey conducted 11/2010  
 Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background 9,641 cpm



**Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements  
Julius Chee No. 3 (549)  
Coalmine Mesa Chapter, Navajo Nation**



**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 Slope Direction
- ▨ Observed Reclamation Area
- ▭ Mine Site Boundary



**Gamma survey conducted 11/2010  
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)**

**Average background 9,641 cpm**

