



Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program






This fact sheet provides information about the Defense-Related Uranium Mines program.

Program Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM) Defense-Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) program will conclude all fieldwork by Sept. 30, 2026.

DRUM is a partnership between LM, federal land management agencies, and state and Tribal abandoned mine lands programs to verify and validate the condition of an estimated 4,225 mine sites across the nation. These DRUM sites provided uranium ore to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for defense-related activities that occurred between 1947 and 1970.

Most DRUM sites are located on public land and are abandoned. Initiated in 2017, DRUM Campaign 1 focuses on approximately 2,300 legacy mines located on public land and administered by federal and state agencies. Field work for Campaign 2 began in August 2022 and focuses on approximately 210 legacy mines located on Tribal land. Campaign 3 began in March 2024 and focuses on a subset of the approximately 650 legacy mines located on private property. LM implements the program by conducting verification and validation activities, which include:

-  Exchanging program results and information with other federal, state, and Tribal governments and private landowners.
-  Performing field inventories to document mining-related features at DRUM sites for safety risks.
-  Conducting environmental sampling to evaluate health and environmental risks.
-  Producing mine-specific reports that document conditions at DRUM sites.
-  Working with partner agencies to leverage resources to address mines with physical safety hazards.

Report to Congress

LM obtained its authority for the DRUM program under Section 3151 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. The act mandated that the Secretary of Energy conduct a review of and prepare a report on abandoned uranium mines that provided ore for defense-related activities of the US. LM consulted with other federal agencies, affected

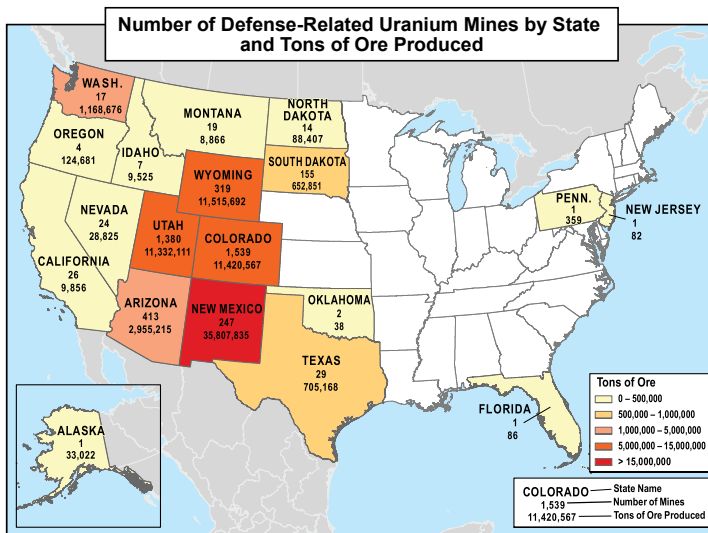
states and Tribes, and the public to develop the report. In August 2014, LM finalized the report, which identified significant data gaps for DRUM sites. LM determined that further review of DRUM sites was needed to fully meet the intent of the act. For more information, please visit the Report to Congress web page at www.energy.gov/lm/defense-related-uranium-mines-report-congress.



Wild Steer Mine (BLM-administered land).

Abandoned Uranium Mines Working Group

As part of its commitment to work with other federal agencies, LM participated in the Abandoned Uranium Mines Working Group (AUMWG). AUMWG was a consortium of federal agencies that met from 2015 to 2025 to address the human health, safety, and environmental challenges posed by the nation's abandoned uranium mines. By marshaling and leveraging the resources of multiple federal agencies, the











Adit at the Mucho Claims Mine, located southeast of Green River, Utah, before and after safeguarding (BLM-administered land).

group worked with states and tribes to identify and address high-priority mines in an effective and coordinated manner.

Field Operations

LM uses a technical support contractor to implement field projects that verify and validate DRUM sites. Technical specialists perform tasks such as:

-  Confirming accurate locations of DRUM sites through record reconciliation efforts.
-  Determining the status of mine reclamation or remediation.
-  Inventorying DRUM sites by collecting location and condition data on features, such as adits, shafts, and mine-rock piles.
-  Performing gamma radiation walkover surveys.
-  Conducting soil and water sampling (if applicable).
-  Developing reports that provide rankings of physical safety hazards at DRUM sites, as well as performing preliminary screenings of potential risks to human health and the environment.

Field crews implementing the work administered by LM are the backbone of the program. All DRUM field work is scheduled to sunset by Sept. 30, 2026. LM has completed field evaluations of all mines on public land and is currently evaluating mines on the Navajo Nation.

Federal and State Partnerships

In order to effectively verify and validate DRUM sites, LM developed new partnerships with BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service, as well as with state, local, and Tribal governments in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Safeguarding

LM formed partnerships with state abandoned mine lands (AML) programs to safeguard hazardous mine features. LM and AML programs collaborate to identify, document, and mitigate hazardous mine features. LM has agreements with AML programs in Colorado and Utah to obtain inventories of DRUM sites located primarily on private, mixed-ownership, and state land. As of Sept. 30, 2025, LM has facilitated the closure of 1,300 hazardous features since safeguarding work began in 2020. An additional 500 features are planned for closure in 2025 and 2026.



Scan the QR code to visit the [Defense-Related Uranium Mines program webpage](#).



Rattlesnake Open Pit, a large mine located southeast of Moab, Utah (BLM-administered land).

Contact Information

In case of an emergency at the site, contact 911.

LM toll-free emergency hotline: **(877) 695-5322**

Information about the Defense-Related Uranium Mines program is available at www.energy.gov/lm/defense-related-uranium-mines-program.

For more information about LM contact:


**U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503**

Email:


DRUMinfo@lm.doe.gov

public.affairs@lm.doe.gov

DOE Office of Legacy Management
(970) 248-6070

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