



Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program

This information sheet documents DRUM program fieldwork in the Northern Abandoned Uranium Mine region.

Program Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Defense-Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) program is a partnership between DOE, federal land management agencies, and state and Tribal abandoned mine lands (AML) programs to verify and validate the condition of more than 3,400 mine sites across the United States, of which about 200 are on the Navajo Nation. These mines provided uranium ore to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for defense-related activities that occurred between 1947 and 1970, and this accounts for all mines operating during the time that are not currently funded for investigation or cleanup under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) programs. Figure 1 shows the location of uranium mines on the Navajo Nation and Northern AUM Region, including DRUM sites and EPA mines.

In October 2022, the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) began conducting mine inventories of DRUM sites located on the Navajo Nation. To do so, LM worked with the Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands Department (NNAML) and Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) and EPA.

Field Inventories (Verification and Validation)

LM uses a technical support contractor to conduct fieldwork for the verification and validation (V&V) of DRUM sites. V&V fieldwork locations are generally grouped by mining or abandoned uranium mine (AUM) region (Figure 1). Technical specialists on each field team perform the following tasks on each DRUM site:

-  Inventory the site by collecting location and condition data on mine features, such as adits, shafts, and mine-rock piles.
-  Perform gamma radiation walkover surveys.
-  Conduct soil and water sampling (if applicable).
-  Develop reports that provide rankings of physical safety hazards and perform

preliminary screenings of potential risks to human health and the environment.

V&V work on the Navajo Nation began in the Northern AUM Region in 2022. As of early 2025, **work in the Northern AUM region is complete**. Work will continue in the Central, Southern, Western, and Eastern Regions throughout 2026. All field activities are scheduled to be completed by Sept. 30, 2026.

More information regarding features documented in the Northern region is below in Figure 2.

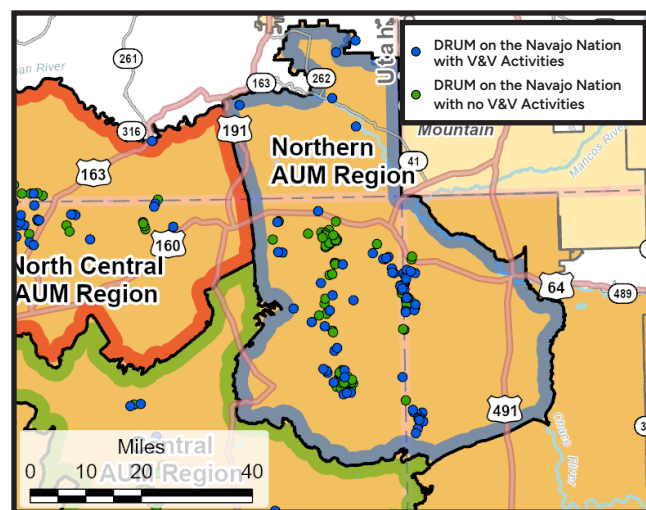


Figure 1 - Northern Abandoned Uranium Mine Region

			Underground Features	Surface Features			
Chapter House	Mines with Hazards Present	Mines with No Hazards Present	Adits, Shafts, Prospects, & Rim Cuts	Highwalls	Pits and Trenches	Structures	No V&V*
Aneth	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
Beclabito	6	9	2	3	0	4	0
Red Mesa	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Red Valley	8	7	6	4	0	8	31
Round Rock	5	2	6	2	0	3	7
Sanostee	6	6	4	4	2	0	0
Sweetwater	6	7	4	2	2	0	15
Teec Nos Pos	0	2	0	0	0	0	21
Totals	33	37	23	16	5	15	77
*No V&V due to CERCLA, active permit, inaccessible, and/or access denied							

Figure 2 - Regional Features

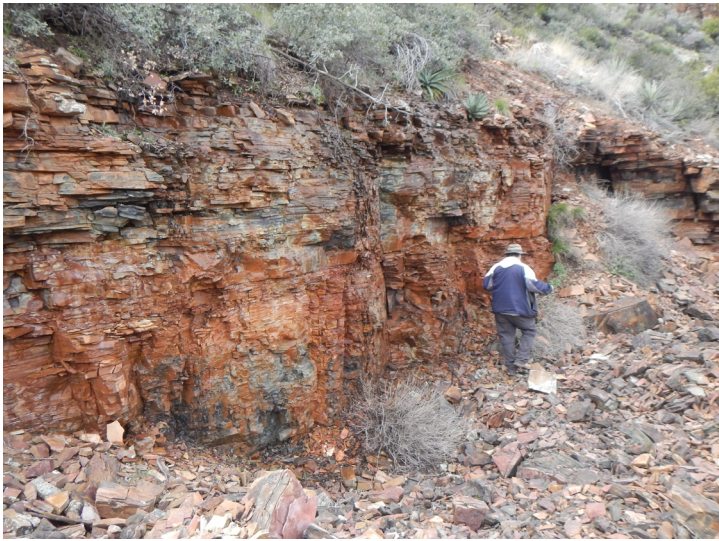
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Example Adit: A mine opening greater than 10 feet deep driven horizontally for the purpose of providing access to a mineral deposit. A portal is a surface entrance to an adit.



Example Prospect: An excavation related to mineral exploration activities with a depth between 4 and 10 feet from the surface vertically or horizontally into the underground. Similar in nature to an adit or shaft, a prospect is developed during exploration activities and subsequently abandoned before a mine is substantially developed.



Example Highwall: An excavated, nearly vertical slope constructed to facilitate mining operations. It is not a natural feature. During mining operations, overburden material may be excavated to create a pad area or expose mineralized material. The remnant, nearly vertical slope created by this excavation is called a highwall.



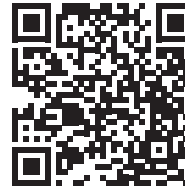
Example Rim Cuts: Broad, relatively shallow excavations into an outcrop. Rim cuts are classified as underground openings, although they are generally wider than they are deep.



Example Shafts: Vertical openings that lead to an underground mine.



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



Scan the QR code for more [Community Outreach Network](#) information.

Contact Information

In case of an emergency, 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

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