



Navajo Nation Community Outreach Network

Community Outreach Network

In 2007, the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform directed five federal agencies – the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Department of Health and Human Services – and various Navajo tribal agencies to create a Five-Year Plan (2008-2012) to address uranium contamination within the Navajo Nation. The information gained during this initial period was applied to planning the next steps in addressing the most significant risks of uranium contamination to human health and the environment.

In 2014, the second Five-Year Plan (2014–2018) was updated to build on the work from the first five years and to make changes based on information gained and lessons learned. This second Five-Year Plan established a “Community Outreach Network” (Network) with the purpose of facilitating collaboration among the agencies conducting outreach and educational activities as mandated by the Plan.

In 2019, the federal agencies and various Navajo tribal agencies extended the agreement to what is now known as the Ten-Year Plan (2019-2029). In accordance with the Ten-Year Plan, the Network focuses on improving awareness to ensure broad information sharing and partnership building with Navajo communities by:

- ▶ Sharing information about abandoned uranium mines, former uranium mills, and how communities can be engaged.
- ▶ Increasing general understanding of uranium issues.
- ▶ Communicating how each agency addresses and provides services regarding uranium issues.
- ▶ Supporting community outreach and information sharing.



Skyline project in Monument Valley, Utah.



Cove abandoned uranium mine projects completed.



Cameron abandoned uranium mine site.

As the information-sharing hub for this overall effort on the Navajo Nation, the Network organizes community outreach events, coordinates conference calls, and solicits community input and feedback. The Network includes representatives from:

- ▶ U.S. Department of Energy.
- ▶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- ▶ U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- ▶ Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- ▶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- ▶ Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation/ Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Department.
- ▶ Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency.
- ▶ Navajo Nation Department of Health.
- ▶ Hopi Tribe Department of Natural Resources.
- ▶ Other Tribal programs and offices.

Uranium 101 Workshop

The Network created a Uranium 101 workshop curriculum for chapters affected by past uranium mining and milling. The workshop provides information about uranium and radioactivity, the health effects of uranium exposure, and how to limit exposure to uranium.

During the workshop, the Network and other interested agencies set up information tables where residents can talk and ask questions related to uranium and radioactivity. The information booth also provides other resources, such as health promotion, exposure prevention, compensation for exposure, and information about environmental assessment and cleanup and long-term stewardship of contaminated sites.

The workshop covers many topics, including:

- ▶ The history of uranium mining and milling from the 1950s through the 1980s, including worker and family exposure during this period.
- ▶ Examples of natural occurrences of uranium, radiation, and radon.
- ▶ The pathways of human exposure to uranium, radiation, and radon.
- ▶ The potential health effects of exposure.
- ▶ How to prevent and reduce exposure and protect health.
- ▶ How the government is addressing uranium on the Navajo Nation.



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Contact Information

For more information about Community Outreach Network and its activities at the Window Rock office, contact:

Shine K. Salt
Public Affairs Tribal Specialist/Community Outreach
Network Liaison

Office Number:
(970) 200-4607

Email:
shine.salt@lm.doe.gov

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
Highway 264 & Indian Route 12, Suite 10
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Office Hours:
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (open to the public)

Website:
https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup/working-communities-cleaning-abandoned-uranium-mines_.html

Ten-Year Plan:
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/documents/nnaum-ten-year-plan-2021-01.pdf>