



# Mexican Hat, Utah, Disposal Site **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT

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## SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) developed this *Community Involvement Plan* (CIP) to facilitate communication and encourage community involvement surrounding the Mexican Hat, Utah, Disposal Site. LM will use the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that community members are informed and provided opportunities for meaningful engagement.

LM plans to support public awareness of the Mexican Hat site through the following activities:

- Inform the public about current and planned activities related to the site.
- Educate the public about site activities.
- Provide public access to site information, reports, and other documents.
- Promote use of the LM website as a source of information.

LM will foster communication with Mexican Hat site stakeholders by:

- Participating in regular meetings with stakeholders.
- Sharing information.
- Remaining open to all input and suggestions.

Multiple information sources were used to develop this plan, including community interviews, site files, and community meeting records.

## SECTION 2: SITE OVERVIEW

### 2.1: HISTORY

The mill at the Mexican Hat processing site was constructed and operated from 1957 to 1963 by Texas-Zinc Minerals Corporation. Atlas Corporation purchased the mill in 1963 and operated it until it was closed in 1965. The mill was built on land leased from the Navajo Nation and control of the site reverted to the Navajo Nation after the Atlas Corporation lease expired in 1970. The former Mexican Hat processing site covered 235 acres.

Much of the uranium ore processed at the Mexican Hat site came from the White Canyon area of Utah and contained a considerable amount of copper sulfide and other sulfide minerals. The ore was ground and treated by froth flotation. The flotation concentrates and tailings were acid leached separately to recover both copper and uranium products. During its operation, the mill processed 2.2 million tons of ore and produced 5,700 tons of uranium concentrate. In addition to the milling operation, a sulfuric acid manufacturing plant operated at the site until 1970. At the time of remedial action, the concrete pad for the mill building and several associated buildings and structures (scale house, office building, and tanks) remained.

The Monument Valley, Arizona, Processing Site is in Apache County and is within the Navajo Nation, approximately 17 road miles south of the Mexican Hat site. The former Monument Valley processing site used both physical and chemical separation techniques to extract uranium from ore obtained exclusively



from the Monument No. 2 Mine, located approximately a half mile to the west of the processing site. At the time of remedial action, the designated 98-acre Monument Valley site contained two tailings piles covering approximately 28 acres, concrete building foundations, and debris.

The total volume of residual radioactive material (RRM) at the Monument Valley site — including the tailings, soils beneath and around the tailings, and other contaminated materials — was estimated to be 983,300 cubic yards. Monument Valley site RRM was transported to the Mexican Hat site and placed on top of the pre-existing RRM in the disposal cell that was under construction.

Remedial action at the Mexican Hat site was completed in 1995. Approximately 3.6 million cubic yards of RRM was stabilized in a disposal cell at the location of the lower Mexican Hat tailings pile. The former mill office building and sewage lagoons were left intact. At the completion of surface remedial action, the roughly pentagonal-shaped, fenced-in disposal cell covered approximately 68 acres. The entire Mexican Hat site property encompasses approximately 119 acres.

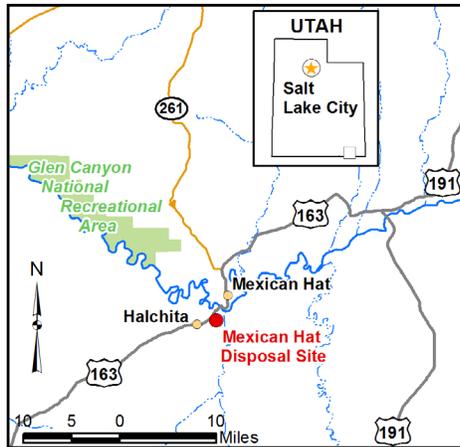
### **Regulatory Setting**

The Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (UMTRCA), provides regulations for remediation (or reclamation) and long-term care of uranium mill tailings under either Title I or Title II of the act (42 USC §7901, as amended). Title I addresses former uranium milling sites that were unlicensed as of January 1, 1978, and essentially abandoned. Title II addresses uranium milling sites under specific license as of January 1, 1978. In both cases, the licensing agency is the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or, in the case of certain Title II disposal sites, an Agreement State. The Mexican Hat site is regulated under Title I of UMTRCA. The state of Utah is an Agreement State. However, the Mexican Hat site is located on Navajo Nation land, which precludes state jurisdiction.

Federal regulations (10 *Code of Federal Regulations* 40.27) provide for the licensing, custody, and long-term care of uranium- and thorium-mill tailings sites closed (reclaimed) under Title I of UMTRCA.

A general license is issued by NRC for custody and long-term care — including monitoring, maintenance, and emergency measures — necessary to ensure that uranium and thorium mill tailings disposal sites will be cared for in a manner that protects public health, safety, and the environment after closure (completion of reclamation activities). LM is responsible for the custody and long-term care of the Mexican Hat site.

**2.2: SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**



*Figure 1: Location of the Mexican Hat Disposal Site*

The Mexican Hat site is in San Juan County, Utah, in Sections 13 and 24, Township 42 South, Range 18 East, and Sections 18 and 19, Township 42 South, Range 19 East, Salt Lake Principal Meridian. The site encompasses approximately 119 acres within the Navajo

Nation, approximately 2 miles southwest of the town of Mexican Hat (Figure 1). The small Navajo community of Halchita (Navajo translation: Red Land) is approximately a half mile southwest of the site. The closest city with commercial airline service is Farmington, New Mexico, approximately 134 miles to the southeast.

The Mexican Hat site is within the Colorado Plateau physiographic province that covers approximately 114,000 square miles in Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. Major topographic features in the area are the deeply entrenched San Juan River to the north and prominent Raplee Ridge to the northeast.

The Mexican Hat site is approximately 1 mile south of the San Juan River on a relatively flat mesa at an elevation of approximately 4,300 feet above mean sea level. Surface drainage from the site and surrounding area is to the San Juan River. Bounding the relatively flat mesa to the north and east are the ephemeral drainages, North Arroyo and Gypsum Creek. These drainages are relatively narrow and deeply incised. The terrain west of the site is similar to that to the north and east. A ridge that extends approximately 100 feet above the site bounds the site on the south.



## SECTION 3: COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

### 3.1: COMMUNITY PROFILE

The community directly adjacent to the Mexican Hat site is Halchita, Utah. Halchita is located within the Navajo Nation and is within the local governmental jurisdiction of the Oljato Chapter, a local Navajo Nation government entity. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's *2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*, Halchita has a population of 408 people residing in 103 housing units. Of these housing units:

- 16.9 years is the median age of residents.
- There are 80 occupied housing units.
- There are 23 vacant housing units.
- 71.3 percent are family households.
- 15 percent are husband-wife family households.
- 31.3 percent are single-female head of households.
- 25 percent are single-male head of households.
- 28.8 percent are non-family households.
- 38.8 percent are households with children under the age of 18.
- 28.8 percent are households with individuals 65 years and older.
- The average household size is 5.1 people.
- The average family size is 6.19.

Racial makeup is:

- 100 percent Native American; of this number, 100 percent are Navajo tribal group.

Age distribution of the population shows:

- 51.5 percent of residents are under the age of 18.
- 5.9 percent from 20 to 24.
- 11.5 percent from 25 to 34.
- 10.3 percent from 35 to 44.
- 9.1 percent are 45 to 54.
- 10.1 percent are above the age of 55.

Halchita's median household income is \$27,500, and the median income for a family is \$39,474. Approximately 40.7 percent of individuals live below the poverty level, including 41.4 percent of those under the age of 18 and 700 percent of those 65 and older.



Educational institutions that serve the Halchita community include:

- Tse'biinidzizgai Elementary School.
- Monument Valley Mission School.
- Monument Valley High School.
- Utah State University Eastern at Monument Valley.

Education attainment:

18 to 24 years of age:

- 58.1 percent high school graduate or higher.
- 58.1 percent high school graduate.
- 0 percent some college, no degree.
- 0 percent bachelor's degree or higher.

25 years or older:

- 41.9 percent high school graduate.
- 16.2 percent some college, no degree.
- 13.2 percent associate's degree.
- 0 percent bachelor's degree.
- 0 percent graduate or professional degree.

### 3.2: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Remedial action at the Mexican Hat site began in 1988 and was completed in September 1995. DOE involvement with the Navajo Nation continues today with participation in technical meetings, community open houses, and other outreach events. It is important for the LM mission to collaborate with impacted communities to ensure their health and the environment are protected. For example, in-person meetings are opportunities for LM to gather with stakeholders to discuss and address their concerns relating to the disposal cell and site, technical studies conducted on behalf of tribal agencies, and any potential community impacts.

Under a cooperative agreement, LM works with the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation/ Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (AML/UMTRA) Department to conduct long-term surveillance and maintenance at the four Navajo Nation sites in Mexican Hat, Utah; Shiprock, New Mexico; and Monument Valley and Tuba City, Arizona, to ensure community and environmental safety. LM also works with a variety of departments within the Navajo Nation government to help identify and protect cultural resources.

In 2007, Congress directed five federal agencies including DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NRC, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to work collaboratively with the Navajo Nation.



Under the Five-Year Plan a Community Outreach Network was created to help coordinate outreach efforts among tribal and federal agencies. Currently that plan is being reviewed and updated. It will be called the 10-Year Plan and is scheduled for completion in 2021.

Along with the Five-Year Plan Community Outreach Network, a Tribal Intergovernmental Relations (TIGR) group, composed of LM, Hopi, and Navajo counterparts was created to elevate community outreach and engagement with the Hopi and Navajo communities. The group was designed to provide tribal information sharing and to understand the lines of communication between all tribal and government entities.

In June 2016, LM and its contractor, opened an outreach office in Window Rock, Arizona. The Window Rock outreach office provides a place for the public to learn about LM and the sites on the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Five-Year Plan, and the work being conducted to address uranium issues within the Navajo Nation. It provides community outreach and coordination assistance to LM, Navajo Nation leadership, Hopi Leadership, and coordinating tribal programs, and offers public affairs services throughout the Navajo Nation.

### **3.3: OUTREACH EVENTS**

In recent years, LM has attended, participated in, or led the following outreach events to support outreach efforts related to the Navajo Nation UMTRA sites:

#### **2014**

- December 5-6: Discovery Festival, Farmington, New Mexico.
- December 12-14: Monument Valley, Utah, Balloon Festival.

#### **2015**

- February 18: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange.
- March 24-26: Navajo Land Summit II, Twin Arrows, Arizona.
- May 1-2: Shiprock, New Mexico, Marathon.
- May 26: Developing Productive Tribal Government and Community Relations Training.
- June 3-4: Traditional Law and Cultural Awareness Training, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- June 24: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange.
- July 2: Tuba City, Arizona, Chapter House Planning Meeting (presented to Chapter officials).
- September 23-25: LM Tribal Summit.
- September 27-30: National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- October 15: EPA Senior Leadership Meeting at Navajo Nation President's Office, Window Rock, Arizona.
- October 15-18: Western Navajo Nation Fair, Tuba City, Arizona.
- October 16-17: Discovery Festival, San Juan, New Mexico.
- October 27: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange.
- October 28: Navajo Five-Year Plan Outreach Network Meeting.
- November 2: Oljato, Utah, Chapter House Planning Meeting (presented to Chapter officials).



- December 6: Shiprock, New Mexico, Regular Chapter House Meeting (presented to the public).
- December 4-6: Monument Valley, Utah, Balloon Festival.

### 2016

- February 17: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange.
- February 18: Tuba City, Arizona, Technical Presentations.
- March 9-12: National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program, Washington, D.C.
- March 19: Western Agency Chapter Meeting.
- March 29-31: Navajo Division of Natural Resources Summit, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- April 5: Tuba City, Arizona, Site Tour for Regulators and Agency Officials.
- April 6: Tuba City, Arizona, Public Open House and Scoping Meeting.
- April 7: Mexican Hat, Utah; and Monument Valley, Arizona, Site Tours for Regulators and Agency Officials.
- April 8: Navajo Five-Year Plan Outreach Network Meeting, Monument Valley, Utah.
- April 9: Public Open House at Monument Valley, Utah.
- August 24: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange.
- August 30-September 1: Citizen Participation Training.
- September 6-11: 70th Annual Navajo Nation Fair, Window Rock, Arizona.
- September 27-October 2: Northern Navajo Nation Fair, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- October 7-8: Discovery Festival, San Juan, New Mexico.
- October 13-16: Western Navajo Nation Fair, Tuba City, Arizona.
- October 17-21: Radiation 101 Training.
- October 21: Tuba City, Arizona, Open House and Public Site Tour.
- November 15-16: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange.
- November 17-19: Monument Valley, Utah, Balloon Festival.
- December 9: Shiprock, New Mexico, Christmas Parade of Lights.

### 2017

- January 24 and 26: Presented with Navajo Nation AML/UMTRA at Diné College Campuses in Tsaille, Arizona; Shiprock, New Mexico.
- January 25: Window Rock, Arizona Open House with Navajo Nation Council Delegates.
- February 27: Governance Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- February 27: Health Education and Human Services Committee Meeting, Window Rock, Arizona.
- March 1: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- March 24: Navajo Five-Year Plan Outreach Network Meeting, Window Rock, Arizona; Shiprock, New Mexico.
- March 25: Shiprock, New Mexico, Fun Run and Site Tour.



- April 11: Eastern Agency Abandoned Uranium Mines (AUMs) Open House, Gallup, New Mexico.
- April 12: Navajo Utah Commission Presentation, Mexican Water, Utah.
- April 15: Tuba City, Arizona, Site Tour for Shonto Middle School Students.
- April 27-28: Tuba City, Arizona, Site Tour for Tuba City Middle School Students.
- May 1: Navajo Utah Commission Presentation, Window Rock, Arizona.
- May 8-12: LM Director Navajo Nation Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Site Visit, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah.
- July 24-26: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- July 20-22: Youth Day at the Boys and Girls Club and Parade, Crownpoint, New Mexico.
- September 5-10: 71st Annual Navajo Nation Fair, Window Rock, Arizona.
- September 21-23: American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference, Denver, Colorado.
- October 5-10: Northern Navajo Nation Fair, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- October 12-15: Western Navajo Nation Fair, Tuba City, Arizona.
- October 18-19: Tuba City, Arizona/Moenkopi Open House and Site Tour.
- November 7-8: LM, Navajo, and Hopi Quarterly Meeting, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- November 15-17: Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Summit, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- November 17-18: Monument Valley Balloon Festival, Monument Valley, Utah.
- December 4: Keshmish Tree Lighting Ceremony, Window Rock, Arizona.

### 2018

- January 3: Oljato, Utah, Chapter House Planning Meeting (presented to Chapter officials).
- January 7: Oljato, Utah Regular Chapter House Meeting (presented to the public).
- January 8: Kayenta, Arizona, Kayenta Township Meeting (presented to the commission and public).
- January 25: Dine' Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission (DURAC) Meeting, Tse Bonito, New Mexico.
- January 30: Coconino County Supervisor Meeting, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- February 5: Dennehotso, Arizona, Chapter House Planning Meeting (presented to Chapter officials).
- February 10: Navajo YES Lower Colorado Marathon AUM/UMTRA Outreach, Cameron, Arizona.
- February 11: Dennehotso, Arizona, Regular Chapter House Meeting (presented to public).
- March 7-8: LM, Navajo, Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange.
- March 14: STEM Event in Shiprock (9th to 12th grades), in Shiprock, New Mexico.
- March 17: Restoring K'é Conference 2018, Shiprock Youth Center, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- March 29: DURAC Meeting, Cove, Arizona.
- April 5: STEM-sation Day Outreach, Greyhills Academy High School, Tuba City, Arizona.
- April 8: Oljato, Utah Regular Chapter House Meeting (presented to the public).
- April 14-15: Mexican Hat and Monument Valley, Utah, Community Information Meetings.
- April 25: Diné College 50th Anniversary STEM Fest, Diné College, Tsaile, Arizona.



- April 25-27: National Environmental Justice Conference, Washington, D.C.
- May 4: Shiprock, New Mexico, Marathon.
- May 8-10: Navajo AML/UMTRA OSM Coal Field Communications Training, Window Rock, Arizona.
- May 24: DURAC Meeting, Blue Gap Chapter House, Blue Gap, Arizona.
- June 26-27: LM, Navajo, Hopi Quarterly Meeting and Technical Exchange, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- June 28: DURAC Meeting, Mariano Lake, New Mexico.
- July 10: Community Outreach Network Gathering.
- July 11: Navajo Nation Community Network Office Media Open House.
- September 3-9: Navajo Nation Fair, Window Rock, Arizona.
- October 5-8: Northern Navajo Nation Fair, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- October 11-14: Western Navajo Nation Fair, Tuba City, Arizona.

### 2019

- Jan. 24: STEM-sation Event, Pinon High School, Pinon, Arizona.
- Jan. 24: DURAC Meeting at Sanders Chapter in Sanders, Arizona.
- March 8: Tuba City Site Tour w/Chris Yazzie & U of A students, Tuba City, Arizona.
- March 19: Scoping Meeting for Church Rock Uranium Mine, Gallup, New Mexico.
- March 27: DURAC Tour of Ambrosia Lake, Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico.
- March 28: STEM-sation Event, Window Rock High School, Fort Defiance, Arizona.
- March 28: DURAC Meeting at Navajo Technical University, Crownpoint, New Mexico.
- April 10: STEM-sation Event at Thoreau High School, Thoreau, New Mexico.
- April 17: Wingate High School Career Fair, Fort Wingate, New Mexico.
- April 22: Nuclear Nation Film Fest, Gallup, New Mexico.
- April 24-25: Dine' College Annual STEM Fest, Tsaille, Arizona.
- April 26: STEM-sation Event, Ganado High School, Ganado, Arizona.
- May 3-4: Shiprock Marathon Outreach, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- May 15: Tuba City Site Tour for DURAC members, Tuba City, Arizona.
- May 16: DURAC Meeting in Tuba City, Arizona.
- June 7: STEM-sation Event, Shiprock High School, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- June 7: Water Purification Unit & Info Demo w/Chris Yazzie, Dine' College, Tsaille, Arizona.
- June 13: Laguna Summer Youth Presentation w/LM, Laguna, New Mexico.
- June 19-21: Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Conference, Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- June 22: Community Outreach Network Uranium 101 Workshop, Mariano Lake Chapter House, Mariano Lake, New Mexico.
- July 10: Community Outreach Network Uranium 101 Workshop, Cove Chapter House, Cove, New Mexico.



- July 13: 40th Annual Uranium Tailings Spill Commemoration, Churchrock, New Mexico.
- July 1: -DURAC Meeting at Chilchinbeto Chapter, Chilchinbeto, Arizona.
- July 25: Eastern Navajo Fair “Youth Day” Outreach, Crownpoint, New Mexico.
- July 27: Eastern Navajo Fair Parade/Fair, Crownpoint, New Mexico.
- August 22: 1st DOE Shiprock Environmental Assessment-Evaporative Pond, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- Sept. 5: Navajo Nation Fair “Kids Day” Outreach, Window Rock, Arizona.
- Sept. 6-7: Navajo Nation Fair Parade/Fair, Window Rock, Arizona.
- Sept 11: Informal Meeting with Shiprock Stakeholders and AML staff regarding the Shiprock Environmental Assessment.
- Sept 19: DURAC Meeting in Aneth, Utah.
- Sept. 21: 2nd DOE Shiprock Environmental Assessment-Evaporative Pond, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- Sept. 27: Cameron Community Days, Cameron, Arizona.
- Oct. 3-5: Northern Navajo Nation Fair, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- Oct. 10-12: National AISES Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Oct. 10-13: Western Navajo Fair, Tuba City, Arizona.
- Nov. 16: Monument Valley Marathon, Monument Valley, Utah.
- Nov. 21: DURAC Meeting in Kayenta, Arizona.
- Nov. 26-28: Dine’ College STEM Fest, Tsaile, Arizona.
- Dec. 7: Shiprock Christmas Parade of Lights, Shiprock, New Mexico.
- Dec. 21: Cove Chapter Christmas Dinner & Parade, Cove, New Mexico.

### 2020

- Jan. 9: District 12 Grazing Committee Meeting, Shiprock Chapter House, Shiprock, New Mexico.
  - Jan. 20: Community Education Forum: Impacts of Uranium Mining, Sports Complex, Window Rock, Arizona.
  - Jan. 23: DURAC Meeting in Shiprock, NM at the Shiprock Chapter House.
  - Jan. 23: STEM-sation Outreach Event at Tohatchi High School in Tohatchi, New Mexico.
  - Feb. 20: STEM-sation Outreach Event at Sanders High School in Sanders, Arizona.
  - Dec. 7: Virtual STEM-sation event at Navajo Preparatory School, Farmington, New Mexico.
- \*Navajo Nation in-person Outreach Activities beginning in March were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic



### 3.4: OUTREACH MATERIALS

LM provides informational materials at outreach events, including:

- Site fact sheets.
  - Mexican Hat, Utah, Disposal Site.
  - Monument Valley, Utah, Processing Site.
  - Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site.
  - Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site.
  - Tuba City Uranium Ore Deposit Formation in the Tuba City, Arizona, Area Fact Sheet.
  - Monument Valley Uranium Ore Deposit Formation in Monument Valley, Arizona, Area Fact Sheet.
  - Window Rock, Arizona, Navajo Nation Community Outreach Network Office Fact Sheet.
  - Working with the Navajo Nation.
- Community information sheets.
  - Mexican Hat, Utah, Disposal Site.
  - Monument Valley, Utah, Processing Site.
  - Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site.
  - Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site.
- Energy Ant coloring book.
- Gamma Goat coloring book.
- LM overview brochure.
- LM Sites on Navajo Nation Land brochure.
- LM Strategic Plan brochure.
- Uranium and Radiation on the Navajo Nation Agency Resource List.
- LM Video detailing the work conducted on the Navajo Nation.
- Window Rock, Arizona, Outreach Office map.
- Working with the Navajo Nation fact sheet.
- Legacy Management Managing the Past, Protecting the Future Brochure.
- Community Outreach Network.
  - Uranium and Radiation on the Navajo Nation Resource List.
  - Information Sheet.



## SECTION 4: COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Through a series of informal interviews, discussions, community meetings, and open houses, tribal community members and officials (tribal programs staff and Navajo Chapter representatives) from the Navajo Nation expressed the following concerns related to the Mexican Hat site:

- Uranium contamination in groundwater making its way to the San Juan River and the effect on plants used for ceremonial purposes.
- Surface water from the Halchita unlined sewer ponds infiltrating groundwater and making its way under the disposal cell, becoming contaminated with uranium and making its way to the San Juan River.
- Subsidence or settlement of the disposal cell.
- Uranium-contaminated groundwater at the site affecting the tribal community's drinking water.
- A dangerous level of radiation being emitted from the disposal cell.
- Disposal cell depressions emitting radiation and/or radon.
- The site contributing to cancer within the tribal communities.
- That radioactive dust is blowing off the site and into the communities.
- Housing near the site being contaminated.
- Weekday-evening meetings being a challenge to attend.
- There is not an adequate community meeting location.

### 4.1: RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

LM has conducted the following community-involvement activities that provide opportunities to directly engage with the public and respond to community concerns:

- **April 14, 2018**, Mexican Hat Site Open House, Halchita Recreation Center.
- **October 23, 2018**, Mexican Hat Site Community Information Meeting about upcoming site work, Halchita Recreation Center.
- **August 6, 2019**, Mexican Hat Site Community Information Meeting about the Interim Cover Project.

On April 14, 2018, LM hosted a community open house for the Mexican Hat site. The open house provided information on the site, disposal cell construction, groundwater, and addressed the disposal cell depressions. Additionally, the open house was supported by the EPA, the Navajo Nation AML/UMTRA Program Department, the Navajo Nation Tribal Utility Authority, the BIA Land Office, the Navajo Nation Department of Health, and Uranium Workers Office.

On October 23, 2018, LM hosted a community information meeting about upcoming site work at the Mexican Hat site. The community information meeting provided information on the site, disposal cell construction, groundwater, and upcoming radiological testing as part of the study of cell depressions. Staff demonstrated the radiological measuring devices used in testing.

On August 6, 2019, LM hosted a community information meeting about the upcoming Interim Cover Protection work at the disposal cell. Twenty-three residents from Halchita attended the meeting as well as a representative from Navajo EPA and the Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands Department.



**4.2: SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS**

Halchita community members have said that they appreciated having information presented during door-to-door notifications and community meetings at the Halchita Recreation Center. Site staff has proposed holding meetings in tents near the disposal cell as well to facilitate discussion. While community members have expressed that they rarely attend Chapter House meetings, they have asked to be notified of presentations at Chapter House Meetings by DOE. Community members have expressed interest in hearing about upcoming presentations through community notifications as well. Community members also requested the opportunity to provide feedback at Oljato Chapter planning meetings, Chapter meetings, Oljato Chapter Land Use Board meetings, and at Halchita Subcommittee meetings.

**SECTION 5: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY**

The goal of this strategy is to facilitate communication between LM and community members, and to provide opportunities for meaningful involvement by Halchita community members regarding activities at the Mexican Hat site. The strategy is based on community feedback at open houses and chapter meetings, as well as from comments received from local officials from the Halchita Subcommittee.

**5.1: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES**

<b>1. Information on current and proposed site activities</b>	
<i>Activity 1A: Present information at Oljato Chapter meetings.</i>	
Objective:	Present information regarding Mexican Hat site activities.
Method:	Present updates at Oljato Chapter meetings. Tools may include presentations, site information fact sheets, poster boards, and the LM website address for detailed site information.
Timing:	As requested.
<i>Activity 1B: Conduct open houses and site tours.</i>	
Objective:	LM site manager and staff will provide in-depth information to Halchita community members about site activities and the scientific and engineering rationale for activities.
Method:	Host an annual community meeting at appropriate location (i.e., Chapter House, recreation center, local high school). Conduct mid-morning site tours that will include maps detailing cell location, graphic poster boards on cell construction, and information on site studies.
Timing:	As requested by stakeholders, or once a year.



**2. Perform timely outreach and provide information to stakeholders during community meetings, site open houses, and site tours.**

*Activity 2A: Post informational fliers in public locations about upcoming community meetings, site open houses, and site tours.*

Objective:	Post information about community meetings, site open houses, and site tours.
Method:	Post meeting information at the Oljato Chapter House public information board, U.S. Post Office, local businesses, and tribal and federal offices in Monument Valley and Mexican Hat.
Timing:	As needed.

*Activity 2B: Conduct door-to-door notifications in community or in coordination with community members.*

Objective:	Provide public service announcements on community meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and site tours.
Method:	Coordinate with community members to share information announcing upcoming community meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and site tours. Establish a site point-of-contact for follow-up purposes.
Timing:	Notifications should happen well in advance of community meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and site tours.

*Activity 2C: Mail informational postcards.*

Objective:	Mail informational postcards detailing upcoming community meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and tours.
Method:	Collect mail and email addresses from community members during community meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and site tours for distributing information announcing upcoming community meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and site tours.
Timing:	Fifteen days prior to planned community meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and site tours.



**3. Make times and dates for site open houses and site tours more accessible for members of the community.**

*Activity 3A: Work with community leadership and community members to determine optimal date, time, and location for community meetings, site open houses, and site tours.*

Objective:	Determine the best time frame to conduct community meetings, site open houses, and site tours.
Method:	Ask community leaders and community members during Chapter meetings (engage with Chapter House coordinator to schedule), land-use board meetings, Halchita Subcommittee meetings, and outreach events to determine the best time frame for conducting community meetings, site open houses, and site tours. Coordinate community meetings with scheduled events and gatherings in the community.
Timing:	Conducted during Chapter House meetings as needed, informal polling within the community.

**4. Address community concerns regarding groundwater.**

*Activity 4A: Provide information addressing how groundwater is not contaminating the San Juan River and community water system.*

Objective:	Inform community about the site’s hydrology and geology.
Method:	LM site manager and technical staff to give presentations at community meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and site tours. Give presentations illustrating the site hydrology and geology, seep studies, and results.
Timing:	Annually.

**5. Address community concerns that radioactive waste is contributing to cancer in the community.**

*Activity 5A: Provide joint information and presentations from Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, IHS, and LM on cancer and indeterminate causes for cancer, as well as site-monitoring activities and site cell construction reducing exposure to radioactive waste.*



Objective:	Inform community of indeterminate causes of cancer. Provide information on site activities that reduce the community’s exposure to radioactive waste. Foster informational dialogue involving multiple federal, tribal agencies, and programs on community concern, as well as identify health resources available to community members. The information can explain the lack of exposure pathways and the low-level nature of the tailings wastes if they are encountered. The key is increasing awareness and understanding of actual risks and how to personally mitigate or avoid them, such as: don’t access restricted water, don’t use livestock water for drinking, avoid abandoned mines, and report suspicious areas to Navajo EPA or other agencies.
Method:	This discussion may be included in community meetings, Five-Year Plan agency meetings, quarterly updates, site open houses, and site tours, or it may be conducted at a community meeting designed to specifically address this community concern.
Timing:	Ongoing

**6. Address community recommendation that all outreach materials should have a cultural connection to community for better interpretation and understanding.**

Activity 6A: Provide information to the site team on culturally appropriate outreach training and materials regarding the four former uranium mill processing sites, specifically the Mexican Hat site.

Objective:	Inform community using culturally relevant communication about the site and site activities. Develop culturally relevant outreach materials. Be culturally sensitive to community interpretation of site information and site-related community meetings.
Method:	This discussion may be exchanged between all site leads and managers for the four former uranium processing sites, community members, tribal officials, and the Navajo Nation Community Outreach Network Office located in Window Rock, Arizona
Timing:	Ongoing

**5.2: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES TIME FRAME SUMMARY**

Activity	Time Frame
Chapter House update meetings.	Held semiannually.
Site open houses and site tours.	Annually or as needed requested by stakeholders
Announcements of meetings, open houses, and site tours.	Distributed/published 30 days, 15 days, and five days prior to event activity date(s) -door to door technique used in absence of paid advertising.
Meetings to address community concerns.	As requested.



### 5.3: COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

As part of DOE's ongoing efforts to reach out to the Mexican Hat and Halchita communities, it is vital that federal, tribal, and contractor personnel's public interaction, such as door-to-door visits to community homes or businesses, is conducted in a safe manner. The following guidelines ensure safety remains the number one priority when conducting outreach to the Mexican Hat and Halchita communities:

- Attend Oljato Chapter House regular meetings to notify community members and tribal members of DOE activities, as well as answer questions about upcoming site work.
- Produce and post outreach flyers at public places, including the Chapter House and area businesses in Mexican Hat.
- Post temporary announcement signs about site work along roadsides near the disposal site.
- Produce door hangers, which communicate a clear description of the work that will be performed and distribute to area residents in person or leave on the door.
- Conduct door-to-door outreach with no fewer than two staff members, including one member who is fluent in Navajo, if possible.
- Exercise situational awareness before approaching homes; do not approach or enter if it doesn't seem safe.
- During door-to-door notifications, keep a record of which homes are contacted and when, the result of that contact effort, and resident feedback; this record is to be provided to the Public Affairs manager and the site lead, for distribution.



## APPENDIX A: LM REGIONAL CONTACTS

Environment Team 1 Leader	Paul Kerl U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management 2597 Legacy Way Grand Junction, CO 81503 (970) 248-6020
Mexican Hat Site Manager	Angelita Denny U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management 2597 Legacy Way Grand Junction, CO 81503 (970) 248-6621
Public Participation Specialist	Shawn Montgomery U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management 2597 Legacy Way Grand Junction, CO 81503 (970) 248-7666
Site Lead <i>Contractor support to the Office of Legacy Management</i>	Kyler Lott 2597 Legacy Way Grand Junction, CO 81503 (970) 248-6612
Lead to Navajo Nation <i>Contractor support to the Office of Legacy Management</i>	Jennifer Grossheim Harris 2597 Legacy Way Grand Junction, CO 81503 (970) 248-6281
Public Affairs <i>Contractor support to the Office of Legacy Management</i>	-Vacant- 2597 Legacy Way Grand Junction, CO 81503 (970) 248-6104
Community Outreach Network Coordinator <i>Contractor support to the Office of Legacy Management</i>	Chrissy Largo #2 Beacon Road Window Rock, Arizona 86515 (928) 810-2102



## APPENDIX B: LOCAL OFFICIALS

Navajo Nation President	Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation Office of the President P.O. Box 7440 Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-7000
Navajo Nation Vice President	Myron Lizer, Navajo Nation Office of the President P.O. Box 7440 Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-7000
Navajo Council Delegate	Herman Daniels, Council Delegate Navajo Nation Council P.O. Box 3390 Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-7160
Oljato Chapter President	Willis Begay P.O. Box 360455 Monument Valley, UT 84536 (435) 727-5850
Oljato Chapter Vice President	Dr. Tommy Rock P.O. Box 360455 Monument Valley, UT 84536 (435) 727-5850
Navajo AML Reclamation/ UMTRA Department	Rose Grey, Acting Department Manager P.O. Box 1875 Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-6980
Navajo Nation EPA	Valinda Shirley, Executive Director P.O. Box 339 Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-7692
Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission (DURAC)	Nona Bashone, Executive Director P.O. Box 7440 Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-7186



## APPENDIX C: ELECTED COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS

Governor of Utah	Spencer Cox, Office of the Governor P.O. Box 142220 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220 (801) 538-1000
Senator	Mitt Romney Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building 125 S. State Street Suite 8402 Salt Lake City, UT 84138 (801) 524-4380  Mike Lee Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building 125 South State Suite 4225 Salt Lake City, UT 84138 (801) 524-5730
State Representative	John Curtis, District 3 2236 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-7751
County Supervisor	Bruce Adams (Commission Chair) P.O. Box 9 Monticello, UT 84535 (435) 587-3223



## APPENDIX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND ACTIVE CITIZENS GROUPS

Southwest Research and Information Center	105 Stanford SE P.O. Box 4524 Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505) 262-1862
Forgotten People Community Development Corporation, Inc.	P.O. Box 1289 Tuba City, AZ 86045 (928) 640-6110
Diné C.A.R.E. - Citizens Against Ruining our Environment	10A Town Plaza, Suite 138 Durango, CO 81301 (970) 759-1908
Sacred Water Speaks (To’Nizhoni Ani)	P.O. Box 657 Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039 (505) 228-7085
Black Mesa Coalition	408 E. Route 66 Flagstaff, AZ 86002 (928) 213-5909
Haul No!	<a href="mailto:stopcanyonmine@gmail.com">stopcanyonmine@gmail.com</a>



## APPENDIX E: MEDIA CONTACTS

Navajo Times	P.O. Box 370 Window Rock, AZ 86515 (928) 871-1130
Associated Press	Felicia Fonsca, Reporter Twitter: @FonsecaAP
AM Radio-KTNN	Public Service Announcements (928) 871-3553 Webmaster@ktnnonline.com



## APPENDIX F: MEDIA CONTACTS

Oljato Chapter House  
P.O. Box 360455  
Monument Valley, UT 84536  
(435) 727- 5850

Monument Valley High School  
U.S. North Highway 163, Mustang Blvd  
Kayenta, AZ 86033

Monument Valley Visitors Center  
P.O. Box 360289  
Monument Valley, Utah 84536  
(435) 727-5870

Halchita Recreation Center  
Halchita, UT 84531  
\*no bathroom, no electricity (gas operated generator provides electricity)