



NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

New Mexico begins cleanup of four uranium mine and mill sites *Initiative addresses legacy contamination across state*

SANTA FE — Cleanup work has begun at four abandoned uranium mine and mill sites across New Mexico — the first projects under the New Mexico Mine Cleanup Initiative.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (ENMRD), and contractors are conducting the work, which targets uranium mine and mill sites with no viable responsible party that are not covered by other cleanup programs.

“Through the financial support of the New Mexico Legislature and with the technical expertise of our state workforce, we are making meaningful efforts to protect communities,” said **Environment Secretary James Kenney**. “This initiative is about taking concrete steps to finally address the unfinished business of abandoned uranium mine cleanup.”

“This is the first step in a truly monumental effort to reverse the legacy of neglect,” said **NMED Uranium Mine Reclamation Coordinator Miori Harms**. “By the end of 2026, we will have yellow iron on the ground conducting remedial activities. Our work at these initial sites will allow us to scale it up to address more sites.”

Backed by \$12 million of a total \$20 million appropriation from the New Mexico Legislature, the initiative targets neglected uranium mine and mill sites — those with no viable responsible party that are not covered by other cleanup programs. The first sites were selected due to their proximity to residences, physical hazards, and readiness for cleanup partnership.

Teams have begun on-site surveys, environmental sampling, and community engagement activities at the following sites:

- Schmitt Decline Mine in McKinley County
- Moe No. 4 in McKinley County
- Red Bluff No. 1 in Grant County

- Roundy Shaft and Manol Strip Mines in Grant County

To provide the public with a transparent view of the cleanup process, the state has published an [initiative-wide quarterly report](#) and two videos specifically for the Schmitt Decline Mine site and its associated field work:

- Site Explainer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrrKoJoGoz4>
- Site Surveys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjRQCaRY1Bo>

The New Mexico Mine Cleanup Initiative builds on previous transparency efforts, such as the [interactive dashboard](#) of formerly operating uranium mine and mill sites, which provides the public with easy access to site information, regulatory actions, and cleanup status.

NMED and EMNRD's work at the four initial sites will inform future technical cleanup efforts and funding needs. More sites are expected to begin cleanup in Spring 2026.

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