New Mexico Environment Department
Energy, Minerals, Natural Resources Department

Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee

Uranium Mine and Mill Cleanup

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November 5, 2026

Uranium Mine Cleanup Program

- This program was authorized by HB164 in 2022.
- Uranium Mine Cleanup Act, NMSA 1978 §9-7A-16.
- Led by NMED with support from EMNRD's Mining and Minerals Division (Abandoned Mine Land Program and Mining Act Reclamation Program).



Waste rock and bedrock at Red Bluff No. 1 Mine



Mine waste pile at Schmitt Decline Mine

Formerly Operating Uranium Mine and Mill Sites Dashboard

A collaborative project with

NMED New Mexico Environment Department

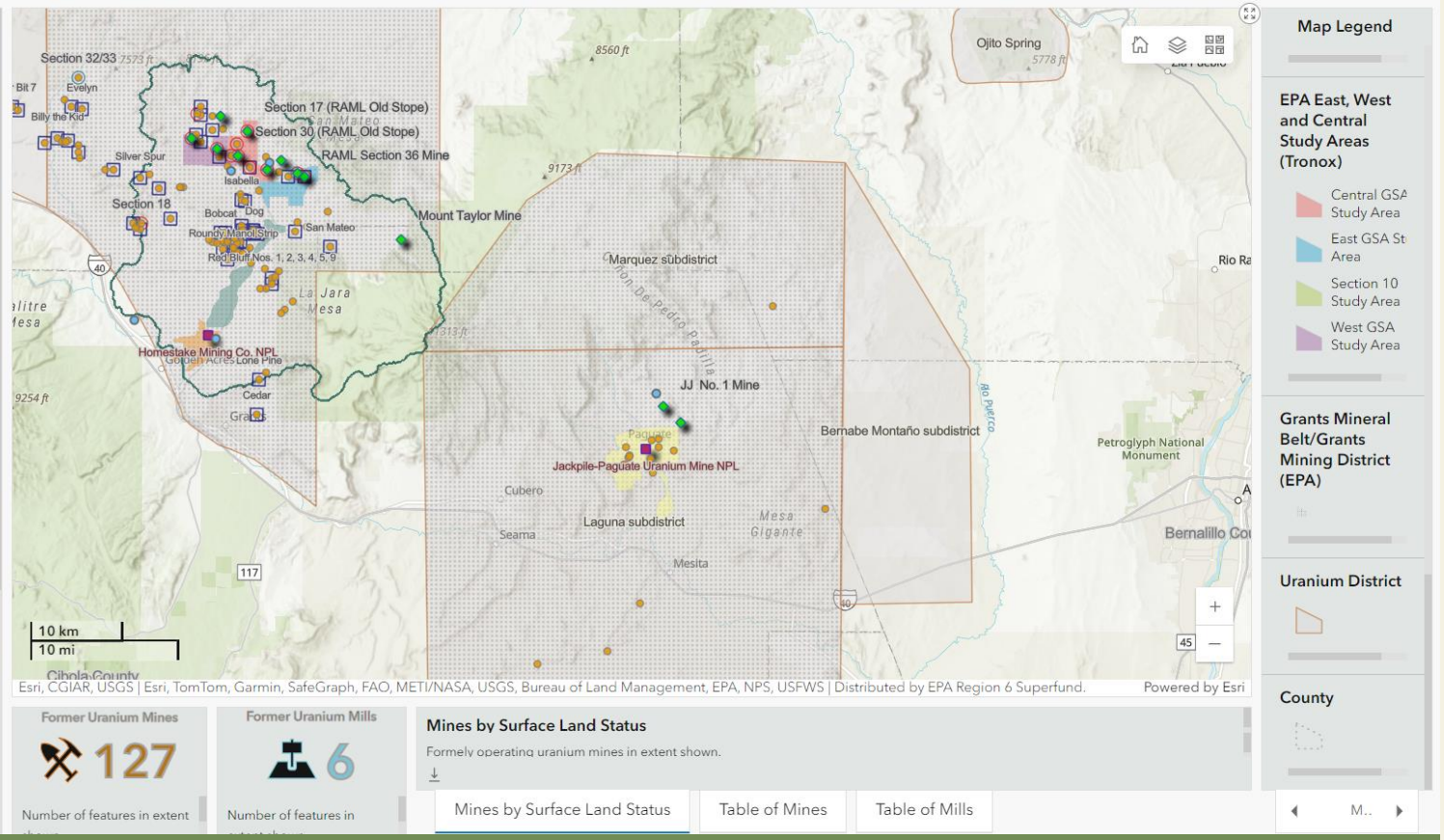
And

NEW MEXICO emnrd Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

For Dashboard Instructions: Click Here
For Data Sources: Click Here

This map shows locations of former uranium mine and mill sites in NM. Detailed information is shown by clicking on a point on the map. The pop up menu will display data about map features. Zoom or pan the map to see number mines and mills in the extent view. Charts can be expanded for a better view; click on the circle in upper right of the chart rectangle. To minimize, click on the circle again.

More Information
What is a DRUM Site? Click Here
What is a Tronox Mine? Click Here
What is a Superfund Site? Click Here
What is the NPL? Click Here

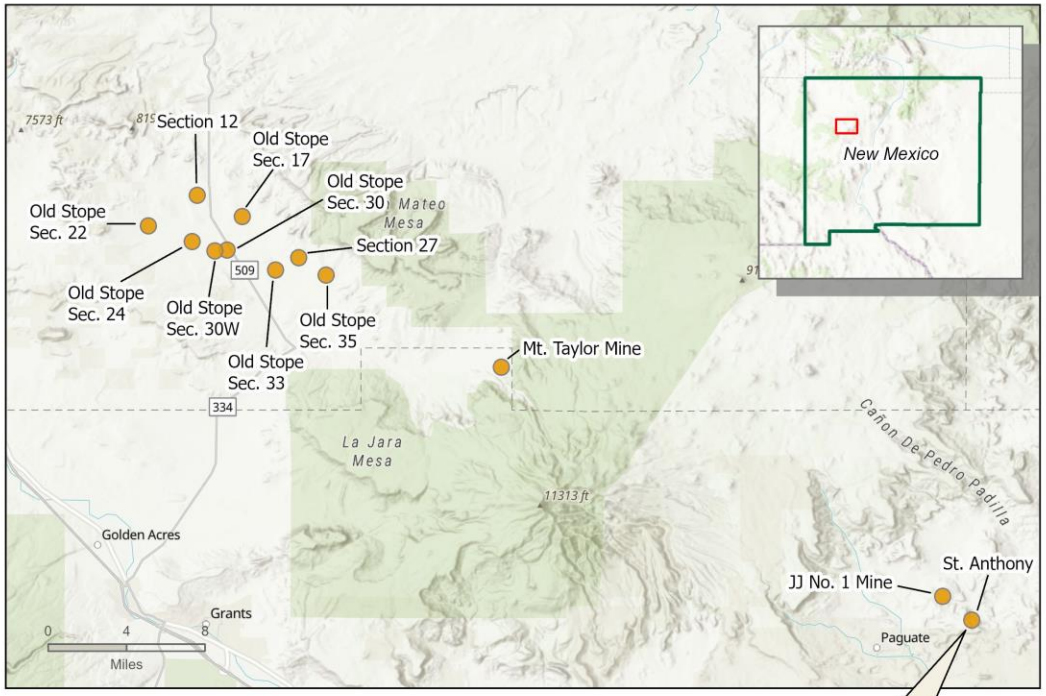


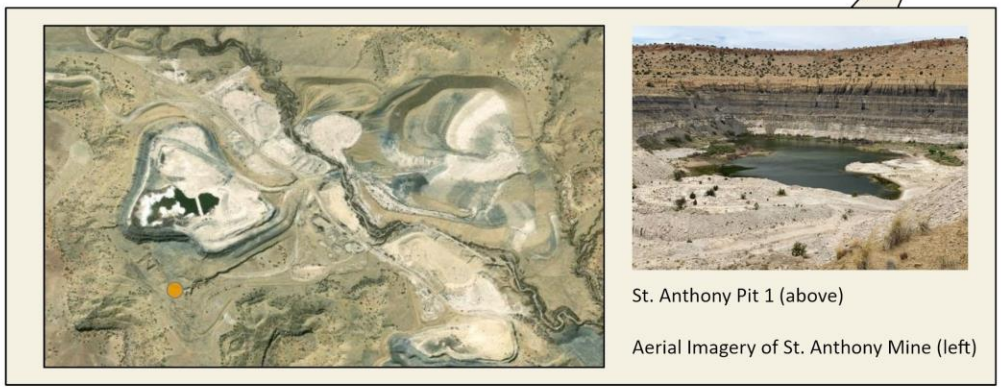
Uranium Mines:

Federal: 66 | State: 7 | Private: 76 | Tribal: 96 | Mixed: 16

Total: 261

Uranium Mine Sites under Reclamation and Closure – State Permit Programs





St. Anthony Pit 1 (above)

Aerial Imagery of St. Anthony Mine (left)

NMED & EMNRD

- Mt. Taylor Mine
- St. Anthony Mine
- Section 27 Mine
- Section 12 Mine
- Old Stope Leach Mines
- J.J. No. 1 Mine

https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/mining-act-reclamation-program/pending-and-approved-mine-applications/mining-applications-regular-existing/

HB 2 (2025 R) Section 5 (203) - Investigation and Remediation of Neglected Contaminated Sites

House Bill 2 - FY26

- House Bill 2 appropriated **$20M** over one fiscal year (FY2026).
- **$12M** was allocated to neglected uranium mine site cleanups.
- A multi-agency effort included the New Mexico State Land Office, Environment Dept, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept, Dept of Cultural Affairs, Dept of Wildlife, Dept of Finance & Administration, and General Services Dept coordinated efforts to ensure cleanups began in July 2025.

Pre-prioritization Site Cleanups – Started in July/August 2025

- Sites identified for reclamation: Moe No. 4, Schmitt Decline, and Red Bluff No. 1 (state trust land) neglected uranium mines.
- Additional sites have been identified for FY27 cleanup
- Funding extension request was granted; funds expire June 30, 2027.

Uranium Mine Cleanup Act
NMSA 1978 §9-7A-17

Uranium Mine Reclamation Revolving Fund

- FY2027: **$20M** was appropriated for the Uranium Mine Reclamation Revolving Fund.
- Funds to be used for site assessments, biological and cultural resource surveys, safeguarding, closure designs, surface reclamation, groundwater remediation, and monitoring, where appropriate.
- Recurring funding, outside of special funds and the revolving fund, for contractors in future years is limited to a total of $127,000 annually.



Worker at Schmitt Decline Mine, 2025

Schmitt Decline Uranium Mine

- Contractor: **EA Engineering**
  - Reclamation Complete
  - Monitoring Ongoing





If you lived on the Schmitt Decline mine for one year, it would be roughly equivalent to **2 years** of radiation exposure.

- Approximately **$3.2M** for surface reclamation
- Open decline and waste rock piles
- Dry mine (no groundwater impact)
- **Land & Mineral Ownership:** New Mexico State Land Office
- Onsite reclamation completed **June 2026**



Red Bluff No. 1 Uranium Mine

- Contractor: **ENTACT**
  - Reclamation Complete
  - Monitoring Ongoing

- Approximately **$3.6M** for surface reclamation
- Located on the edge of a bluff, where waste rock was tossed over the side of the mesa top.
- Dry mine (no groundwater impact)
- **Land & Mineral Ownership:** New Mexico State Land Office
- Offsite removal of waste completed **June 2026**

Prior to reclamation, some exposure rates exceeded **12 times the national average background rate**.

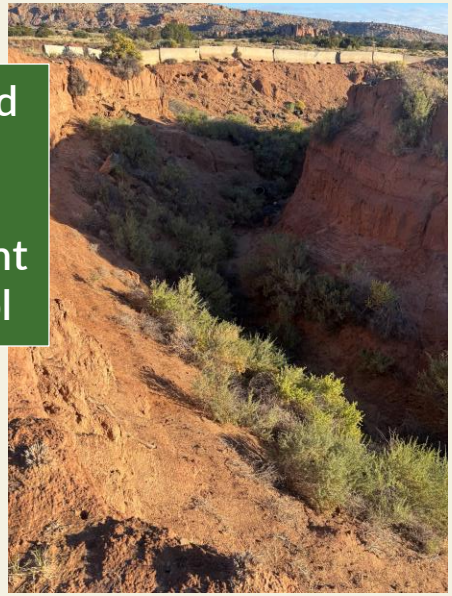




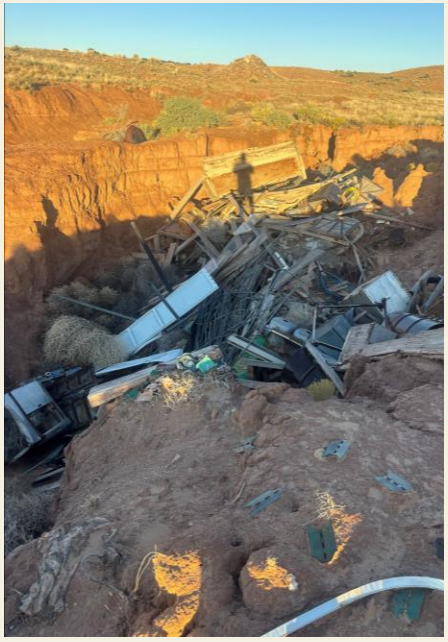
Roundy Manol Strip & Roundy Shaft Uranium Mines

- Contractor: **ENTACT**
  - Stage 1 Investigation Complete

- Approximately **$10M** for surface reclamation along with other contiguous sites of the Red Bluff No. 1 Complex
- Reclamation planned for March-June 2028
- Sites are located adjacent to Red Bluff No. 1 state trust land parcel, with mounds of waste rock and open pits.
- Dry mines (no groundwater impact) located on private land.



Open pit along road where a culvert drains into it. It's used as a convenient stormwater control



Trash in former strip mine/pit

If you lived at the Roundy mines for just one year, that is roughly the equivalent to **12 years** of radiation exposure.

Moe No. 4 Uranium Mine

- Contractor: **INTERA**
  - Stage 2 Investigation Ongoing



Headframe and area of subsidence where underground workings and shaft/decline have collapsed



Historic car on site

- **Land & Mineral Ownership:** New Mexico State Land Office

If you lived at the Moe No. 4 site for just one year, that is roughly equivalent to **13 years** of radiation exposure.



T-20 Uranium Mine

- Contractor: **TetraTech**
  - Stage 1 complete
  - Reclamation May-June 2027







- Site is located on sandy terrain across from the Roundy mines, showing exposed ore-bearing formation (gray rock).
- Dry mine (no groundwater impact) located on state trust land, some waste crosses over onto BLM land.
- Great candidate for EPA's Good Samaritan pilot program.

If you lived at the T-20 site for just one year, that is roughly equivalent to 5 years of radiation exposure.

Chill Willis Mine

- Contractor: **ERRG-LATA JV**
  - Stage 2 Investigation Complete

- Contractor: **ERRG-LATA JV**
- The site includes a collapsed shaft and mine waste piles.
- In 2026, sampling and public involvement plans and Stage 2 investigations were completed, including gamma radiation surveys, soil sampling, and preparation for biological and cultural resource surveys.

If you lived at the Chill Willis site for just one year, that is roughly equivalent to 3 years of radiation exposure.



Mine waste pile and berm


Worker's sampling soil

Engaging Beyond New Mexico

Good Samaritan Law

- The Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024 offers a new opportunity for voluntary cleanups at abandoned hard rock mine sites.
- It authorizes the EPA to issue up to 15 Good Samaritan cleanup permits over a seven-year period under a new pilot program.

New Mexico Engagement

- NMED, EMNRD and EPA (via the Office of Deserts, Mountains & Plains, OMDP) ongoing discussions on site selection.
- NMED expects to submit an application to the Good Samaritan pilot program for the T-20 former uranium mine site in FY27.

Public Outreach & Community Engagement

New Mexico Mining Museum Donation Event

- June 18, 2026 | Grants, New Mexico
- Historic mining equipment donated from Schmitt Decline Mine
- Approximately 90-100 attendees (community members, business owners, government officials, project partners)
- State and local agency leadership and legislators spoke on cleanup progress and community partnerships
- Informational exhibits hosted by NMED, EMNRD, and six environmental contractors



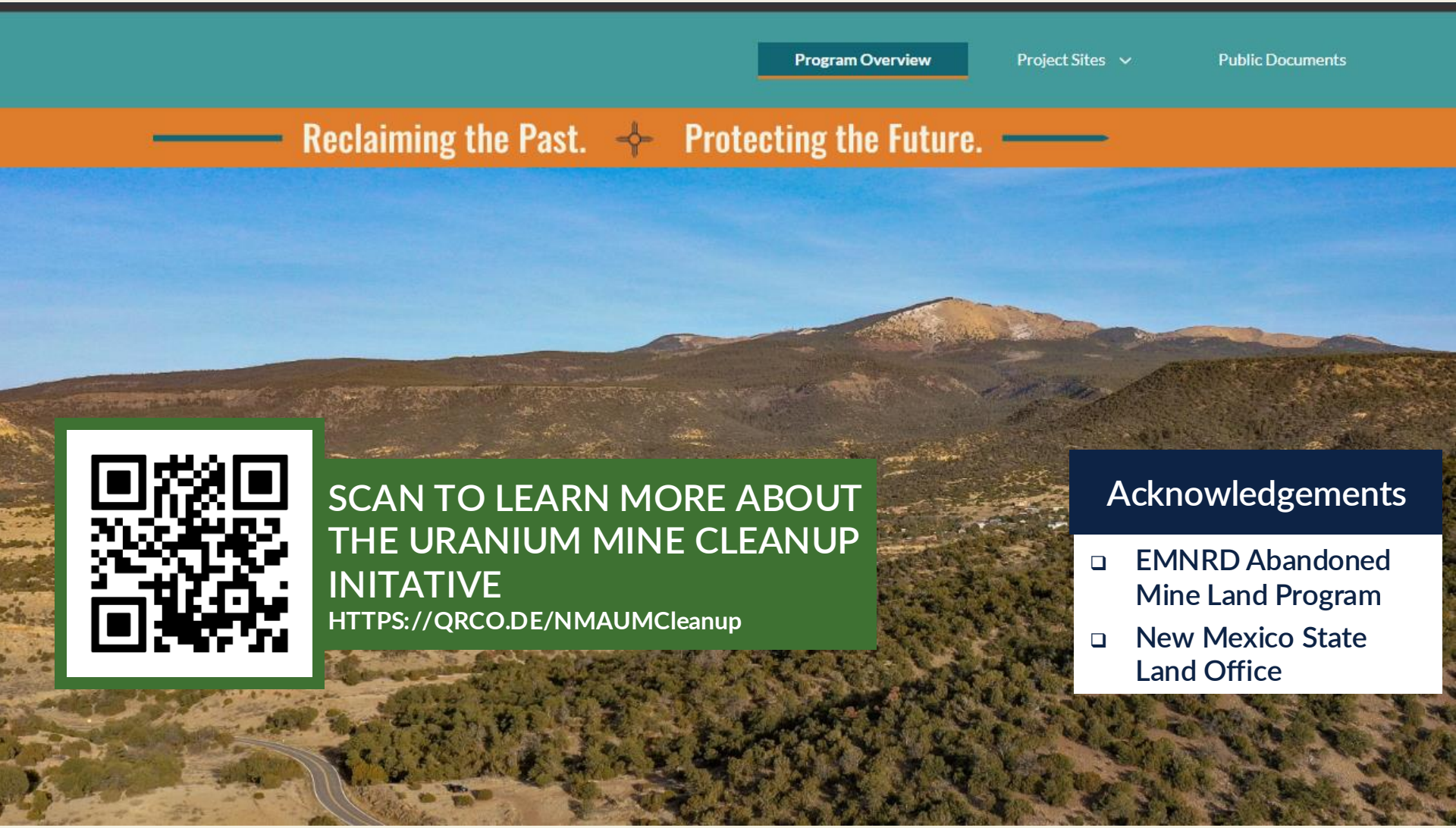


Workforce Development

- Letter of support for continued collaboration with UNM's METALS Superfund Research Center
- Emphasized public health, research, and workforce development



Questions



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE URANIUM MINE CLEANUP INITATIVE

HTTPS://QRCO.DE/NMAUMCleanup

Acknowledgements

- EMNRD Abandoned Mine Land Program
- New Mexico State Land Office