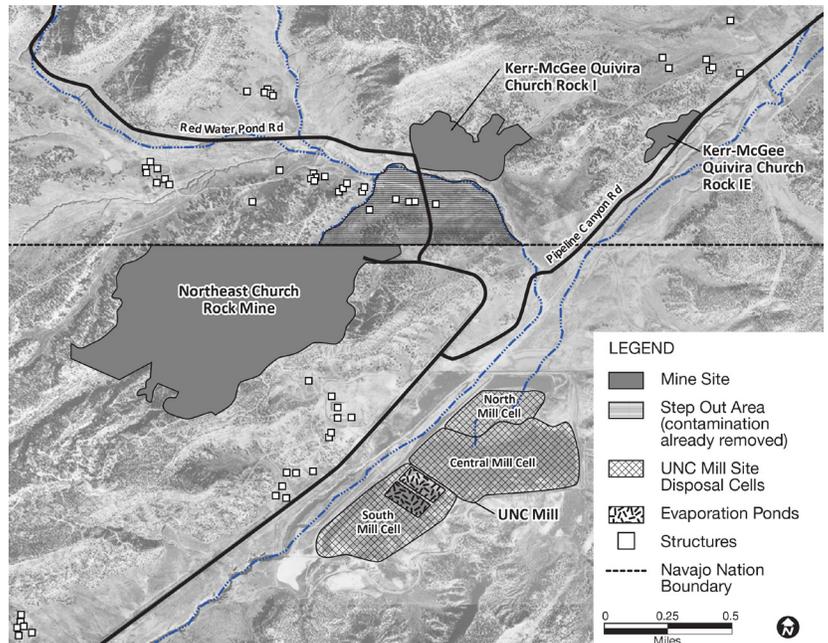


# Northeast Church Rock Mine *Site Update*

## Background

The Northeast Church Rock Mine (NECR) is a former uranium mine located at the northern end of State Highway 566, approximately 17 miles northeast of Gallup, New Mexico in the Pinedale Chapter of the Navajo Nation. United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) operated the NECR mine from 1967 to 1982.

During mining, approximately 3.5 million tons of ore was extracted, making it one of the highest producing uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. Due to the proximity of residents to the mine site, this mine was identified as the highest priority for cleanup by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) out of over 500 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation.



Northeast Church Rock Mine, Kerr-McGee Quivira and UNC Mill Superfund sites map.

## What has been done?

- Over 200,000 tons of contaminated soil has been removed from the residential area and brought back to the mine pile.
- The mine pile has been temporarily covered and stabilized until it can be removed.
- U.S. EPA, working with the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico, has decided to move the waste to the UNC Mill site.

## What is happening now?

UNC/General Electric (GE) is designing the storage facility for the NECR mine waste on UNC Mill site with U.S. EPA approval.



GE contractors take samples on the Northeast Church Rock Mine site.

## What will happen next?

After the permanent repository for mine waste from NECR is designed, UNC/GE will submit a request (license amendment) to NRC to build the repository. NRC must approve the request before construction can begin. EPA estimates the design phase will be completed in two to three years, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission estimates another two to five years for the required NRC license amendment.

## How can you learn more?

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## Who is involved?

- The company conducting the cleanup is UNC. UNC is owned by General Electric.
- U.S. EPA is overseeing the design with the help of a design review team.
- The design review team includes U.S. EPA, NNEPA, State of New Mexico Environmental Department, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy. The team also includes a local resident appointed by the Red Water Pond Road Community Association, who is assisted by a technical support representative from the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) contract administered by U.S. EPA.

### U.S. EPA Northeast Church Rock Quivira Mines site page:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/ViewByEPAID/NNSFN0905492>

### U.S. EPA Northeast Church Rock Mine site

page: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/ViewByEPAID/NNN000906132>

### U.S. EPA United Nuclear Corporation Mill site page:

<http://www.epa.gov/Region6/6sf/newmexico/unitednuclear/index.html>

### Five Year Plan to Address Impacts of Uranium Contamination 2014-2018:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/superfund/navajonation/5-yr-plan-2014.html>