



Abandoned Uranium Mines Project U.S. EPA/Navajo Nation EPA Water Sampling/Home Construction Survey



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA • SEPTEMBER 1998

U.S. EPA to Test Water and Home Construction Materials in Monument Valley Area

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) will continue its investigation of the abandoned uranium mines by taking water samples and checking home construction materials in the Monument Valley area of the Navajo Nation. The water and home construction surveys follow the helicopter survey which took place last fall to determine where radiation is located in this region. Information from that helicopter survey is being provided to the Chapters.

This investigation is the result of a request by the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) that USEPA assist in determining if the old, abandoned uranium mines currently pose a health risk to people in the area. If

any health risks are found, that information will be presented to the affected Chapters with recommendations as to what measures should be taken to minimize such risk.

Water Sampling

Water that people use for drinking or cooking will be tested to determine if it contains uranium or other metals that are found in the earth around the old uranium mines. If these metals get into the water, they can cause health problems. USEPA will test water from wells, springs or any other sources in the communities surrounding the old mines. The water samples will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. Results from the laboratory tests will be available in about three months, and this

information will be provided to the affected Chapters.

Home Construction

It is possible that rock from an old uranium mine was used in home construction. If a rock contains uranium, the radiation that comes out of it could cause health problems. USEPA will measure rocks used in home construction to see if there is any radiation.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR WATER OR HOME CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS SAMPLED BY USEPA, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHAPTER COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR.

Who to Contact With Questions or Concerns

USEPA and NNEPA will provide information on the results of our investigations to the Chapters as it becomes available. Please feel free to contact us or your Chapter officials if you have questions or concerns about the abandoned uranium mines. USEPA has a toll-free number which is listed below.

US EPA

Vicki Rosen
Community Involvement
Coordinator
US EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2187 or
toll-free (800) 231-3075

Affected Navajo Nation Chapters

Oljato Chapter
(801) 727-3259
Kayenta Chapter
(520) 679-5520
Shonto Chapter
(520) 672-2460
Dennehotso Chapter
(520) 658-3300

Navajo Nation EPA

Stanley Edison/Eugene Esplain
NNEPA, Superfund Program
43 Crest Rd.
St. Michaels, AZ 86511
(520) 871-6859

