



PUBLIC NOTICE
UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION SUPERFUND SITE
U.S. EPA Region 6 Completes
Sixth Five-Year Review of Site Remedy
September 2023



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) have completed the sixth Five-Year review of the remedy for the United Nuclear Corporation Superfund Site (UNC), located 17 miles northeast of Gallup, McKinley County, New Mexico on September 29, 2023.

The remedy for the UNC for the groundwater Operable Unit 1 (OU1) required the following six elements: (1) Implementation of a monitoring program to detect any increases in the areal extent, or concentration of ground water contamination outside the tailings disposal area. (2) Operation of existing seepage extraction systems in the Upper Gallup aquifers. (3) Containment and removal of contaminated ground water in Zone 3 of the Upper Gallup Sandstone utilizing existing and additional wells. (4) Containment and removal of contaminated ground water in Southwest Alluvium utilizing existing and additional wells. (5) Evaporation of ground water removed from aquifers using evaporation ponds supplemented with mist or spray systems to enhance the rate of evaporation. (6) Implementation of a performance monitoring and evaluation program to determine water level and contaminant reductions in each aquifer, and the extent and duration of pumping actually required outside the tailings disposal area.

The remedy for the UNC for the Surface Soil Operable Unit 2 (OU2) will require excavation of approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of waste material from the Northeast Church Rock Superfund Site to dispose of at the United Nuclear Corporation site.

The sixth Five-Year review has determined that the remedy at OU1 (the final source remedy) currently protects human health and the environment in the short term, because the remedial actions have minimized potential human exposures to contaminants in ground water and have reduced the potential for the repository tailings to act as a source of ground water contamination. However, for the remedy to be protective in the long-term, recommendations will be re-evaluated in the next Five-Year Review. The remedy at OU2 has been selected and remedial design completed. The remedial action at OU2 has not been initiated.

The EPA and NMED will conduct the next five-year review in 2028.

The Sixth Five-Year Review Report will be available to the public at www.epa.gov and at the following information repositories:

University of New Mexico – Gallup
Zollinger Library
705 Gurley Avenue
Gallup, NM 87301

New Mexico Environment Department
Ground Water Quality Bureau
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110

Information about the Site also is available on the Internet at: www.epa.gov/region6/superfund

For more information about the Site, please contact:

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