



New Mexico Environment Department



Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee Uranium Mine and Mill Cleanup

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Uranium Mine Cleanup Program

- This program was authorized by HB164 in 2022.
- NMSA 1978 §9-7A-16
- Led by NMED with support from EMNRD.



Multi-agency site visit to Red Bluff No. 1 Mine



Formerly Operating Uranium Mine and Mill Sites Dashboard

A collaborative project with



And



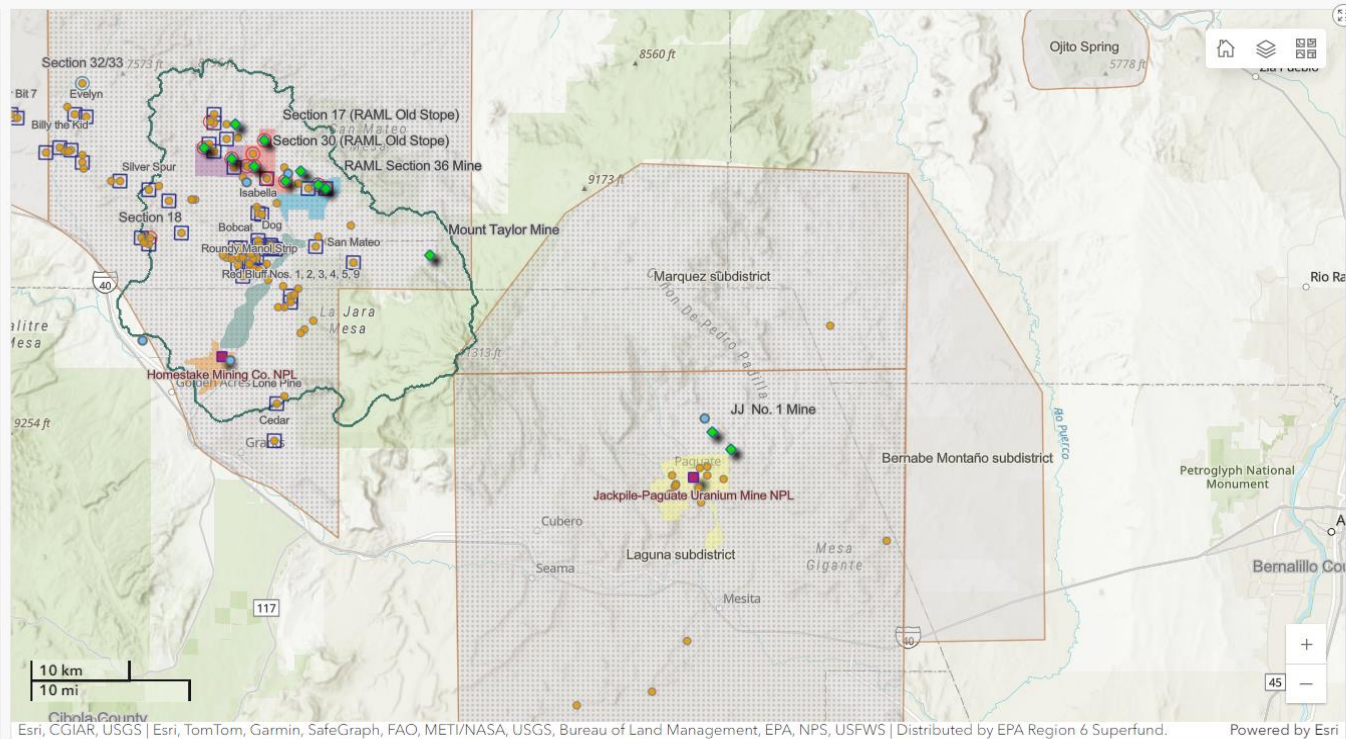
For Dashboard Instructions: [Click Here](#)
For Data Sources: [Click Here](#)

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?
What is a Superfund Site?
What is the NPL? [Click Here](#)

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Map Legend

EPA East, West and Central Study Areas (Tronox)

- Central GSA Study Area
- East GSA Study Area
- Section 10 Study Area
- West GSA Study Area

Grants Mineral Belt/Grants Mining District (EPA)

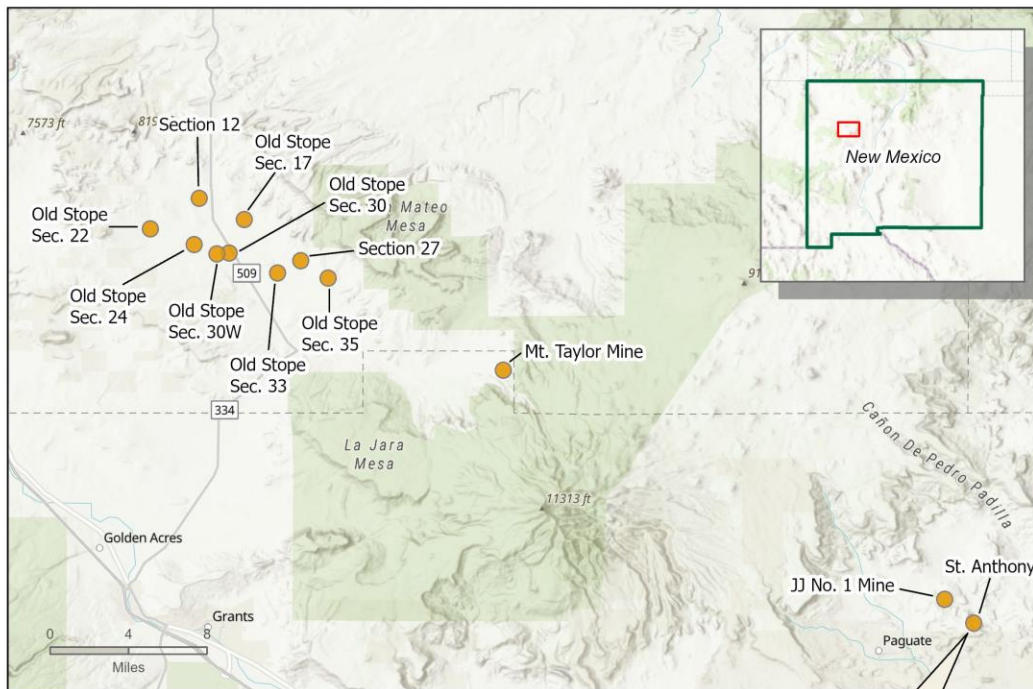
Uranium District

County

**Uranium Mines: Federal: 66, State: 7, Private: 76, Tribal: 96, Mixed: 16
Total: 261**

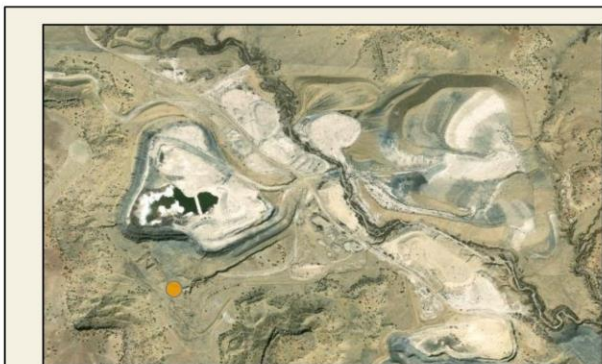


Uranium Mine Sites under Reclamation and Closure – State Permit Programs



NMED & EMNRD

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



St. Anthony Pit 1 (above)

Aerial Imagery of St. Anthony Mine (left)



HB 164 (2022) / NMSA 1978 §9-7A-17

Uranium Mine Reclamation Revolving Fund

- ❑ No money has been appropriated for the Uranium Mine Reclamation Revolving Fund, and the **balance remains at zero dollars**.
- ❑ In the future, funds received into the account may be used for site assessments, safeguarding, closure designs, surface reclamation, groundwater remediation, and monitoring, where appropriate.
- ❑ Recurring funding, outside of the revolving fund, for contractors in future years is limited to a total of \$127,000 annually.



Worker at Schmitt Decline Mine, 2025



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 Game & Fish, 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 included the Moe No. 4, Schmitt Decline, Red Bluff No. 1, Roundy Manol Strip, Roundy Shaft mines.
- Additional sites have been identified for FY27 cleanup should funding continue, as detailed in the FY26 Q1 report.
- Cleanup is dependent on available funding, primarily tied to one-time funding in FY26.



Moe No. 4 Uranium Mine

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



Historic car on site



If you lived here for one year, that is roughly the equivalent of 13 years of radiation exposure.



- Contractor: INTERA INC.
- Land & Mineral Ownership: New Mexico State Land Office



Schmitt Decline Uranium Mine



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



- Contractor: EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC ("EA")
- Dry mine; Land & Mineral Ownership: New Mexico State Land Office



Red Bluff No. 1 Uranium Mine

- ❑ Contractor: ENTACT LLC
- ❑ Located on the edge of a bluff, showing exposed ore-bearing formation (gray rock).
- ❑ Dry mine (no groundwater impact)
- ❑ Land & Mineral Ownership: New Mexico State Land Office, Private



If you lived at or near the Red Bluff No. 1 site for just one year, that is roughly the equivalent to 12 years of radiation exposure.



Department of Energy DRUM (Defense Related Uranium Mine) Program

- ❑ The federal program sunsets in September 2026. Any sites on private lands remaining will not be completed.
- ❑ Verification & Validation work on federal and tribal lands is complete.
- ❑ Work on state lands was completed in spring 2025.



Section 25 Mine Site
Office of Strategic Initiatives
staff visited November 13, 2024
alongside US Department of
Energy team.



Engaging Beyond New Mexico

Good Samaritan Law

- The Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024, signed into law on December 17, 2024, offers a new opportunity for voluntary cleanups at abandoned hard rock mine sites. The Act authorizes the EPA to issue up to 15 Good Samaritan cleanup permits over a timeframe of seven years, allowing for the successful authorization and implementation of those permits under a new pilot program.

New Mexico Engagement

- NMED, EMNRD and EPA (via the Office of Deserts, Mountains & Plains, [OMDP](#)), Department of Interior (via Bureau of Land Management) information sharing
- Continuing discussions on site selection and mechanisms for cleanup



**Thank you for your
support of the state's
reclamation projects.**