



State of New Mexico
ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
and the
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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Date: December 8, 2025

To: Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Chair, Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Committee
Sen. Jeff Steinborn, Vice Chair, Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Committee

From: Miori Harms, Uranium Mine Reclamation Coordinator, New Mexico Environment
Department, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Abimbola Ojekanmi, Uranium Mine Reclamation Coordinator, Energy, Minerals and
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Through: Secretary James C. Kenney, New Mexico Environment Department
Secretary Melanie Kenderdine, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Re: FY26 Neglected Uranium Mine Cleanup Q1 Report: July – September 2025

This report is a quarterly update for uranium mine site reclamation activities being performed for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Office of Strategic Initiatives under the authority of the [Uranium Mine Cleanup Act of 2022](#) (§ 9-7A-16). In House Bill 2 (2025) the New Mexico Legislature appropriated \$20 million dollars to NMED to fund the investigation and remediation of neglected contaminated sites, which includes former uranium mines. Approximately \$12M is projected to go toward neglected uranium mine cleanups.

Because the appropriation is specific to neglected sites, which NMED considers to be those mines that have no viable responsible party and are not under another cleanup program, all site cleanups discussed in this report are neglected and contaminated uranium mines. This report does not discuss or address mill or mine sites associated with a responsible party, or sites located outside of NMED jurisdiction.

Pre-prioritization mines selected for cleanup in FY26 and discussed in this report were selected based on proximity to residences, physical hazard (radiation survey data, presence of underground mine workings, shafts, or declines), land ownership and access (right of entry agreements), and landowners' willingness as a cleanup partner. NMED has not completed assessments for all neglected uranium mines and therefore has not ranked all possible sites for cleanup. Prioritization work is concurrently underway under a separate contract ('Implementation Plan and Site Inventory').

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

An MOA signed in 2025 by NMED and EMNRD's Mining and Mineral Division (MMD) includes staff from the Mining Act Reclamation Program (MARF) and the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program to provide technical support throughout the entire lifecycle of cleanup activities, from obtaining site access and surveys to reclamation and final radiation closeout surveys. The total encumbrance of the MOA was \$2,500,000.00 with \$42,704.33 spent. The amount to be disencumbered may fluctuate but NMED expects roughly \$500,000.00 for FY26.

Section 1: Fiscal Year 2026 - Current Reclamation Projects

Six contractors selected through a competitive Request for Proposals process have signed four-year contracts with NMED to perform uranium mine cleanup work in the Grants Mining District. Three of them have begun survey work and other investigative activities on different mines, as detailed in this section. Work performed by these contractors is detailed below.

Schmitt Decline

Site Summary: The site is located on state trust land managed by the New Mexico State Land Office (NMSLO) and is comprised of an open and unfenced decline, and several waste piles of soil and rock materials surrounding the mine opening. All waste piles show signs of wind and rain erosion, including runoff away from the mine opening. The nearest residence was identified at the junction of HWY 605 and 509, approximately 1.22 air-miles away.

Contract activity: NMED executed a contract with EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC ("EA") on July 1, 2025, kicked off the project on July 10, 2025, started surveys on September 15, 2025, and expects to make significant progress by June 30, 2026, when funding is scheduled to expire. There is no other funding for this site and no viable responsible party/owner. Activities performed during this quarter include:

- Performance of a site visit and kickoff meeting and obtaining site access.
- Reviewed all the preliminary and historical information about the site
- Preparation of a series of project plans that include:
 - Project approach plan
 - Health and safety management plans
 - Environmental (soil, rock and others) sampling and analysis plan.
 - Community Engagement Plan (CEP) and Public Involvement Plan (PIP)
- Performance of a radiological walkover survey used to identify and map areas of elevated radiological levels.
- Performance of a radon survey used to identify radon concentrations within the mine and radon flux concentrations across the site.

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- Performance of surface and subsurface soil samples to obtain laboratory data to support the walking survey data.
- Collection of a groundwater sample from a nearby well and surface water sample from a nearby pothole for laboratory analyses.
- Performance of underground and surface video and LiDAR surveys to obtain pre-reclamation site conditions, surface topography and subsurface volumes in the event that the mine is used as a repository for waste rock (soil) with elevated radiological levels.
- Performance of a biological survey to assess the presence of threatened and endangered species.
- Performance of a cultural survey to assess for the presence of cultural resources that could potentially be disturbed by reclamation of the mine.
- Implementation of a community outreach program that includes preparation of videos showing work being performed, interviews with NMED staff, local residents, and contractors performing the work.

Work to be performed during next quarter is anticipated to include:

- Preparation of a Site Assessment Report that will include:
 - Discussion of field and analytical methods of site investigation
 - Results and assessment of field and laboratory soil, groundwater and surface water data
 - Presentation of the results of the radon survey
 - Presentation of the results of the biological and cultural surveys
 - Conclusions and recommendations
- Preparation of a Feasibility Study Report that will include a recommended or preferred option.
- Prepare a Closure Plan & Cost Estimate with recommendations for site reclamation and remediation plan (operation plan) based on the information collected; that includes estimated volume of radiological waste to be disposed by material types, possible reclamation covers, cover soils and sources, revegetation plans, post reclamation monitoring plan and cost analysis.

Current funding status: Encumbrance for this project is \$1,900,000.00.

Available files for this site can be found at: <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/11719>.

Moe No. 4 Mine

Site Summary: Site is located on state trust land managed by the NMSLO and includes a headframe, a collapsed decline and/or shaft, at least three waste rock piles, and a reddish silty settling area of high radiation readings. The site contamination appears to cross over from state

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trust land onto adjacent private property to the west. The site is about 0.25 miles east of San Mateo Creek.

Contract activity: NMED executed a contract with INTERA on July 1, 2025, kicked off the project on July 10, 2025, started surveys on September 15, 2025, and expects to make significant progress before June 30, 2026, when funding is expected to expire. There is no other funding for this site and no responsible owner.

Work performed this quarter:

- Reviewed site historical data and completed initial field inspections.
- Prepared and submitted necessary project management plans.
- Currently completing detailed surficial radiological investigations, biological assessments, cultural resource and other investigations.

Work anticipated for next quarter: Complete a Site Assessment Report, Feasibility Study Report and related reclamation operation plans with costing.

Current funding status: Encumbrance for this project is \$4,000,000.00.

Available files for this site can be found at: <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/13067>.

Red Bluff No. 1 Mine

Site Summary: The site is located on state trust land managed by the NMSLO and consists of two pit areas oriented along the north and east section lines that were excavated to exploit uranium deposits found within the Todilto Limestone Formation. No disturbance is visible from Haystack Road, but there is visible site runoff that could contaminate nearby groundwater through seepage. The nearest residential site is one mile northwest of site along Haystack Road.

Contract activity: NMED executed a contract with ENTACT on July 1, 2025, kicked off the project on July 30, 2025, started surveys on September 15, 2025, and expects to make significant progress by June 2026, when funding is expected to expire. There is no other funding for this site cleanup and no responsible owner.

Work performed this quarter:

- Reviewed site historical data and completed initial field inspections.
- Prepared and submitted necessary project management plans.
- Currently completing detailed surficial radiological investigations of approximately 200 acres as a component of Site Assessment Report, and other investigations.

Work anticipated for next quarter: Complete a Site Assessment Report, Feasibility Study Report and related reclamation operation plans with costing.

Current funding status: Encumbrance for this project, and the Roundy mines below, is currently \$1,477,885.00.

Available files for this site can be found at: <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/11716>.

Roundy Shaft & Roundy Manol Strip Mines

Site Summary: These sites are adjacent to the Red Bluff No. 1 mine.

Contract activity: NMED assigned ENTACT LLC to begin cleanup and survey work is already underway. Surveys include cultural resources, biological assessments, and radiological walkover surveys. NMED expects to make significant progress by June 2026, when funding is expected to expire. There is no other funding for this site cleanup and no responsible owner.

Work performed this quarter:

- Reviewed site historical data and completed initial field inspections.
- Prepared and submitted necessary project management plans.
- Currently completing detailed surficial radiological investigations of approximately 200 acres as a component of Site Assessment Report, and other investigations.

Work anticipated for next quarter: Complete a Site Assessment Report, Feasibility Study Report and related reclamation operation plans with costing.

Current funding status: Encumbrance for this project is included the ENTACT contract referenced above for the Red Bluff No. 1 mine.

Available files for this site can be found at: <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/11717> and <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/11718>, respectively.

Section 2: Upcoming (FY27) and Tentative Reclamation Projects

Three additional contractors are preparing the following sites in FY26 for reclamation in FY27:

T-20 Mine

NMED assigned Tetra Tech the T-20 mine with preparatory work in progress. Upcoming investigative work includes site access agreements, archeological and cultural resource surveys, biological surveys, and radiological surveys and soil sampling.

Current funding status: Encumbrance for this project is \$250,000.00 at this time.

Available files for this site can be found at: <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/11737>.

Red Point Mine

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NMED tasked EA with reviewing project data for the Red Point mine. Site access has been provided by the New Mexico State Land Office.

Current funding status: Encumbrance for this project is \$1,000,000.00 at this time.

Available files for this site can be found at: <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/13053>.

Lost Mine (Tentative)

NMED assigned Parsons Transportation Group and information on the site is still being gathered. The project remains tentative until the private landowner grants full access to the site.

Current funding status: Encumbrance for this project is \$250,000.00 at this time.

Available files for this site can be found at: <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/13070>.

Blackhawk complex mines (Tentative)

NMED assigned ERRG-LATA JV to five adjacent mines referred to as the 'Blackhawk complex' and has a goal to complete the projects in the next five to ten years. The project remains tentative until the private landowner grants full access to the site.

Current funding status: Encumbrance for this project is \$250,000.00 at this time.

Available files for this site can be found at: <https://cloud.env.nm.gov/resources/collection/12827>.

Section 3: Funding for Neglected Uranium Mine Site Cleanup in FY26

Total estimated budget for uranium site cleanup: \$12,000,000.00

Total encumbered in Q1: \$9,775,885.00

Total estimated for operating transfer (per MOA): \$500,000.00

Total spent in Q1: \$1,084,693.47

Remaining of estimated budget: \$10,915,306.53

Section 4: Summary

Current Funding for FY26 – NMED anticipates breaking ground on the reclamation of at least three mines, and preparing additional sites for cleanup in FY27 should funding be appropriated.

Funding for FY27 and beyond– Continued funding will likely be required to reach final closeout of the cleanups that started in FY26 and for the additional site cleanups ready for cleanup in FY27.

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