



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: Red Bluff #1 Mine - NM0172

CERCLIS ID#: N/A

Alias Site Name: Rimrock, Homer Scriven, Section 36

Address: Latitude 35 degrees 18'59.97" Longitude 107 degrees 50'26.61"



City/County or Parish/State/Zip: McKinley County, New Mexico

Report Type: Pre-CERCLIS Screening

Date: 09/10/09

Author: NMED

**RECOMMENDATION:**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund
	<input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> HRS      Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> SI <input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> ESI <input type="checkbox"/> RA <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ To be performed by: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Action Deferred to: <input type="checkbox"/> RCRA <input type="checkbox"/> NRC	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**NOTIFY AUTHORITY:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
SEND SSSR COPIES TO: <input type="checkbox"/> 6SF-AC <input type="checkbox"/> 6WQ-SP <input type="checkbox"/> ATSDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Agency				

**DISCUSSION:**

The New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mine and Minerals Division (MMD) conducted a site assessment on February 11, 2008 at the Red Bluff #1 Mine site. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a site assessment on July 2, 2009. The mine operated as a dry mine and is located on the top of a mesa. MMD observed that the mine consists of an open excavation approximately 500 feet by 200 feet by eight feet deep with 50 waste rock piles located north of the excavation. There are several other excavations which may or may not have been associated with the uranium mining, with the largest of the excavations inside an arroyo north of the mine site. A maximum gamma radiation reading of 36 uR/hr was measured. NMED made their observations from Haystack Road. MMD stated that there are three wells and one residence within one mile of the mine site. NMED stated that one of the wells is a livestock well with a total uranium concentration of 48.2 ug/l. The surface land and mineral estate are held by the New Mexico State Land Office. Mine activities extend on to privately owned land, as the waste rock piles and the excavation inside the arroyo are located on private land.

In October 2011, EPA conducted an aerial radiological survey in the Poison Canyon area of the Ambrosia Lake sub-district by using the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). The Red Bluff #1 Mine was included in the ASPECT survey. The gamma radiation readings at the Piedre Trieste Mine site were one to two times statistically greater than background readings in the area.


NMED recommended that action be taken at the site to remove waste piles with elevated radioactivity and to reclaim

unstable pit highwalls. NMED recommended that the mine site be further assessed under CERCLA to characterize the extent of site-derived waste dispersion along the drainages and impacts to groundwater.

EPA is referring the Red Bluff #1 Mine to NMED for the investigation into the impacts from the mining since the mine is located on New Mexico State Lands.

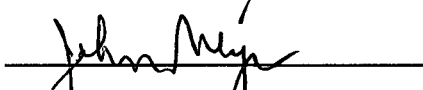
**APPROVALS:**

Report Reviewed by: Lisa Marie Price  
(Site Assessment Manager)

Signature: 

Date: 12/13/11

Disposition  
Approved by: John Meyer  
(Section Chief 6SF-TR)

Signature: 

Date: 12/20/11