

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. EPA Region 6 United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) Superfund Site Sixth Five Year Review

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) are conducting the sixth five-year review of the remedy for the United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) Superfund Site located 17 miles northeast of Church Rock, McKinley County, New Mexico. The review is required by law under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to assure that human health and the environment are being protected by the remedial actions taken at the Site.

The Site consists of a former uranium mill facility and associated tailings piles and is divided into two operable units (OUs). The one OU covers groundwater impacts from the mill tailings. The tailings disposal site covers approximately 100 acres adjacent to pipeline arroyo where tailing seepage has impacted groundwater beneath the Site. The remedy calls for operation of pumping wells to extract contaminated groundwater and evaporation ponds to evaporate the extracted water. Construction of the remedy was completed in 1989 and has been operated and monitored in accordance with the Record of Decision since that time. The second OU is for a disposal cell for contaminated material from the mine site. The second OU remedy is pending a decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to amend the license for the mill site to allow mine waste to be added to the existing tailings repository.

This five- year review is scheduled for completion by June 2023 and the report will be made available to the public at the Site's information repository.

During the review, EPA and NMED will gather information on the Site and conduct inspections to make sure the remedies continue to be protective of human health and the environment. We need information from people in the community who are familiar with the Site and may know about things that can help the review team decide if the remedies are still protective. Some examples of things that need to be identified are:

- Broken fences, materials leaving the Site, or other problems;
- land use changes around the Site;
- any unusual activities at the Site, such as dumping, vandalism, or trespassing; and
- ways the cleanup at the Site has affected the surrounding communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The following resources are available to make sure that you can locate the information you need to become involved in the Superfund Process at the United Nuclear Corporation Superfund Site. If you have any questions about activities at the Site, please contact:

Janet Brooks, Project Manager
USEPA Region 6
1201 Elm St., Suite 500 (SEDRL)
Dallas, TX 75270
(214) 665-7598

Anthony McGlown, Project Manager
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 660-8121

For more information about the community involvement process, please contact:

Adam Weece
Community Outreach Team
USEPA, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 (ORA-XO)
Dallas, TX 75270
214-665-2264

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

If you would like more information about this Site, you may consult the Administrative Record File and other documents contained in the information repositories listed below.

University of New Mexico – Gallup
Zollinger Library
705 Gurley Avenue
Gallup, NM 87301
(505) 863-7531

New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Bldg.
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 827-2900 or

All media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200