

# Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine Site Screen Report

*This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits and pits. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites lands not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands but that are or may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.*

*The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, to record all immediate site information associated with the mine site and to document the recommendation and/or decision on what additional steps, if any, are needed at the site.*

## **Alta AUM Site**

### **Navajo AUM Eastern Region**

#### **Prepared by:**

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**

**Contract: W91238-06-F-0083**

**12767.063.496.1111**

**May 2009**

**Part I Site Identification, Location and Status**

**Site Names and ID numbers as applicable**

**Mine ID:** 336

**Map ID:** E46

**CERCLIS:** NNN 000 908 697

**NAMLRP:** NOT ASSIGNED

**New Mexico Mining and Mineral Division ID:** NM0081

**New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources:** NMMK0002

**Local name / Aliases:** Anaconda, Section 6

**Chapter and local area:** Baca / Haystack Chapter

**Lat/Long:** 35.469536882 N / -108.032882936 W

**Nearby road and highway:** Route 19, Interstate 40      **Local Post Office:** Prewitt, NM

**Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below**

- Tribal Trust Land**
- Tribal Fee Land**
- Allotment**
- Fee land**
- Public lands**
- Private**
- Bureau of Land Mgmt**
- State**

**Ownership and contact information:**

No ownership was identified. The mine site property is classified as private land, but no residences were found within 0.25 miles of the site

**Part II Site Observations**

**Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None                      **200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None                      **200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):**

None

**Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:**

**0 to 0.25 miles:** None                      **0.25 miles to 4 miles:** Windmill well located approximately 2.75 miles northwest of site

**Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.**

None observed

**Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents.**

**Note information on mine ownership, period of operation, and type of mining operation.**

Alta mine consists of an area of 4,140.07 square meters. Any historical information pertaining to mining operations and historical ownership of the mine site appeared to be unclear.

### **Part III      Type, number and reclamation status of mine features**

**Provide description and reclamation status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all reclamation caps.**

Reclamation status of the mine site is currently unknown. No visible signs of reclamation were observed. The mining operations appear to have been conducted in the hillside. Waste rock appears to have deposited below the mine adits. Three adits were observed in the hillside and were partially collapsed. Some unidentified remnants of the former mine workings were observed at the site. No other mine features were observed during the site visit.

### **Part IV      Summary of radiological readings**

#### **Background Locations**

#1 15,669 cpm

#2 17,032 cpm

#3 16,151 cpm

#### **Mine site: Alta**

- See Figures 1 and 2

**Nearby Structure Perimeter – None**

#### **Describe any other radiological measurements:**

A total of 1,164 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 12,862 cpm to 286,622 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

**Part V            Site sketch of all mine features and readings, including locations of all structures, sources of drinking water and any other important features and radiological readings.**

Presented in Figures 1 and 2

**Part VI Response Action Summary**

**Site Name(s):** Alta **Chapter:** Baca / Haystack

**Decision Criteria**

**Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site?** Yes

**At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located?** 1.25 Miles

**At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources?** N/A

**Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site?** No

**Is the cap/seal functionally intact?** N/A

**Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases?** N/A

**At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located?** N/A

**At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source?** N/A

**Summary of emergency response factors**

None

**Summary hazard ranking system factors**

None

**Summary of reclamation factors**

No known reclamation

**Part VII      Photos**



Photo 1. Alta Mine site on hillside, towards the north



Photo 2. Alta Mine site on hillside, towards the west



Photo 3. View from Alta Mine site, towards the southwest



Photo 4. View from Alta Mine site, towards the south





Photo 5. Alta Mine site, collapsed adit



Photo 6. Alta Mine site, former workings



Photo 7. Alta Mine site, access road



Photo 8. Alta Mine site, two adits





Photo 9. Alta Mine site, two adits



Photo 10. Alta Mine site, adit



Photo 11. Alta Mine site, adit



Photo 12. Alta Mine site, two adits





Photo 13. Alta Mine site, collapsed wood structure

**Part VIII      Contacts Reports and Information**

Name Stanley Edison

Title or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund Program

Address PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515

Telephone number (928) 871-6861

Information provided General Background and Contact/Access Information

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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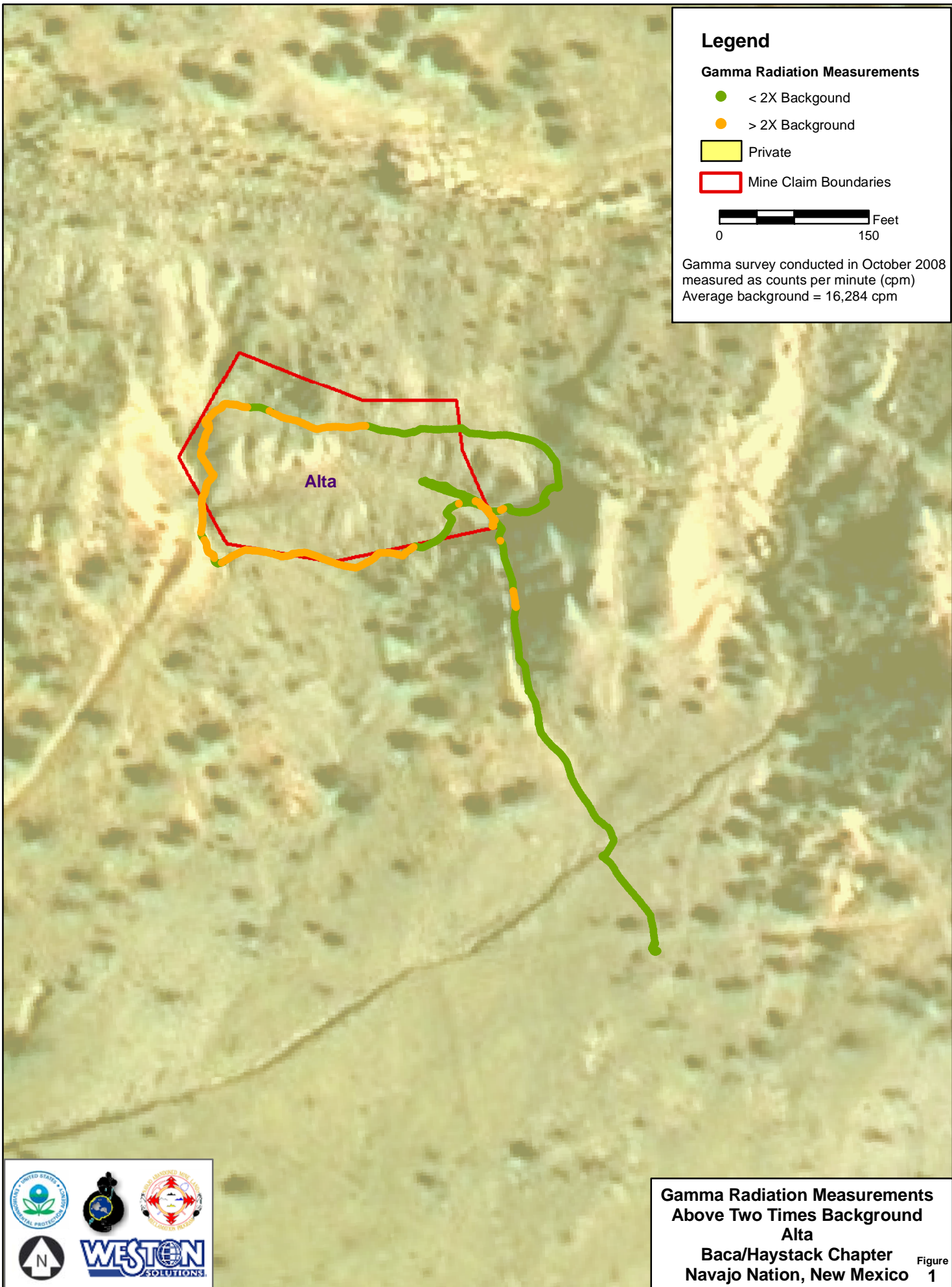
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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**Legend**

**Gamma Radiation Measurements**

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

Private

Mine Claim Boundaries

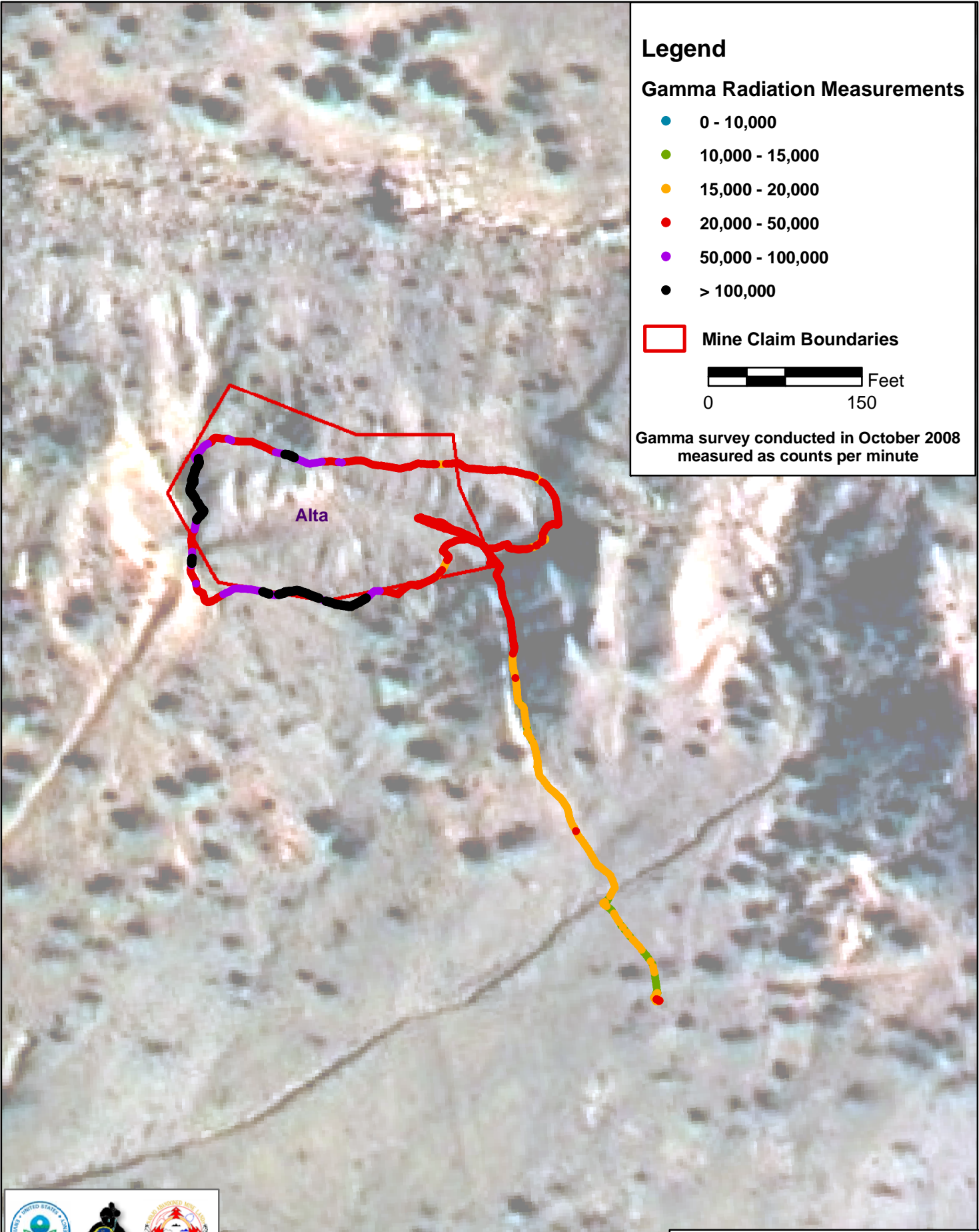
Feet  
0 150

Gamma survey conducted in October 2008  
 measured as counts per minute (cpm)  
 Average background = 16,284 cpm

Alta

**Gamma Radiation Measurements Above Two Times Background**  
**Alta**  
 Baca/Haystack Chapter  
 Navajo Nation, New Mexico Figure 1





**Legend**

**Gamma Radiation Measurements**

- 0 - 10,000
- 10,000 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 20,000
- 20,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 100,000
- > 100,000

□ Mine Claim Boundaries



Gamma survey conducted in October 2008  
measured as counts per minute



**Gamma Radiation Measurements**  
Alta  
Baca/Haystack Chapter  
Navajo Nation, New Mexico Figure 2