

# 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.*

**Homestake Sapin No. 25**

**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:** 353

**Map ID:** E65

**CERCLIS:** NOT ASSIGNED

**NAMLRP:** NOT ASSIGNED

**New Mexico Mining and Mineral Division ID:** NM0018

**New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources:** NMMK0220

**Local name / Aliases:** Section 25

**New Mexico MMD District:** Ambrosia Lake

**Lat/Long:** 35.4146327389 N / -107.852397877 W

**Nearby road and highway:** Ambrosia Lake Rd / NM-509 **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:**

The mine site property is classified as private land. New Mexico MMD identifies the surface owner as Homestake Mining / Ebert Roundy, and owner of the mineral rights as The Newmont Mining Corporation. Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine 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:** None

**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.**

Homestake Sapin No. 25 mine consists of a surface area of 524,695.06 square meters, with an additional 317,819.17 square meters of underground workings. Any historical information pertaining to mining operations and historical ownership of the mine site appeared to be unclear. The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division identified the operator in 1957 as Utah Construction Company, who sunk the initial shaft; 1958-1969 as Homestake-Sapin Partners; 1969-1981 as United Nuclear-Homestake Partners; 1981-1990 as Homestake Mining Co. (1983-1990 mine water recovery only).

**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. Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine site. According to the New Mexico Mining and Mineral division, in August 1991, the buildings, headframe, hoist equipment, IX plant & trash were removed, and the building material was buried on site, the IX plant was disposed at the Grants mill site, the shaft was backfilled & sealed with reinforced concrete, and the boreholes were backfilled and capped with concrete.

**Part IV      Summary of radiological readings**

**Note:** Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine site.

**Background Locations** - None

**Mine site:** Homestake Sapin No. 25  
- See Figure 1

**Nearby Structure Perimeter** – None

**Describe any other radiological measurements:**

None collected.

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

Presented in Figure 1

**Part VI Response Action Summary**

**Site Name(s):** Homestake Sapin No. 25 **New Mexico MMD District:** Ambrosia Lake

**Decision Criteria**

**Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site?** None observed

**At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located?** N/A

**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?** None observed

**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 potential drinking water source?** N/A

**Summary of emergency response factors**

None

**Summary hazard ranking system factors**

None

**Summary of reclamation factors**

Reclamation status of the mine site is currently unknown

**Part VII      Photos**



Photo 1. Locked gate on road leading towards Homestake Sapin No. 25 mine site



Photo 2. Locked gate on road leading towards Homestake Sapin No. 25 mine site

**Part VIII      Contacts Reports and Information**

Name Susan A. Lucas Kamat

Title or official role (if any) AUM Data Manager – New Mexico Mining & Mineral Division

Telephone number (505) 476-3408    fx: (505) 476-3408

Information provided Background information and findings from 2008 New Mexico MMD  
Survey of mining sites.

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Name Dana Bahar

Title or official role (if any) Manager, Superfund Oversight Section

Ground Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department

Telephone number (505) 827-2908

Information provided General Background Information

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Name Mary Ann Menetrey

Title or official role (if any) Manager, Mining Environmental Compliance Section

Ground Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department

Telephone number (505) 827-2944

Information provided General Background Information

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**Legend**

- Private
- Mine Claim Boundaries

0 600 Feet

Homestake Sapin No. 25

Homestake Sapin No. 25  
Navajo Nation, New Mexico

Figure 1