

# 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.*

## Section 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:** 363, 365, 366

**Map ID:** E93 (363)  
E98 (365)  
E99 (366)

**CERCLIS:** NOT ASSIGNED

**New Mexico Mining and Mineral Division ID:** 363 – NM0070  
365 – NM0044  
366 – NM0044

**New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources:** 363 - NMMK0219  
365 - NMMK0218  
366 – NMMK0218

**Local name / Aliases:**

- 363 – Section 25 SEQ, Desideiro, Amiran, Operation Haystack, Sec. 25 Strip Complex, Sec. 25 Open Pit
- 365 – NW ¼ Section 25, Vanadium No. 1, Rock No. 1, Section 25 Shaft, Open Pit
- 366 – Section 25 SEQ, Desideiro, Amiran, Operation Haystack, Sec. 25 Strip Complex, Sec. 25 Open Pit

**New Mexico MMD District:** Ambrosia Lake

**Lat/Long:** 35.3330061285 N / -107.851948576 W (#363)  
35.3271869882 N / -107.848825328 W (#365)  
35.3230455624 N / -107.843177580 W (#366)

**Nearby road and highway:** Haystack Road / NM-334 **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 State, Bureau of Land Management, and private land. New Mexico MMD identifies the surface owners as Elkins Real Estate & Berryhill Ranch Ltd, and owner of the mineral rights as The Newmont Mining Corporation. Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access 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:** 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.**

Section 25 mine consists of 3 separate mine sites, with a total surface area of 664,174.41 square meters, with an additional 43,791.16 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 of Site ID# 365 from 1963-1967 as Farris Mines; Site ID# 363 from 1952-1964 as Haystack Mountain Development Company; and in 1981 as Amiran Co. Ltd./Reserve Oil & Minerals; and Site ID# 366 in 1951 as ATSF RR; 1955-1961 as Haystack Mountain Development Corp.; 1962-1965 as Santa Fe Pacific; 1970-1972 as United Nuclear/Bailey & Fife; and 1980-1981 as Amiran/Reserve Oil & Minerals.

### **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, at Site ID# 365 during the 1980s Amiran/Reserve backfilled features after lease expired; in 1993 Santa Fe Pacific reclaimed & reseeded; in 1994 additional reclamation occurred, debris was removed, and a rainwater impoundment was built for livestock.

### **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:** Section 25  
- See Figure 1

**Nearby Structure Perimeter** – None

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

Radiological measurements collected for the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division during a 2008 field screening survey found gamma radiation levels at Site ID# 365 with a background at 20-30 counts per second (cps); waste at 900 cps; and pits at 2,000-3,300 cps; Site ID# 363 with a background at 20-30 cps; and dumps at 3200 cps; and Site ID# 366 with a background at 20-30 cps; waste at 900 cps; and pits at 2,000-3,300 cps. Measurements collected for the New Mexico Environment Department found gamma radiation levels at Site ID# 363 of an adit at 40 cps; a limestone cut trash dump at 142 cps; above the arroyo at 177 cps; a vent hole at 48 cps; a drainage from the limestone cut at 40 cps; waste rock at 558 cps; and a stock tank at the end of the drainage at 177 cps.

**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):** Section 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 Section 25 mine site



Photo 2. Locked gate leading towards Section 25 mine site



Photo 3. Fenced area leading towards Section 25 mine site



The following photographs were collected by the New Mexico Environment Department:



Open pit area (Section 25 #363) adit



Open pit area (Section 25 #363) bulldozer cut into limestone, current trash dump area



Open pit area (Section 25 #363) facing east towards possible reclaimed area



Open pit area (Section 25 #363) facing southeast, overlooking mined area



Open pit area (Section 25 #363) waste rock near drainage



Aggregate pit area (Section 25 #366) facing the southwest



SEQ area (northwest corner of Section 25 #366) facing the west

**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

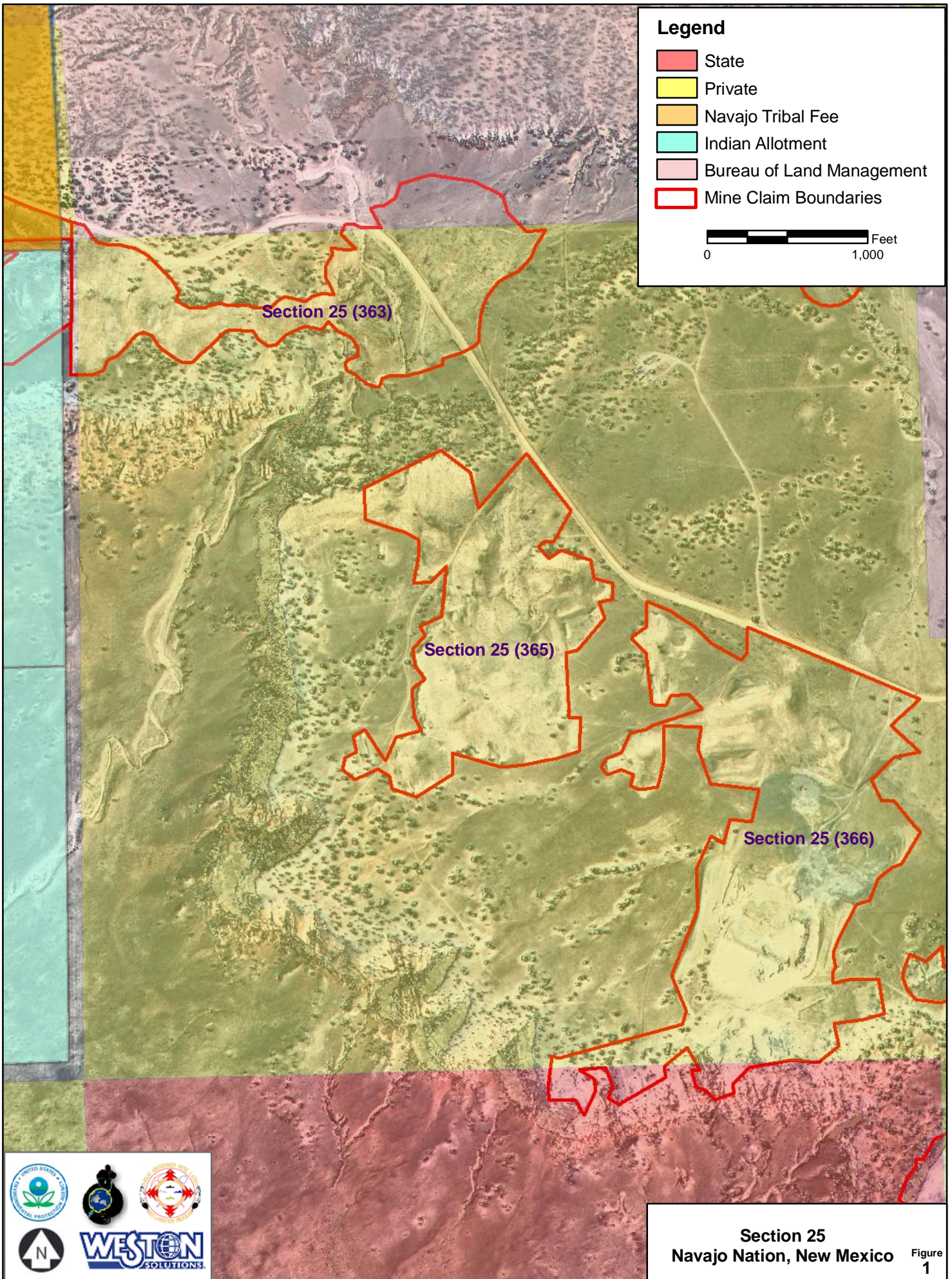
Title or official role (if any) Manager, Mining Environmental Compliance Section

Ground Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department

Telephone number (505) 827-2944

Information provided General Background Information

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**Legend**

- State
- Private
- Navajo Tribal Fee
- Indian Allotment
- Bureau of Land Management
- Mine Claim Boundaries

0  1,000 Feet

Section 25 (363)

Section 25 (365)

Section 25 (366)



**Section 25**  
**Navajo Nation, New Mexico** Figure 1