

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, pits and waste piles. 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 not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands that 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, and record all immediate site information associated with the mine site. Decisions and recommendations on what additional steps are needed will be provided on a separate document.

Billy Topaha Mine AUM Site

Navajo AUM Northern Region

Prepared by:

Weston Solutions, Inc.

Contract: W91238-06-F-0083

12767.063.496.1111

March 2010

Part I Site Identification, Location and Status

Site Names and ID numbers as applicable

Mine ID: 422

Map ID: N258

CERCLIS: NNN000908887

Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: None

Local name / Aliases: Topaha

Chapter and local area: Red Valley Chapter

County: Apache

State: Arizona

Lat/Long: 36.5005295341 N / -109.22530652 W

Nearby road and highway: Indian Route 63

Local Post Office: Red Valley, AZ

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

Tribal Trust Land

Public lands

Private

Tribal Fee Land

Bureau of Land Mgmt

Allotment

State

Fee land

Subsurface Mineral Rights:

No information on subsurface mineral rights ownership was found in the EPA/AUM Database.

Claim and operator information:

The mine site surface land status is classified as Tribal Trust Land. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Climax Uranium from 1959 to 1960. No other historical ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

Number of residential structures within 200 feet of mine:

None

Estimated volume of mine waste onsite:

Unknown

Part II Summary of radiological readings

Highest gamma radiation measurement:

16,886 counts per minute (cpm)

Describe any other radiological measurements:

Weston was unable to access the site. All known paths leading towards the site were impassible due to steep grades and heavy vegetation. Measurements were collected in the general vicinity of the site, approximately 400’ south of the site boundary. A total of 2,497 gamma radiation measurements were collected near the mine site, ranging from 7,496 cpm to 16,886 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

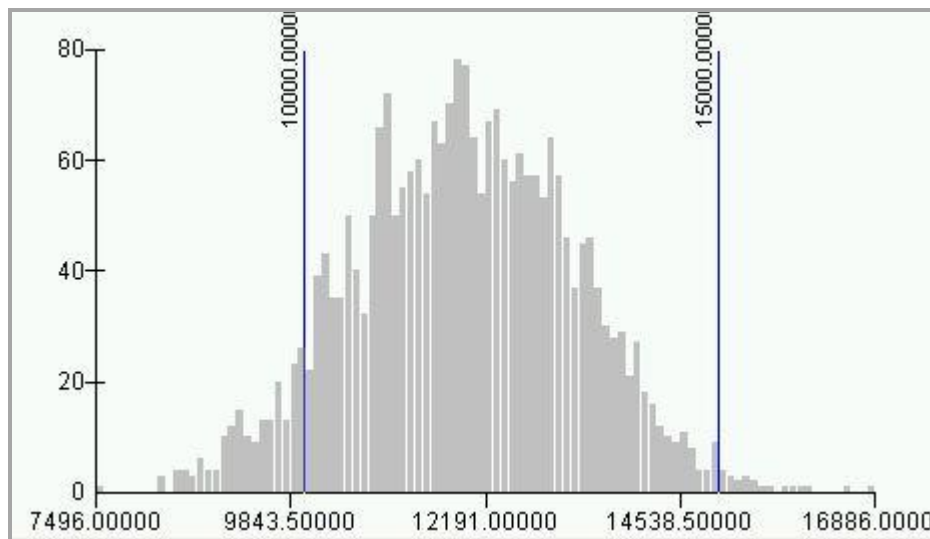
Background Locations

Average background = 10,624 cpm

#1 10,624 cpm

Distribution Chart and Statistics:

The following chart and statistics were generated by ESRI ArcGIS 9.3.1, and show the general distribution of the site gamma radiation measurements. The horizontal X axis represents the gamma radiation reading levels in cpm (lowest levels to the left). The vertical Y axis represents the frequency of each gamma radiation level.



Count:	2497
Minimum:	7496.00000
Maximum:	16886.00000
Sum:	29792778.00000
Mean:	11931.42891
Median:	11933.00000
Standard Deviation:	1332.35856

Part III Status of Reclamation and Mine Waste

The following information was obtained from the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) Point Features Database:

NAMLRP Status of the mine site: Reclaimed : No Waste Pile onsite : Yes

NAMLRP Project Number: None

NAMLRP Mine features: 1 Portal

The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2009 site screening:

Provide description and 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 caps.

Observed reclamation work and status:

Adits

Unknown

Waste Piles

Unknown

Pits

Unknown

Shafts

Unknown

Other Debris and Mine Features

The site was inaccessible, therefore no other mine features were observed during the site visit.

Part IV

Site observations and Environs

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, type of mining operation, period of operation, known amount of production, and any other information as provided.

Billy Topaha Mine consists of an area of 17,666.95 m². The mine was identified as being operational from 1959 to 1960. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as Climax Uranium from 1959 to 1960. While operational, the mine had a total reported production volume of 703 tons. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

Part V Response Action Summary

Site Name(s): Billy Topaha Mine **Chapter:** Cove

Decision Criteria

Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site? Unknown

At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located? None

At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources? None

Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site? Unknown

Is the cap/seal functionally intact? Unknown

Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases? Unknown

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located? None

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source? None

Summary of emergency response factors

None

Summary hazard ranking system factors

None

Summary of reclamation factors

Unknown

Part VI Photos



Photo 1. Inaccessible steep grades towards site



Photo 2. Inaccessible steep grades towards site



Photo 3. Impassible heavy vegetation towards site

Part VII Contacts Reports and Information

Name: Stanley Edison (928) 871-6861

Eugene Esplain (928) 871-7331

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

Address PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515

Information provided Lead Regulatory Agency

Name _____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Information provided _____

Name _____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number _____

Information provided _____

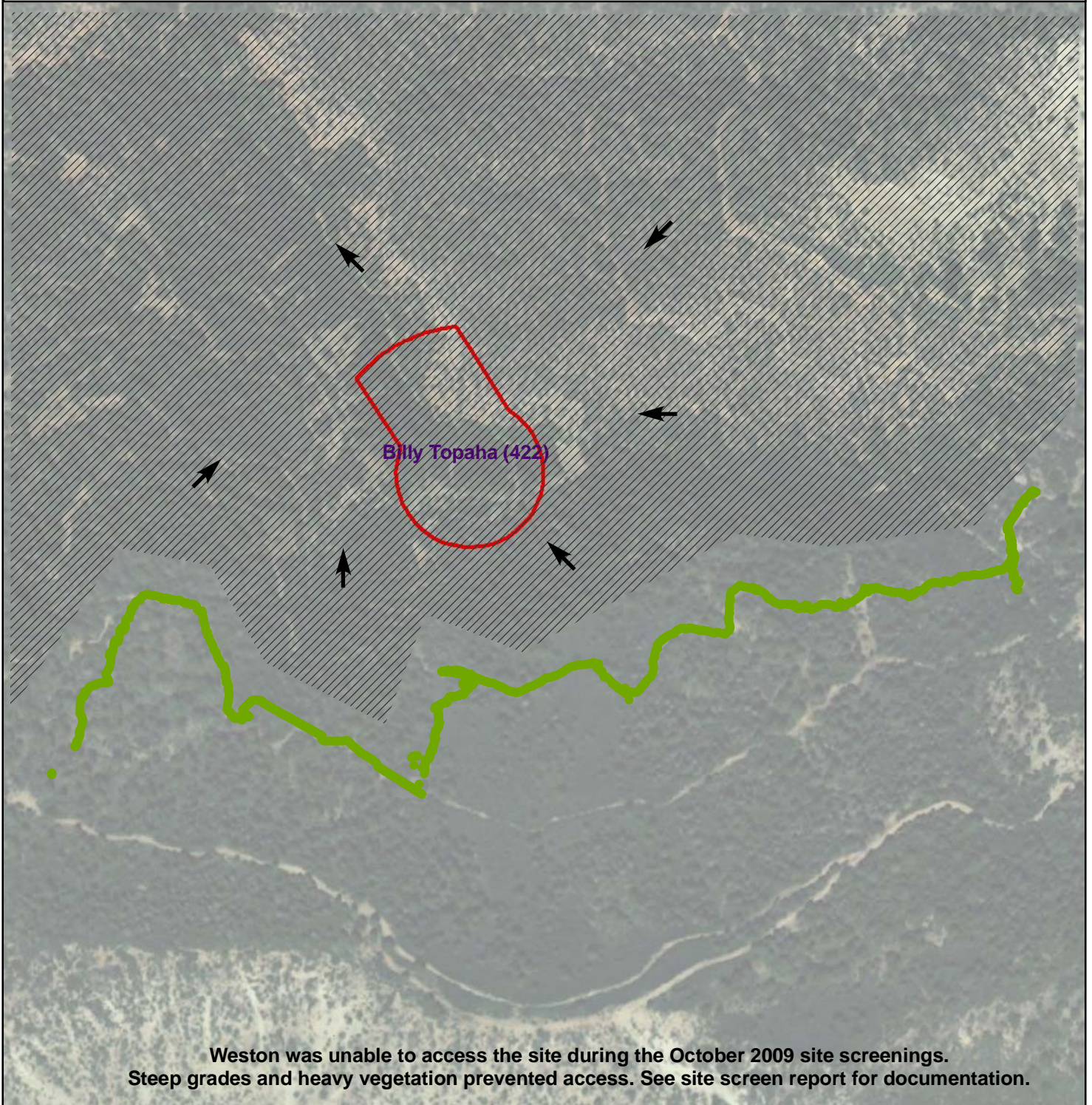
Name _____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number _____

Information provided _____

**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background
Billy Topaha (422)
Cove Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona**



Legend

Gamma Radiation Measurements

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

Gamma survey conducted 10/2009
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background = 10,624 cpm

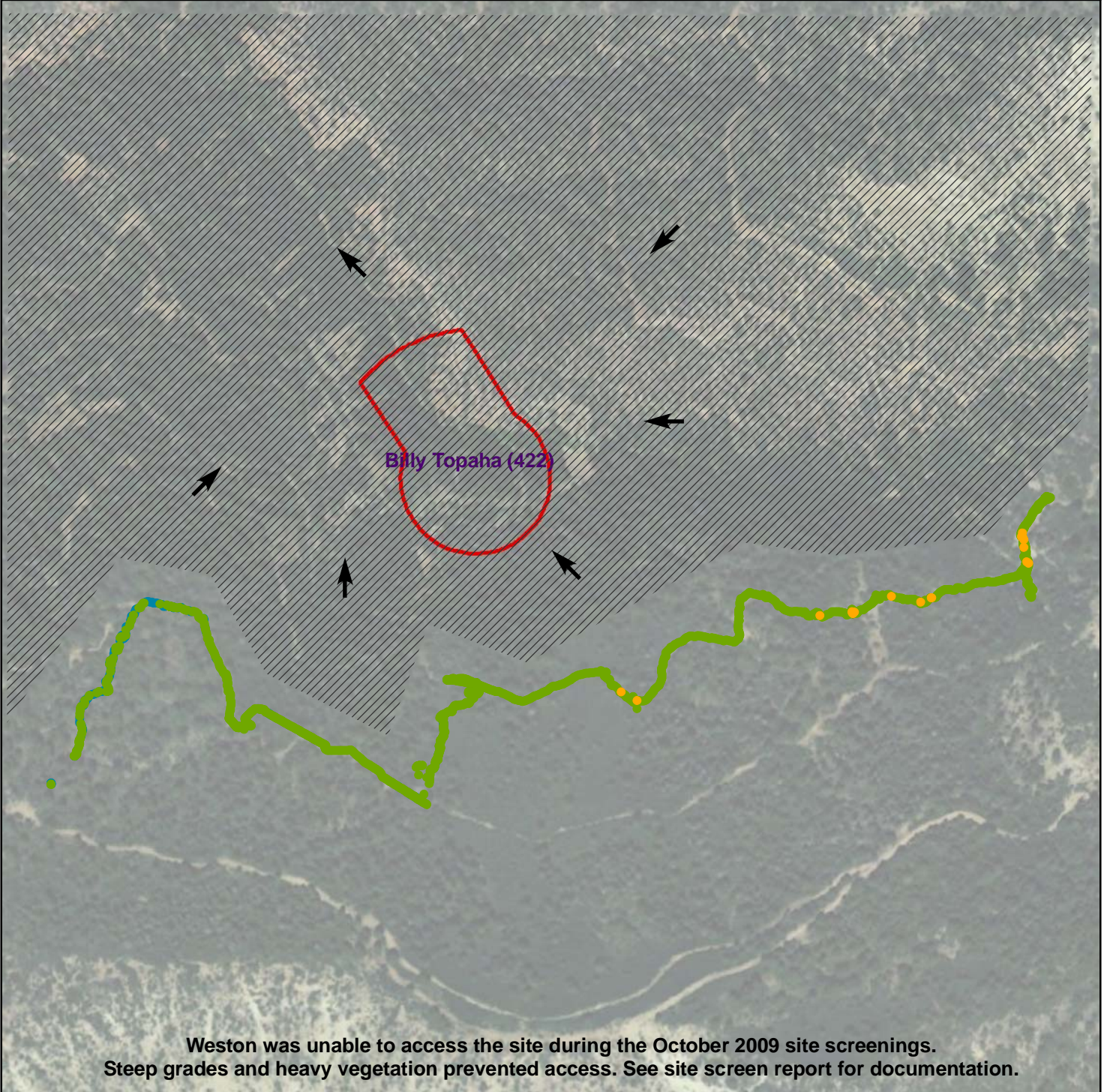
 Inaccessible due to steep grades

 General Direction Down-Slope

 Mine Claim Boundaries



**Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements
Billy Topaha (422)
Cove Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona**



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

- ▨ Inaccessible due to steep grades
- ➔ General Direction Down-Slope
- ▭ Mine Claim Boundaries

**Gamma survey conducted 10/2009
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)**

Average background = 10,624 cpm