

The EPA Emergency Response Section is conducting a CERCLA removal action to mitigate the imminent and substantial threats to human health, welfare, or the environment by taking steps to prevent the release of radium-226, uranium, and the external gamma radiation. The removal action will include the following objectives to prevent direct human contact with external alpha and gamma radiation as well as uranium and its progeny radium-226 and the radon from building materials and in residential soils at up to 13 properties. Generally, the foundations of these homes were constructed using Uranium Mine waste rock and materials.

The EPA entered into a Cooperative Agreement with The Community Housing and Infrastructure Department (CHID) department of Navajo Nation. CHID will be repairing or rebuilding structures demolished during the removal actions conducted on the Navajo Nation. The removal actions will mitigate actual human exposures to radioactive contaminants inside structures by demolishing the structures, some of which are primary residences. CHID will replace the structures, thus completing the removal action. Inspections will be conducted on rebuilding activities throughout the process to ensure the structures meet specifications. This allows Navajo residents to build Navajo homes, creating jobs and ensuring high quality construction.

Removal activities:

1. Remove portions of or the entirety of 10 contaminated structures
2. Remove contaminated soil or material from 13 residential properties
3. Transport and dispose excavated material at an appropriate facility
4. Replace excavated soils with clean fill and restore property to pre-removal conditions
5. Conduct confirmation scanning, sampling and analysis
6. Provide voluntary temporary lodging for families of affected residential properties

Financials:

Current Action Memorandum (AM) ceiling - \$2,670,000. Amendment to AM is expected to include the Cooperative Agreement with CHID (\$3,087,967.00), and additional funding for START and USACE. The Amended AM is expected to be over \$6 million.

CR-81

Before demolition



Demolition in progress



New structure framed



New structure complete



New structure framed



New structure nearing completion



BH-34

Before demolition



Demolition in progress



BH-05

The location of this structure was over top an old lava field. This required extra effort to remove the lava to properly install the foundation and leach field



For additional information, please visit:

<http://www.epaossc.org/BACAHAYSTACK>

Contact information:

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