

Summer/Fall 2019 Mine Waste Cleanup Work on Mesa II in Cove

Introduction

This fact sheet informs residents of USEPA's upcoming mine cleanup work at the Mesa II site in Cove, Arizona. Companies mined for uranium at the Mesa II mine and other places in the Lukachukai Mountains above the Cove Valley between 1950 and 1968. Surface water run-off from these areas is contaminating most of the drainages in the Cove Wash. The likely source of this contamination comes from waste piles near the Mesa II cliffs, which erode into water drainages.

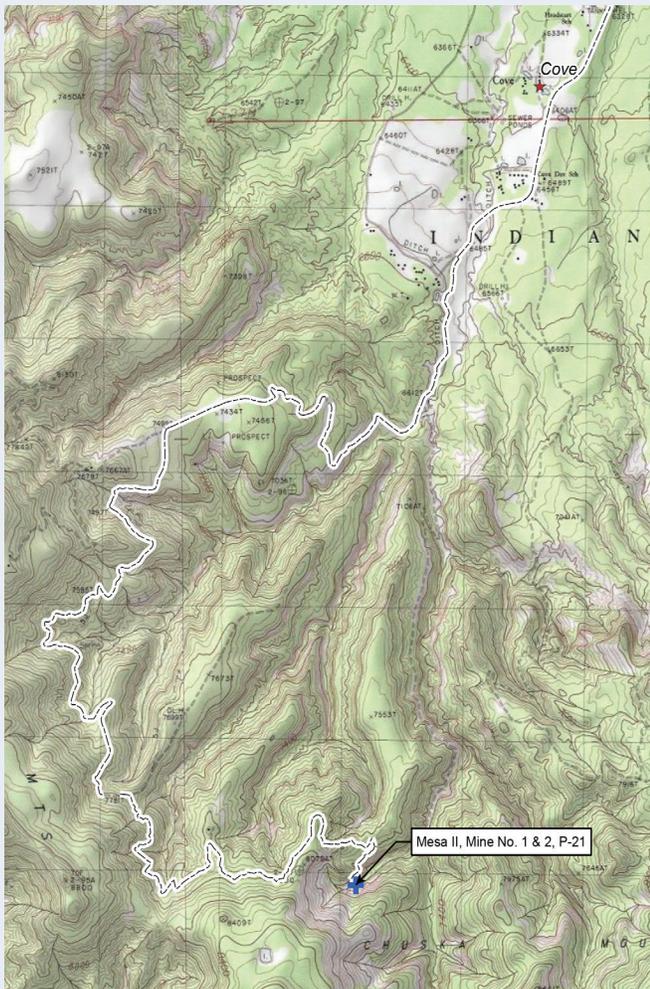


FIGURE 1: Topographic map showing Mesa II in relation to Cove.

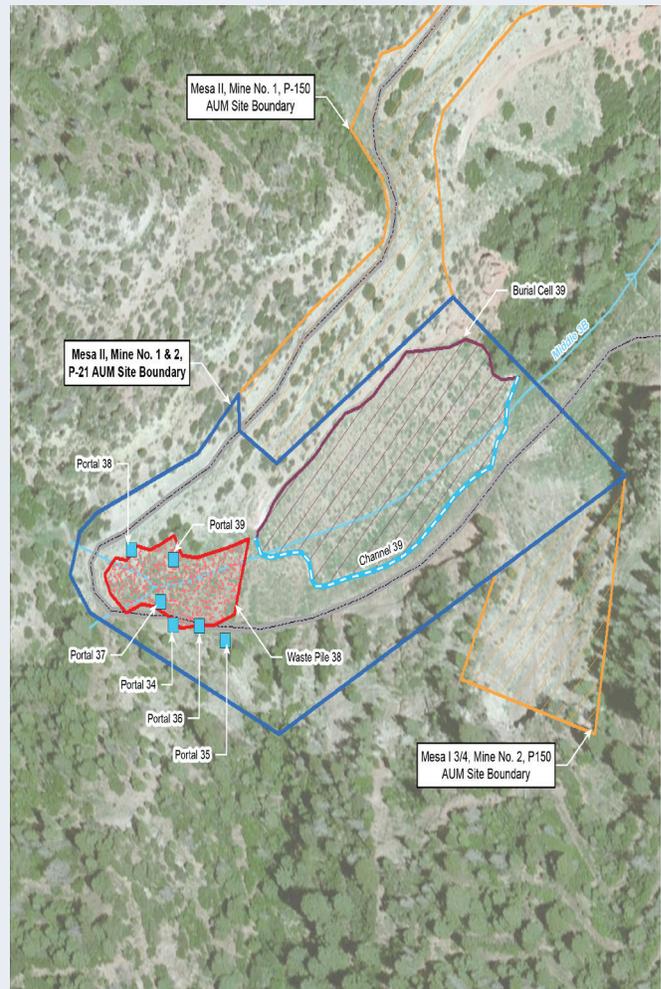


FIGURE 2: Satellite map showing Mesa II area.



FIGURE 3: Person surveying erosion.



FIGURE 4: Sealed Mesa II opening.

What will take place?

The goal of the work is to stop the spread of contamination from Mesa II and protect people, livestock and the environment. The cleanup work will secure the site and stabilize erosion. This work includes improving an access road for equipment and building a water diversion channel. Erosion control, dust suppression measures and air monitoring will be used throughout the work to make sure cleanup work does not affect Cove community members. The work on Mesa II is part of a larger effort to address abandoned uranium mines on Navajo Nation.

When will it take place?

USEPA, and its contractors Clawson and TetraTech will begin work at Mesa II in August 2019. The work is expected to be done in six weeks.

What will happen after the work is complete?

Once work is complete, USEPA will monitor the site to ensure erosion does not return.

For More Information

If you have questions about the Cove Mesa II work, please contact:

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