

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Mine Category Assessment Protocol (MCAP) - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: POLREP #4
SITREP 4 - MCAP Assessment
Mine Category Assessment Protocol (MCAP)
Cove, AZ

To: Harry Allen, EPA Region 9
Will Duncan, EPA Region 9

From: Randy Nattis, On Scene Coordinator

Date: 4/22/2016

Reporting Period: 4/22/2016

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Time-Critical
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 4/18/2016	Start Date: 4/19/2016
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Mine Category Assessment Protocol (MCAP) reconnaissance in support of the Tronox settlement

1.1.2 Site Description

120 mine claim areas, 26 mine claims are specifically identified in the Tronox settlement, with an additional 6 mine claims determined as 'other mines' within the Tronox settlement

The MCAP Target Sites, historical site screening information, and other relevant layers supporting the MCAP site visits are displayed on the Region 9 Navajo Operational Viewer located at: <https://r9.ercloud.org/navajoops/>.

1.1.2.1 Location

Red Valley, AZ 86544 - The MCAP effort will take place throughout the Northern agency of the Navajo Nation, extending from the Lukachukai Mountains north to Teec Nos Pos

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Potential releases and the threat of future releases of hazardous substances, namely: uranium and its progeny (i.e., radium-226 and radon) and ionizing gamma and alpha radiation associated with those progeny. The likelihood of direct human exposure, via ingestion and/or inhalation of hazardous substances, and the threat of future releases and migration of those substances, pose an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment based on the factors set forth in the NCP, 40 CFR § 300.415(b)(2).

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The MCAP field teams successfully assessed several mines and target areas along Mesa 1 3/4, and Mesa 2. The field teams also finished the final site visit to Mesa V and the areas of interest surrounding the Cove Transfer Station. The field teams attempted to access the south side of the Lukachukai mountains but

continuously encountered deep snow banks and fallen trees which limited vehicle access.

2.1.2 Assessment Activities to Date

On April 22, 6 of the 96 planned sites were evaluated. This makes for a total of 52 of the planned 96 mine areas.

2.1.3 Progress Metrics

52 of the 96 site have been evaluated to date, this represents 54% completion.

A list of all of the sites and their MCAP status can be found at:

<https://www.epaossc.org/sites/11282/files/MCAP%20Target%20Sites%20042216.xlsx>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The field teams will continue assessments along Mesa 2 and 3, along with target areas in the north in the Teec Nos Pos Chapter.

2.3 Logistics Section

Specialized equipment is necessary to assess the mine areas. Access to all sites require off road vehicles, the field teams are utilizing 3 Jeeps, 3 ATVs, and 2 UTVs. To measure and map radiation levels, 3 Trimble GPS units attached to Ludlum 2x2 radiation detectors are being used. Field data is being recorded on a customized electronic field form on iPads.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

1 OSC

5 START

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Daily SITREPS will be send as appropriate

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.