

Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program

This fact sheet provides information about the Defense-Related Uranium Mines program.

Program Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM) Defense-Related Uranium Mines (DRUM) program is a partnership between LM, federal land management agencies, and state and Tribal abandoned mine lands (AML) programs to verify and validate the condition of an estimated 4,225 mine sites across the nation. These DRUM sites provided uranium ore to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) for defense-related activities that occurred between 1947 and 1970.

Most DRUM sites are located on public land and are abandoned. Initiated in 2017, DRUM Campaign 1 focuses on approximately 2,300 legacy mines located on public land and administered by federal and state agencies. Field work for Campaign 2 began in August 2022 and focuses on approximately 210 legacy mines located on Tribal land. Campaign 3 began in March 2024 and focuses on approximately 650 legacy mines located on private property. LM implements the program by conducting verification and validation activities, which include:

- Exchanging program results and information with other federal, state, Tribal governments, and private landowners.
- Performing field inventories to document mining-related features at DRUM sites for safety risks.
- Conducting environmental sampling to evaluate health and environmental risks.
- Producing mine-specific reports that document conditions at DRUM sites.
- Working with partner agencies to leverage resources to address mines with physical safety hazards.

Report to Congress

LM obtained its authority for the DRUM program under Section 3151 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013. The act mandated that the Secretary of Energy conduct a review of and prepare a report on abandoned uranium mines that provided ore for defense-related activities of the United States. LM consulted with other federal agencies, affected states and Tribes, and the public to develop the report. In August 2014, LM finalized the

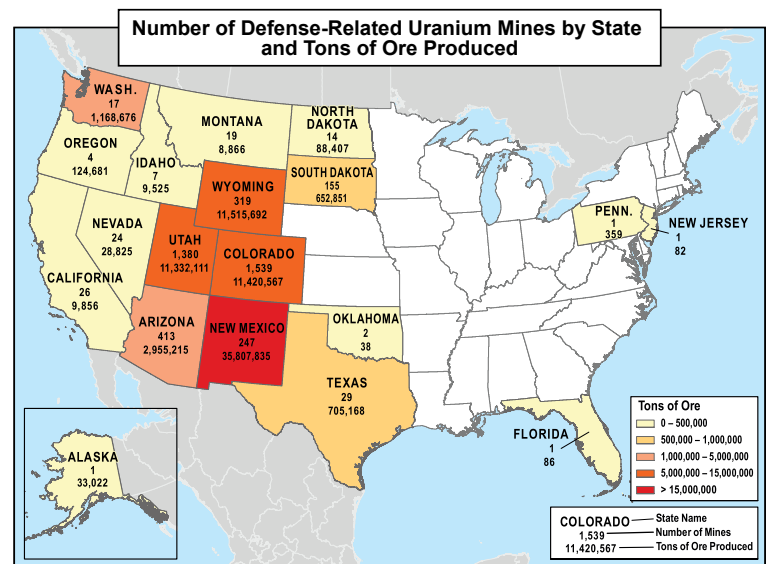
report, which identified significant data gaps for DRUM sites. LM determined that further review of DRUM sites was needed to fully meet the intent of the act. For more information, please visit the Report to Congress web page at www.energy.gov/lm/defense-related-uranium-mines-report-congress.



*Wild Steer Mine
(BLM-administered land).*

Abandoned Uranium Mines Working Group

The Abandoned Uranium Mines Working Group is a consortium of federal agencies working together to address the human health, safety, and environmental challenges posed by the nation's abandoned uranium mines. The working group is led by LM and includes leadership from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Indian Affairs, and National Park Service (NPS).



Field Operations

LM uses a technical support contractor to implement field projects that verify and validate DRUM sites. Projects are often grouped by mining district. Technical specialists perform tasks such as:

- Confirming accurate locations of DRUM sites through record reconciliation efforts.
- Determining the status of mine reclamation or remediation.
- Inventorying DRUM sites by collecting location and condition data on features, such as adits, shafts, and waste-rock piles.
- Performing gamma radiation walkover surveys.
- Conducting soil and water sampling (if applicable).
- Developing reports that provide rankings of physical safety hazards at DRUM sites, as well as performing preliminary screenings of potential risks to human health and the environment.

Field crews implementing the work administered by LM are the backbone of the program. Their efforts support LM in achieving its current goal of evaluating over 2,300 DRUM sites located on public land by the end of CY 2024. LM aims to evaluate all mines on Tribal lands by Sept 30, 2027, and all mines on private land by Sept 30, 2028.



Adit at the Cedar Mine, a Small Mine Located Southeast of Moab, Utah (BLM-administered land).



Rattlesnake Open Pit, a Large Mine Located Southeast of Moab, Utah (BLM-administered land).

Federal and State Partnerships

In order to effectively verify and validate DRUM sites, LM continues to maintain and develop new partnerships with BLM, USFS, and NPS, as well as with state, local, and Tribal governments in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, South Dakota, and Wyoming. LM will continue to expand its partnerships until all DRUM sites are verified and validated.

In addition, LM has formed partnerships with state AML programs to safeguard hazardous mine features. These partnerships work collaboratively to identify and document hazardous mine features and perform safeguarding projects to mitigate the hazards. Agreements are established with AML programs in Colorado and Utah to obtain inventories of DRUM sites located primarily on private, mixed-ownership, and state land. LM will continue to work with state AML programs, which offer authority and expertise regarding the status and closures of physical safety hazards presented by DRUM sites. As of Sept 30, 2024, LM has facilitated the safeguarding of 1,100 hazardous features. Hundreds of additional hazardous features are planned for closure in 2024 and 2025.



Adits at the Mucho Claims Mine, located southwest of Green River, Utah, before and after safeguarding (BLM-administered land).



CONTACT INFORMATION

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AT THE SITE,
CONTACT 911**

**LM TOLL-FREE EMERGENCY HOTLINE:
(877) 695-5322**

Information about the Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program is available at www.energy.gov/lm/defense-related-uranium-mines-program

For more information about LM activities, contact:

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