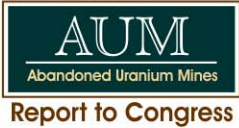


FACT SHEET

Defense-Related Uranium Mines Report to Congress

This fact sheet provides information about the Defense-Related Uranium Mines Report to Congress.

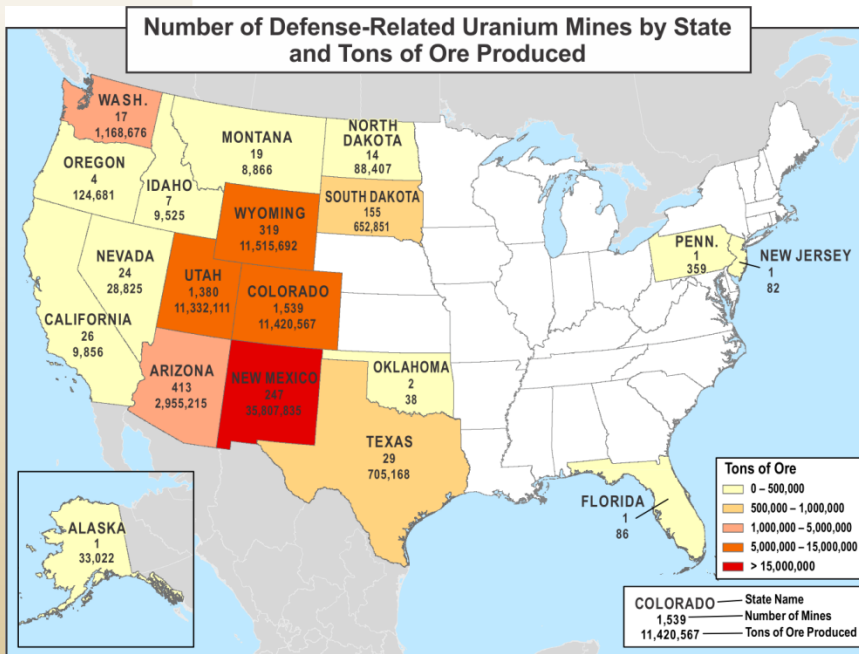


Legislation

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, signed into law on January 2, 2013, mandates the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to prepare a report on defense-related abandoned uranium mines. Specifically, Section 3151 of the Act states that “The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall undertake a review of, and prepare a report on, abandoned uranium mines in the United States *that provided uranium ore for atomic energy defense activities of the United States.*” The Act also requires consultation with other relevant federal agencies, affected states and tribes, and the interested public.

DOE Office of Legacy Management

The DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) was selected to develop the *Defense-Related Uranium Mines Report to Congress*. LM was established in 2003 to manage post-closure activities at former DOE defense and uranium ore mill sites. LM currently manages 90 sites. Twenty-seven are uranium mill sites remediated under Title I or Title II of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act. These former mill sites processed ore from many of today’s known abandoned uranium mines for atomic energy defense purposes. Past and current LM activities relating to uranium mining include reclamation of uranium mines in the Uranium Mineral Belt, which were



a legacy of the DOE Uranium Leasing Program and involvement in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Work-for-Others Program for abandoned mine reclamation.

The Report to Congress

DOE submitted the Report to Congress in September 2014. The report describes and analyzes:

- the location of abandoned uranium mines on federal, state, tribal, and private lands (see figure above);
- the extent to which abandoned uranium mines pose a significant radiation hazard or other public health and safety threat, and cause, or have caused, water or other environmental degradation;
- a priority ranking for the reclamation and remediation of abandoned uranium mines; the potential cost and feasibility of reclamation and remediation in accordance with federal law; and
- the status of any efforts to remediate and reclaim abandoned uranium mines.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

In preparing the report, LM maximized the use of existing information on defense-related abandoned uranium mines, including databases from federal, state, and tribal agencies. Cleanup standards and costs of reclamation and remediation efforts performed by other agencies were also taken into account.

Findings from the Report to Congress

- Over 90 percent of defense-related abandoned uranium mines are located in five states: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.
- Mines that have not been reclaimed pose the greatest physical hazards. All mines, regardless of size, can have physical hazards that may pose serious risks.
- Cleanup status for only 15 percent of the mines could be confirmed.
- Greatest health risk is radon.
- Some mines have affected groundwater; cleanup of those mines could be significant.



C-SR-10 Uintah Mine, Colorado
LM Uranium Lease Tracts

Consultation with Other Agencies and the Public

LM consulted with mine reclamation and remediation experts from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies through the Federal Mining Dialogue, which is a forum for discussing and coordinating abandoned mine lands-related issues among federal agencies.

LM also consulted with affected states and tribes, and the public by participating in public mining forums (e.g., National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs Conference). LM also hosted agency and public webinars to solicit input for the Report to Congress. Discussions focused on abandoned uranium mine studies and locations as well as abandoned uranium mine impacts on public health, the environment, and cultural resources.

LM continues to consult with EPA and U.S. Bureau of Land Management on the impacts of defense-related abandoned uranium mines.

To learn more about the Report to Congress, please visit the LM website at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/AUM>. You may also submit questions, comments, and information about mine activities by contacting LM through one of the resources listed below.

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