

USEPA and Navajo Nation Contaminated Structures Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency's (NNEPA) Contaminated Structures Program (CSP) evaluates structures on Navajo Nation that may have been constructed using abandoned mine materials or built on or near abandoned mines. Mining materials that were used can potentially lead to exposure exceeding background (naturally occurring) levels. These materials include ore and waste rock used for foundations, walls, or fireplaces; mine tailings mixed into cement used for foundations, floors, and cinder block walls; and other contaminated building materials (wood, metal, etc.) that may have been salvaged from the abandoned mine areas.

The Contaminated Structures Program is responsible for conducting structure and yard evaluations of contaminated structures and material, as well removal and cleanup of contaminated structures and materials if there is an exposure risk.



Figure 1: Navajo Hogan Circa 1940 – 1950



Figure 2: Navajo Hogan Circa 1960 – 1970



Photo 1



Photo 2

Additional Information about the Contaminated Structures Program

- The program is for Navajo residents living close to mines or who know their home was built with contaminated materials.
- Participation in the CSP is voluntary and at no cost to the resident.
- The evaluation of the structure and yard is conducted by 4-6 contractors in addition to USEPA and NNEPA staff with radiation-specific instruments and survey equipment. It will take 2-3 hours to evaluate the inside and outside the home. (See Photos 1, 2, and 3).
- The resident must sign an access agreement providing permission to the CSP team to enter all structures on the homesite as well as the homesite itself. The resident is also asked to provide proof of home ownership.
- The resident can identify areas that are off-limits for the CSP team, and, on the day of evaluation, must keep dogs and other animals out of the team's way.
- A copy of all the data collected during the evaluation and results will be provided to the Homesite resident no later than six months following the completion of the evaluation.



Photo 3

For More Information About Navajo Contaminated Structures Program

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