



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Pacific Southwest Region 9

## Tronox Abandoned Uranium Mines

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 | April 2016

# Tronox Settlement Funds for 50 Navajo Uranium Mines

## \$45 Million Awarded to the Navajo Nation and \$1 Billion Awarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) EPA Funds Restricted to Use on ~50 Former Kerr-McGee (Tronox) Mines

In 2014, the United States District Court approved a historic legal settlement that will provide almost \$1 billion to the USEPA to investigate and clean up approximately 50 uranium mines that were operated by Kerr-McGee Corporation on or near the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation also received \$45 million from this settlement that was deposited in the Navajo Nation's Superfund account.

### Tronox Settlement Background

The 2014 Tronox settlement provides a total of \$5.15 billion, including over \$4.4 billion to clean up many environmental contamination sites across the U.S. This includes almost \$1 billion to clean up more than 50 Navajo area uranium mines operated by Kerr-McGee. It is known as the Tronox settlement because the case arose from the Tronox Bankruptcy. In the bankruptcy, the U.S., the Navajo Nation and other parties sued to recover funds from Kerr-McGee and Anadarko Petroleum companies for environmental and other liabilities that Tronox could not pay. It is the largest environmental clean up settlement in U.S. history.

From the late 1940s to the 1980s, Kerr-McGee Corporation mined more than seven million tons of uranium ore on or near the Navajo Nation. About 26 of these mines are located in the Cove and Lukachukai Chapters. Other mines are located in the Teec Nos Pos, Coyote Canyon, Casamero Lake, and Baca/Prewitt Chapters. The settlement also provides approximately \$45 million to the Navajo Nation in connection with the Shiprock uranium mill site.

USEPA has placed the Tronox settlement funds it received in a special account that will be managed according to standard government accounting practices.

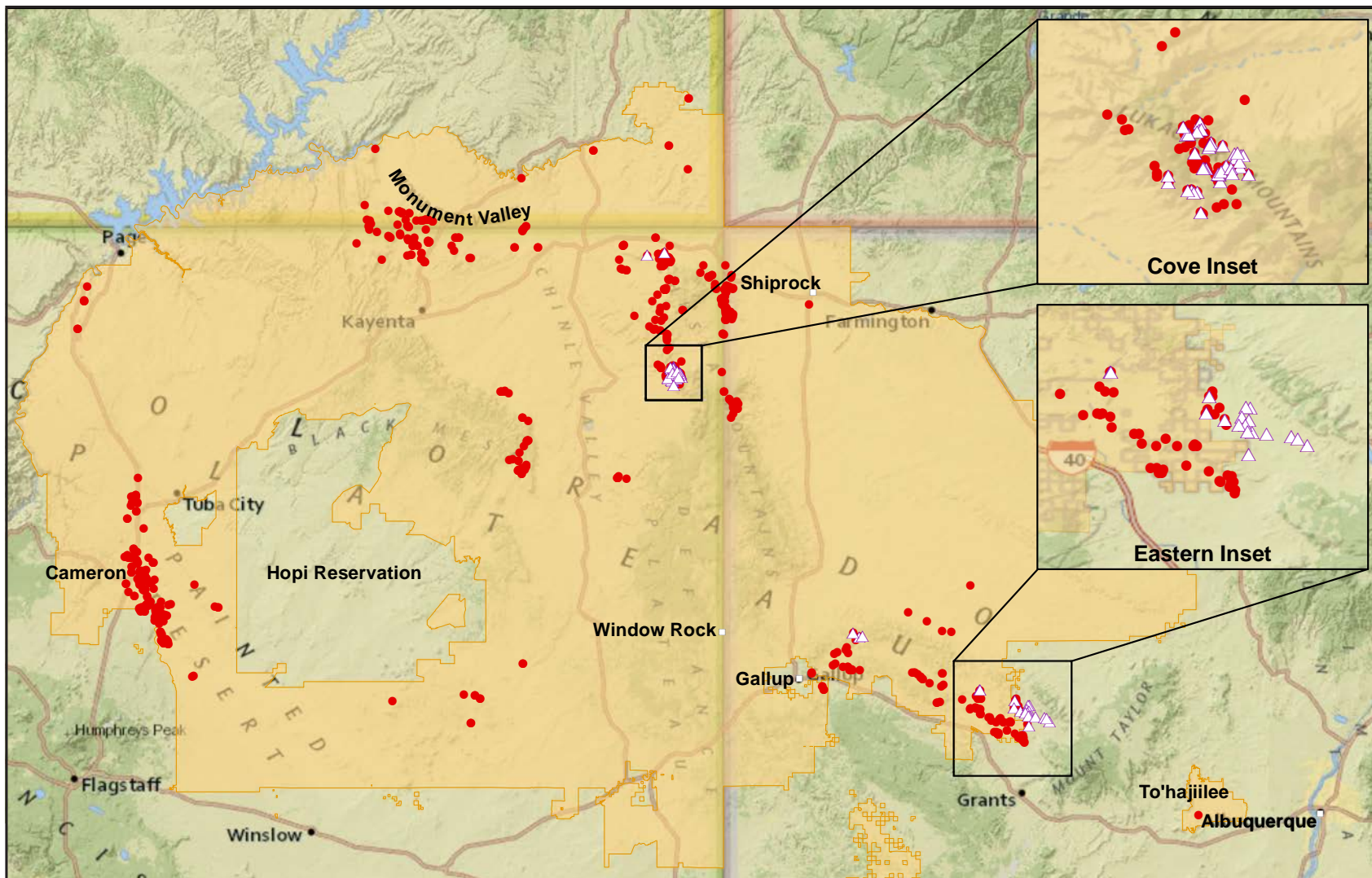
The Navajo Nation will manage approximately \$45 million of the Tronox settlement funds it received.




USEPA Tronox funds *can* be used to support activities related to the assessment and clean up the approximately 50 Tronox mines and contamination caused by the mines. Examples of these activities include:

- Inform and involve the community
- Investigate radiation levels in water, soil, sediment, and air
- Put up fences and signs to warn people about dangerous areas
- Protect cultural and biological resources in the mine areas
- Construct access roads to the mines for clean up operations
- Close mine openings and address other physical hazards

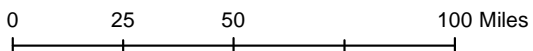
USEPA Tronox funds *cannot* be used for these activities:

- Pay people who worked at the mines or lived nearby (some compensation for mine workers is available through the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990)
- Construct projects not related to Tronox mine clean up or mine impacts



-  Tronox Abandoned Uranium Mine
-  Abandoned Uranium Mine
-  Navajo Nation Boundary

### Tronox Mines on and Near Navajo Nation Lands



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