

Presentation: "Public Outreach and Education"

Speaker: Mr. Brian Jordan, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Albuquerque, NM District

Handout: "Public Outreach on Tribal Lands"

Notes: Mr. Jordon discussed USACE's efforts to relate results of water studies to Native Americans living in Indian Reservations.

The outreach effort goals included:

- Bringing water data results back to communities.
- Raising community awareness about uranium mine related health hazards.
- Providing information to residents to make informed decisions.
- Giving residents resources, information and contacts.
- Obtaining information from communities to assist with future work.

Key messages that USACE wanted to convey to the Navaho Nation were to avoid drinking from unregulated water sources, stay away from mine areas, and avoid using materials from the mines. Additionally, USACE wanted to let them know that risks associated with livestock grazing were currently being evaluated, and that it was suggested that ranchers/farmers avoid using water sources marked on provided maps. Outreach products included CDs, maps, atlases, and educational material.

Lessons learned from the experience include:

- Effective coordination and collaboration are essential.
- A combination of information is required to make a first assessment of an area.
- Addressing the human health and environmental issues related to abandoned uranium mines will require that government agencies and other entities work together and combine their resources.

Discussion:

Regarding	Questions/Remarks	Response*
Outreach effort goals: community awareness	How did knowledge of potential uranium contamination affect their eating of the livestock?	The question is still out there; it's being investigated. The Navajos' primary concern was the effect of the mining on the livestock, not how it affected themselves and their children. They use all parts of the livestock, particularly in their ceremonies.

Regarding	Questions/Remarks	Response*
Key outreach message re mining areas	How large are the uranium mining areas?	The mining areas vary in size, ranging from 300 acres to a room half this size. Some of the larger mines are recognizable, but it's difficult to identify some of the smaller ones. The mines were predominantly surface mines; of the 1,200 mines, only about 100 were shaft mines.
Key outreach message regarding water sources	Did you place some sort of permanent marker for identifying potentially-contaminated water sources?	Mr. Jordon replied that markers were placed on a map. EPA does not mark water sources; that's a decision for the Navajo National Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA).
Outreach Products	Who paid to develop the two CD sets?	EPA paid to develop 500 sets of the CDs, and they are nearly ready for distribution. Fifty copies of the atlases were made.
Lessons Learned	Have you worked with the Hopis?	The Hopis at the community level have not expressed much interest in our activities; however, those at higher levels have expressed some interest.