

Comparison of Regional Mill Tailings Site Cleanup Efforts

	Durango Mill, Colorado	Atlas Mill, Moab, Utah	United Nuclear Corp Mill, Churchrock, NM	Homestake Mill, Milan, NM
Tailings volume	1.2 million yd ³	8.9 million yd ³	2.59 million yd ³ (approx.) ¹	30.8 million yd ³ (approx.)
Tailings mass	1.62 million tons (approx.)	11.9 million tons	3.5 million tons	22 million tons
Area of contamination	53 acres	130 acres	125 acres	270 acres
Distance from community	.25 miles of Durango, CO.	3 miles of Moab, UT.	.5 miles of Red Water Pond Rd.	< .25 miles from Murray Acres and 4 other subdivisions
Groundwater remediation?	Yes	Yes	Partial ²	Ongoing ³
Offsite disposal?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Timeline	1986-1991	Est. tailings removal by 2025	1986-? (current est. closure date: 2019)	1977-? (current est. closure date: 2022)
Cost	\$4.272 million (1989 dollars)	\$720 million	\$4.6 million (2004 estimate)	\$180 million (estimated)
Proximity to other Superfund sites	No	No	Yes; approx .5 miles from NE Churchrock Mine, Quivira Mine	No; within 5 miles of UMTRCA Title II Bluewater Mill site
Demographics	88.1% non-Hispanic white	90.3% non-Hispanic white	98.14% Native American	67.2% Hispanic

¹ EPA proposes to add an additional 1 million yd³ of mine waste from the NE Churchrock mine to an existing mill tailings pile.

² While groundwater remediation at UNC Churchrock was initially required, at least one remediation well has stopped pumping because of repeated failure to clean groundwater, and EPA has characterized contaminant migration in groundwater as "uncontrolled".

³ After approximately 35 years of groundwater treatment, monitor well data indicate a contamination plume spreading at least 1.5 miles horizontally from the tailings area, as well as vertically into underlying aquifers.