

# Status of NRC's Uranium Recovery Decommissioning Program

## 2014 National Mining Association Uranium Recovery Workshop

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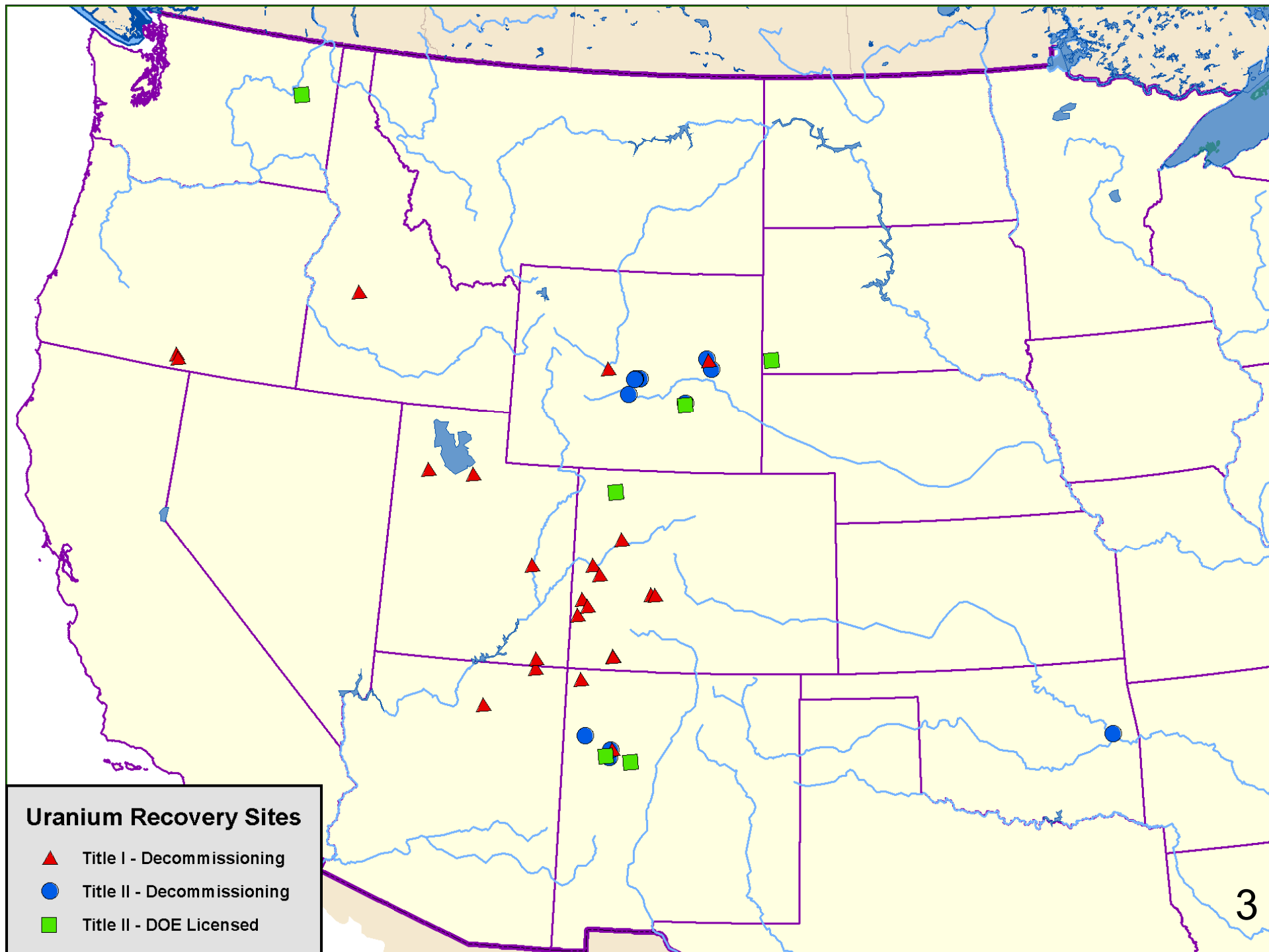
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection

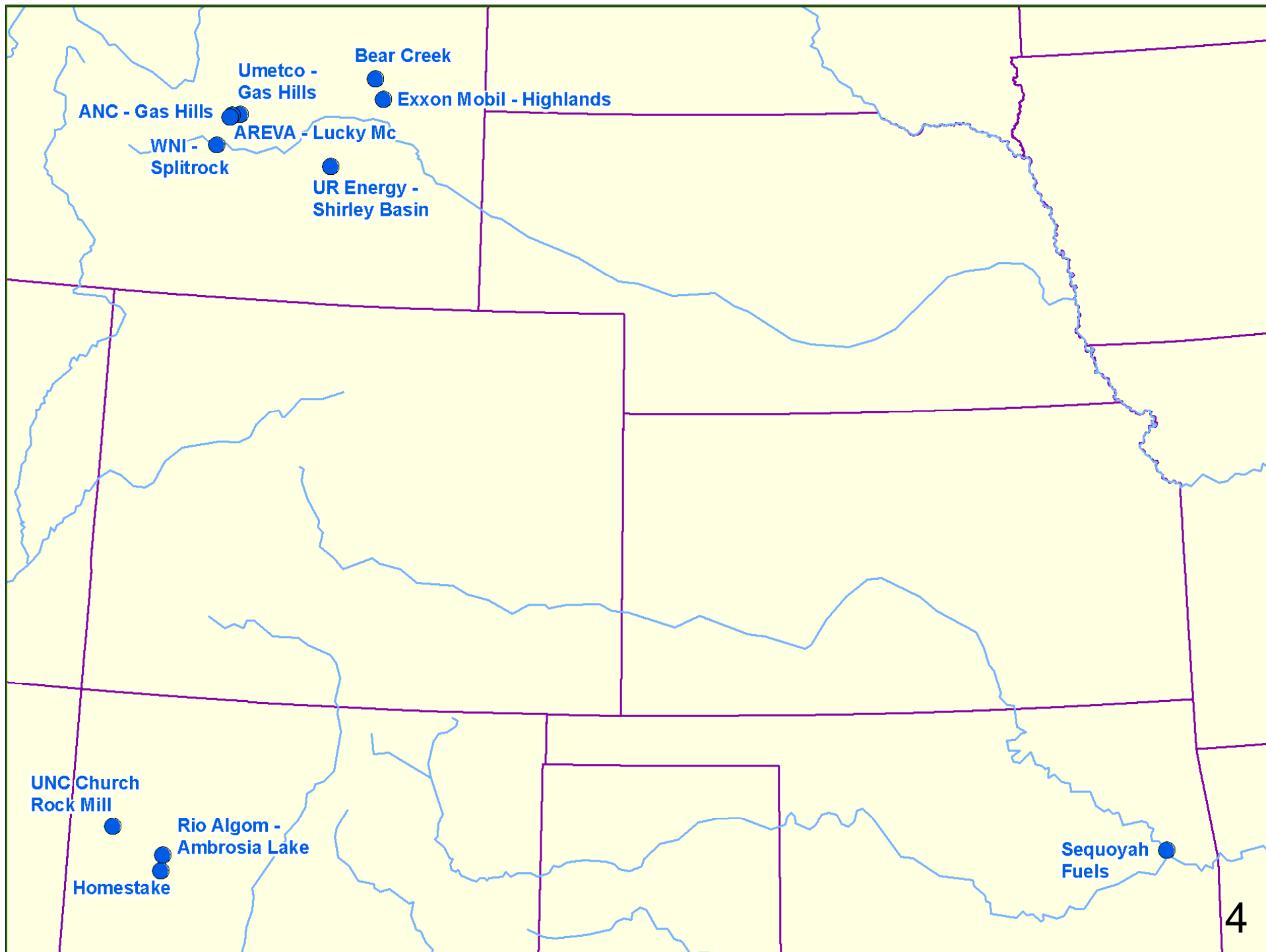
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs

# Uranium Recovery Decommissioning Universe



- **Title I – Legacy sites**
  - **22 sites**
- **Title II – Sites licensed after 1978**
  - **11 NRC-licensed conventional sites**
  - **6 Sites transferred to DOE**
  - **0 ISRs**





# Navajo Nation 5-Year Plan



- **October 2007: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, requests Federal Agencies to develop a coordinated Five-Year Plan, in consultation with Navajo Nation, to address uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation**
  - **Environmental Protection Agency**
  - **Bureau of Indian Affairs**
  - **Department of Energy**
  - **Indian Health Service**
  - **Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

# Navajo Nation 5-Year Plan Objectives



- **Assessment and cleanup of contaminated structures**
- **Assessment of contaminated water sources, and provision of alternative water supplies**
- **Assessment of abandoned uranium mines, with detailed assessments of those most likely to pose environmental or health problems**
- **Cleanup of the Northeast Church Rock mine site and additional high-priority abandoned mine sites**
- **Cleanup of the Tuba City Highway 160 site**
- **Cleanup of the Tuba City Dump**
- **Remediation of groundwater contamination at three former mill sites**
- **Case control studies of health risks faced by individuals residing near mill sites or abandoned mine sites**

## 2008-2012

- Report issued in January, 2013 and can be found at [www.epa.gov/region9/superfund/navajo-nation/](http://www.epa.gov/region9/superfund/navajo-nation/).
- May 2014 - GAO recommend that all agencies develop a coordinated outreach strategy to include in the 2014 5-year plan, and should take action to incorporate key practices in their collaborative effort, such as defining and agreeing on the agencies' respective roles and responsibilities
- Agencies currently developing 2014-2019 Five Year Plan

# **United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) Church Rock Mill**

- **NRC and EPA-Region 6 have Joint Jurisdiction for Groundwater Contamination**
- **Three Tailings Disposal Cells Reclaimed 1989-1995**
- **Radon Cover In-place Since 1996**
- **Two Borrow Pits Reclaimed and Backfilled**
- **Mill Building Released for Unrestricted Use in 1995**
- **Semi-annual Groundwater Monitoring in Progress**
- **Groundwater Extraction System Operating On-site**
- **NRC is Reviewing UNC's License Amendment Request to Revise Groundwater Background Values. Decision by Summer - 2014**



# **North East Church Rock (NECR) Mine**

- **On September 29, 2011, EPA-R9 selected UNC Mill site for Disposal of 1M yd<sup>3</sup> of Mine Waste from the Adjoining NECR Mine Site**
- **On May 29, 2013, EPA-R6 Issued a Record of Decision to Accept Mine Waste at the UNC Mill Site**
- **In Fall -2013, In-situ Sampling Conducted at NECR Mine and UNC Mill at the Request of Agencies**
- **Summer 2014, Pre-Design Sampling Report (in-situ results) to be Submitted for Interagency Review**
- **License Amendment to Transfer Mine Waste to the UNC Mill Site Expected in CY-2016**
- **Ongoing Interagency Discussions to Resolve Technical, Regulatory, and Policy Issues**

# Questions?