

## Norman, Yolande

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**From:** Bain.Andrew@epamail.epa.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 09, 2009 9:02 PM  
**To:** Tadesse, Rebecca; Norman, Yolande; 'ted22222@earthlink.net'; Fliegel, Myron; Plienness, Ray; Bush, Richard; Pauling, Tom; djohnson@gjo.doe.gov; stephen\_spencer@ios.doi.gov; George.Padilla@bia.gov; Russ\_MacRae@fws.gov; bpostle@osmre.gov; Dale\_Wirth@nm.blm.gov; Robert\_Moore@nm.blm.gov; Brancard, Bill, EMNRD; Holland.Shepherd@state.nm.us; jpfeil@state.nm.us; susan.lucasKmat@state.nm.us; earle.dixon@state.nm.us; kathleen.economy@state.nm.us; Schoeppner, Jerry, NMENV; maryann.menetrey@state.nm.us; sric.chris@earthlink.net; Johnnye Lewis Ph. D.  
**Cc:** Garcia-Bakarich.Luis@epamail.epa.gov; Rosetti.Leana@epamail.epa.gov; Karr.Harrison@epamail.epa.gov  
**Subject:** Northeast Church Rock - comment period extended and additional public meeting  
**Attachments:** EECA Public notice - extension.pdf

Hello,

I am informing you that EPA agreed to grant an extension of the Northeast Church Rock EE/CA public comment until September 9. Please find the attached notice we plan to run in the Gallup Independent (July 11th) and Navajo Times (July 16th). This constitutes a total comment period of 90 days, which is consistent with Region 9's policy and practice with respect to how we have honored extension requests at other Superfund sites.

We encourage your comments and participation at the next meeting.

Sincerely,  
Andy

Andrew Bain, RPM  
EPA Region 9  
Superfund Division (SFD62)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 972-3167w  
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### **Extension of Public Comment Period for the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis for the Removal Action at the Northeast Church Rock Mine (NECR) Site**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to review and comment on the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that identifies and evaluates several cleanup alternatives for addressing the radium and uranium contamination at the Northeast Church Rock Mine Site. The public comment period for this document has been extended and will run for 90 consecutive days from June 12 through September 9, 2009. EPA also invites the public to review all of the documents that are included in the Administrative Record file that EPA is relying on to support decision making for this removal.

EPA has developed and evaluated five alternatives to clean up the contamination at the site, which are outlined in the EE/CA. The elements of EPA's preferred alternative include excavating and transporting the mine waste soil to an existing disposal cell on the United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) mill site or to a newly constructed cell at the UNC mill facility. Any cell would be lined and capped and would receive long-term maintenance. The waste to be consolidated includes ore, waste rock, buildings, foundations and adjacent soil, and contaminated sediment. Waste with a high concentration of radium and uranium would be transported to an off-site licensed controlled disposal facility such as at Grandview, ID, or an alternative appropriate facility. The NECR Mine Site would be restored with erosion and storm-water controls, regrading and revegetation for future grazing.

Although this is EPA's preferred alternative, EPA would like to invite comments on all of the alternatives and will incorporate the public's input in the final decision. The alternatives are also summarized in a fact sheet which has been mailed to community residents and is available at the information repositories listed below.

There were two public meetings to discuss the cleanup alternatives. EPA has also scheduled a third meeting to receive verbal public comments. This third meeting will take place on August 25, 2009 from 6-8pm at the Churchrock Chapter House. Navajo interpretation will be available.

The NECR Mine Site is an abandoned uranium mine located 16 miles northeast of Gallup, New Mexico. This Site is primarily on tribal trust land adjacent to the Navajo

Nation Reservation, and a small portion is within the Reservation itself. The site was mined by the UNC between 1968 and 1982.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please visit the Site web page at:

[www.epa.gov/region09/NECR](http://www.epa.gov/region09/NECR)

You may also visit the information repositories listed below to review the administrative record, or contact EPA representatives.

**INFORMATION REPOSITORIES:**

**Navajo Nation Library**

204 Post Office Loop Road

Window Rock, AZ 86515

Phone: (928) 871-6376

**Octavia Fellin Public Library**

115 West Hill Ave.

Gallup, NM 87301

(505) 863-1291

**EPA Superfund Records Center**

95 Hawthorne St.

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 536-2000

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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