

# Pinyon Plain Mine – 2025 Q2 Monitoring Summary



**April - June 2025  
Kaibab National Forest**

Forest Service  
United States Department of Agriculture



## **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the USDA Forest Service's administration and monitoring of the Pinyon Plain (formerly Canyon) uranium mine on the Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest.

The 1872 Mining Law requires the Forest Service (FS) to make minerals from National Forest System lands available to the national economy (30 U.S.C. 21-54). The FS is also responsible for minimizing the adverse impacts of mining activities on other surface resources (36 C.F.R. 228.8). Once a mining operation is approved, the FS monitors the mining company's compliance with the plan of operations and requirements imposed by the environmental review process. At Pinyon Plain Mine, the FS accomplishes this through visits to the mine site and regular communications with the mine's owner, Energy Fuels Resources. The FS will also ensure surface reclamation is conducted in alignment with all regulations and bonding once mining operations are completed.

This report is intended solely to inform interested parties about the Forest Service's monitoring of activities occurring at Pinyon Plain Mine during the specified time period.

Additional information about Pinyon Plain Mine can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/kaibab/forest-products/nonwood-products/pinyon-plain-mine-formerly-canyon-uranium-mine>.

## **Summary**

Regular ore hauling activities began on February 12, 2025, after EFR and the Navajo Nation reached an agreement on hauling across Navajo Tribal Lands. EFR now averages about 8 trucks a day as of June 23, 2025.

The 2025 Q1 report noted that the amount of ore on the ore pad fluctuated between 5,900 and 6,900 tons. During Q2 of 2025, EFR increased its production and by the end of the quarter, the ore pad contained approximately 12,800 tons. Ore stockpile heights, as reported by EFR, fluctuated between 16 and 20 feet, with a height of 19 – 20ft. reported on June 23, 2025. The amount of ore on the ore pad is limited to 13,100 tons and 20 ft in height by the air quality permit EFR has from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. All numbers EFR reported to the Forest Service during Q2 of 2025 were within these limits. In November 2024, EFR reported that a survey of the mine site was complete. The results from the survey, including calculations from estimated ore bucket weights, indicate that the conversion rate from a ton to a cubic yard of uranium ore is 1.68 tons per cubic yard.

During the October 2024 coordination meeting, EFR stated they had started exploration activities for the "Juniper Zone" (JZ). This ore zone sits beneath the current ore body that is being extracted. EFR continues to send core samples off site and expects data analysis to occur over an additional 6 to 8-month period. The JZ is discussed throughout a [technical report](#) available on EFR's website and is depicted in a figure on pg. 7-5 of EFR's technical report. As of June 2025, EFR has not committed to extracting ore from the JZ but continues to conduct analysis of samples taken from the JZ.

## **Site Visits**

Site visits occur approximately once a month at the Pinyon Plain Mine. Site visits focus on visual inspection of the main areas within the perimeter of the mine, including structures, the development rock stockpile, and ore pad. The site visits also involve discussion with mine personnel about operations and ongoing, recently completed, and planned activities. The site visits described here occurred on April 29, May 23, and June 23, 2025.

EFR stated that Environmental Restoration Group, Inc. was on site in April to conduct quarterly radiological monitoring.

### **Structures**

The office, parking area, and structures remain clean and well maintained. Staff on site have created safety areas using cones and other high-visibility barriers to block machinery as people travel on foot (Photos 1 – 3). Minimal snowfall and rain occurred in Q1 and Q2, allowing the operator to properly maintain the roadways used within the perimeter of the site (Photos 4 – 6).

The shaft heater has been offline for the duration of Q2 due to warmer temperatures. As a result, the heater's propane tanks have not been serviced as often as they were in Q1. During the June site visit, EFR stated the propane tanks were last refilled in April.

### **Water Tanks and Non-Stormwater Impoundment**

Both rainwater catchments remained dry during Q2 (Photos 7 – 10). During the June site visit, the non-stormwater impoundment was under maintenance (Photo 11). Mud was being removed from the impoundment and EFR stated this type of maintenance would become a routine operation, occurring once every other year. The mud is transported to the development rock stockpile, and at times added to the ore stockpile depending on the grade of the material. EFR previously removed mud from the non-stormwater impoundment in 2021. The evaporation system in the non-stormwater impoundment was offline during all three site visits in Q2 (Photos 12 – 14).

### **Ventilation Shaft**

Ear protection was not necessary while walking near the perimeter of the fans and non-stormwater impoundment. The ventilation system currently runs at 50% of its capacity and underwent routine maintenance in May (Photo 15).

### **Ore and Development Rock Stockpile**

The volume of the development rock stockpile continues to increase (Photos 16 – 17). The hoses used to apply water for dust abatement were reinstalled in April for use during Q2 (Photos 18 – 19). These hoses are typically removed during the winter season to avoid freezing or damage from cold temperatures. The amount of ore on the ore pad also increased during Q2 (Photos 20 – 25). In May, the location of the pole used to determine the height of the ore pad was moved to a different spot within the ore pad. The lowest recorded amount of ore reported in Q2 was approx. 6,200 tons in April and highest approx. 12,800 tons in June.

## **Ore Hauling and Access**

Ore hauling resumed on February 12, 2025, after about a six month pause. EFR used four haul trucks a day in April and by June 23, eight haul trucks were being used per day. EFR has indicated that the number of trucks may increase in the future depending on the capacity at the processing facility in Blanding, UT. A shed has been installed on site for future use by the Navajo Nation (Photo 26). Hauling occurs Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays and 10 additional Navajo National Holidays that may be observed.

The access road continues to be maintained and no signs of rutting were present. Parking outside the perimeter was observed in April and corrected by June (Photos 27 – 28).

In an effort to raise awareness about the haul route and in response to a stakeholder request, the USFS installed orange carsonite signs affixed with “URANIUM HAUL ROUTE” and directional arrow stickers along Forest Service roads 305, 305A, and 305AB. Signs were initially placed at all intersections or at visible locations approximately 0.5 miles apart. Additional signs were installed in Q4 of 2024, based on comments made in a uranium working group meeting that the existing signage was hard to see.

## **Coordination Calls**

The Forest Service has continued to meet with EFR regularly to stay informed of the current operational status at the mine and share information. These coordination calls generally occur once every two weeks. During Q2, the main updates from these conversations were the exploration of the Juniper Zone, the increase in number of haul trucks, and the status of radiological monitoring at the site.

EFR continues to seek approval from the State of Arizona and private landowners to use the northern haul route that would connect from Highway 180 to Highway 89. On June 10, 2025, EFR reported that approximately 284 haul trucks had left the site during 2025.

Exploration of the Juniper Zone was completed in February. EFR continues to send core samples off site for analysis and states that this process may take 6 months before the results are finalized. The data analysis is necessary before EFR commits to extracting ore from the Juniper Zone.

## **Other Activities**

The Forest Service provided updates on Pinyon Plain Mine operations and discussed EFR’s request to use the TortiShell HPSS-550 product for haul route dust abatement during in-person government-to-government consultation meetings with the Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Kaibab Band of Paiute, Navajo, Yavapai-Apache, and Zuni in April 2025.

The Forest Service participated in the Coconino County Uranium Working Group meeting held on April 29, 2025. The Kaibab National Forest hosted a tribal update meeting on June 10, 2025.

The Forest Service continued its work connected to recent studies related to groundwater hydrology in the Grand Canyon area. Primary activities were continuing an analysis of site-specific data and the recent studies (the analysis is under review by the Forest Service Washington Office) and coordinating with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on a proposed study to better understand groundwater hydrology in the vicinity of the mine. The Forest Service also continued its close coordination with the USGS and its ongoing work related to [informing future decision making on uranium mining in Arizona](#).

The Forest Service completed its review of and tribal consultation related to a request by EFR to use TortiShell HPSS-550 for dust abatement on forest roads accessing the mine (roads 305, 305A, and 305AB). The Forest Service granted EFR permission to use the product on May 6, 2025. As of the end of Q2, EFR has not applied TortiShell to the mine access roads.

## PHOTOS



Photo 1 – View of the headframe from office trailer, facing south. (Apr. 29)



Photo 2 – Additional view of the headframe from office trailer, facing south. (Jun. 23)



Photo 3 – Overlooking the office area, adjacent to staff parking. (Apr. 29)



Photo 4 – Conex box storage for gear near the office building. (May 23)



Photo 5 – Overlooking propane tanks, ventilation shaft and water storage tanks. (Apr. 29)



Photo 6 – Additional view of the propane and water storage tanks. (Jun. 23)



Photo 7 – Rainwater catchment (empty) between the two water tanks in NW perimeter. (Apr. 29)



Photo 8 – Additional look at rainwater catchment (empty) between the two water tanks in NW perimeter. (May 23)



Photo 9 – Overlooking the central rainwater catchment, facing southwest. (Apr. 29)



Photo 10 – Central rainwater catchment. (May 23)



Photo 11 – Non-stormwater impoundment undergoing maintenance. (Jun. 23)



Photo 12 – Overlooking the non-stormwater impoundment. All evaporators were offline. (Apr. 29)



Photo 13 – Non-stormwater impoundment. All evaporators were offline. (May 23)



Photo 14 – Overlooking non-stormwater impoundment, facing NE. All evaporators were offline. (Jun. 23)



Photo 15 –Ventilation shaft undergoing maintenance. (May 23)



Photo 16 – Entrance of development rock stockpile. (May 23)



Photo 17 – Entrance of development rock stockpile. (Jun. 23)



Photo 18 – Overlooking central area within development rock stockpile. (Apr. 29)



Photo 19 – Overlooking central area within development rock stockpile. (Jun. 23)



Photo 20 – Overlooking the ore pad, facing NE. Pole is used to determine height of stockpile. (Apr. 29)



Photo 21 – Overlooking the ore pad from the entrance to the development rock stockpile, facing NE. (Jun. 23)



Photo 22 – Overlooking the ramp of the ore pad. (Apr. 29)



Photo 23 – Overlooking the ramp used by haul trucks to access the ore pad. (Apr. 29)



Photo 24 – Overlooking ore pad ramp. Note new location of pole use to determine height of ore stockpile. (May 23)



Photo 25 – Ore stockpile on ore pad. Ore is dark gray material. (Jun. 23)



Photo 26 – Installed shed to be used by Navajo Nation. (May 23)



Photo 27 – Trucks parked outside the mine perimeter, near the entrance to the site. (Apr. 29)



Photo 28 – Overlooking area near entrance of the mine. (Jun. 23)