Pinyon Plain Mine – 2025 Q3 Monitoring Summary

July - September 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 11-13 trucks per day as of September 2025. The maximum volume of ore on the ore pad during Q1 2025 was approximately 6,900 tons. EFR increased its production during Q2 and had approximately 12,800 tons on the ore pad by the end of the second quarter.

Throughout Q3 2025, EFR maintained roughly the same volume of ore on the pad as it ranged between 12,000 – 12,950 tons. Ore stockpile heights, as reported by EFR, fluctuated between 18 and 20 feet, with a height of 19 feet reported on September 16, 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 Q3 of 2025 were within these limits. EFR estimates a conversion of 1.68 tons per cubic yard of uranium ore.

During the October 2024 coordination meeting, EFR stated they started exploration activities for the "Juniper Zone" (JZ). This ore zone sits beneath the current ore body that is being extracted. As of July 2025, 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 September 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 July 30, August 22, and September 11, 2025.

EFR stated that Environmental Restoration Group, Inc. will be on site in October to conduct quarterly radiological monitoring.

Structures

EFR continues to maintain the parking area and structures within the perimeter in an orderly manner. Staff on site have created safety areas using cones and other high-visibility barriers to block machinery to allow safe passage for foot traffic (Photos 1 – 3).

Two days prior to the July site visit, EFR reported they recently used locally sourced gravel to reinforce areas used by the haul trucks (Photos 4 – 5). This is partly due to the increase in number of trucks used per day. Similar gravel has been previously used to reinforce the loading area near the ore pad. During the September site visit, EFR reported using 12 – 15 haul trucks per day.

Water Tanks and Non-Stormwater Impoundment

Both rainwater catchments were dry in July but contained moisture during the August site visit (Photos 6 – 7). By September, a contractor was hired to remove weeds on site that were generally located near the rainwater catchments (Photo 8). Additionally, EFR reported on September 4 that the central rainwater catchment was pumped out, filled in, and contoured to match the grade on site. EFR states the central catchment was not part of the original design of the mine (Photos 9 – 10).

The evaporation system in the non-stormwater impoundment was offline during all three site visits in Q3 (Photos 11 – 15). Drier conditions during the summer allowed for evaporation to naturally occur without the assistance of the evaporator system.

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 (Photos 10 – 11).

Ore and Development Rock Stockpile

The volume of the development rock stockpile continues to increase (Photos 16 – 17). The amount of ore on the ore pad roughly remained in the same range throughout Q3. Reported estimates ranged between 12,000 – 12,950 tons during the quarter (Photos 18 – 23). The highest recorded amount of ore reported in Q3 was approximately 12,911 tons during a meeting on July 10.

Ore Hauling and Access

Ore hauling resumed on February 12, 2025, after about a six month pause. By the end of Q2 2025, EFR reported using 8 haul trucks per day. In Q3, the average increased to 12 – 13 trucks per day depending on production rates, truck availability, and driver schedules. The highest number of trucks used in one day, as reported by EFR, was 15. A shed has been installed on site for future use by the Navajo Nation (Photo 24). Hauling occurs Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays and 10 additional Navajo National Holidays that may be observed.

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 Q3, the main updates from these conversations were the number of haul trucks used per day, the Juniper Zone, 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 September 16, 2025, EFR reported that approximately 936 haul trucks had left the site during 2025.

EFR continues to send core samples from the Juniper Zone off site for analysis. The data analysis is necessary before EFR commits to extracting ore from the Juniper Zone, though there hasn't been any indication of when the analysis will be complete.

Other Activities

The Forest Service participated in the Coconino County Uranium Working Group meeting held on August 18, 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. USGS representatives were present for the September 11 site visit.

The Forest Service previously 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. EFR did not apply TortiShell to the mine access roads during Q3.

PHOTOS

Photo 1 – View of the headframe from office trailer, facing south. (July 30)

Photo 2 – Headframe from office trailer, facing south. (Aug. 22)

Photo 3 – Overlooking propane tanks near the center of the mine site. (Aug. 22)

Photo 4 – Gravel recently used to reinforce heavily traveled areas. (July 30)

Photo 5 – Conex box storage for gear, adjacent to office buildings. (July 30)

Photo 6 – Rainwater catchment (empty) between the two water tanks in NW perimeter. (July 30)

Photo 7 – Rainwater catchment from previous photo containing water. (Aug. 22)

Photo 8 – Weeds near rainwater catchment removed, with minimal moisture within the catchment in September.

Photo 9 – Before earthwork, overlooking the central rainwater catchment, facing southwest. (Aug. 22)

Photo 10 – After earthwork, overlooking the area where rainwater catchment previously existed. (Sept. 11)

Photo 11 – Non-stormwater impoundment with ventilation system in background. (Aug. 22)

Photo 12 – Overlooking the non-stormwater impoundment. All evaporators were offline. (July 22)

Photo 13 – Non-stormwater impoundment. All evaporators were offline. (Sept. 11)

Photo 14 – Overlooking non-stormwater impoundment, facing NE. All evaporators were offline. (Aug. 22)

Photo 15 – Non-stormwater impoundment, facing NE. All evaporators were offline. (Sept. 11)

Photo 16 – Entrance of development rock stockpile. (July 30)

Photo 17 – Entrance of development rock stockpile. (Sept. 11)


Photo 18 – Overlooking ore stockpile (gray material) facing east. (July 30)

Photo 19 – Overlooking the ore pad, facing NE. (Sept. 11)

Photo 20 – Ore stockpile and loading ramp. (Aug. 22)

Photo 21 – Ore stockpile and loading area. (Aug. 22)

Photo 22 – Ore stockpile and loading area. (July 30)

Photo 23 – Overlooking ore stock pile and loading ramp. (Sept. 11)

Photo 24 – Shed to be used by the Navajo Nation located near entrance of mine. (Aug. 22)

Photo 25 – Overlooking FSR 305 from Hwy 67. (July 30)

Photo 26 – Overlooking the junction of FSR 305 and Hwy 67. (Aug. 22)