Pinyon Plain Mine – 2025 Q4 Monitoring Summary

October - December 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 15 – 17 trucks per day as of December 2025. The maximum volume of ore on the ore pad during Q4 2025 was approximately 12,600 tons during October, which is nearly the same amount of ore reported at the end of Q3.

Throughout Q4 2025, EFR slowly decreased the amount of ore on the ore pad. As previously mentioned, the ore pad contained approximately 12,600 tons of ore in October. By the end of December, there was approximately 5,500 tons of ore. Ore stockpile heights, as reported by EFR, fluctuated between 13 and 19 feet during Q4. 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 Q4 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. 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. EFR has not committed to extracting ore from the JZ. As of December 2025, EFR continues to conduct analysis of samples taken from the JZ and expects data analysis to continue into the new year.

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 October 28, November 25, and December 17, 2025.

The USGS was on site during the November visit to conduct quarterly sampling activities.

Structures

EFR continues to maintain the parking area and structures within the perimeter in well-organized manner. Staff on site have created safety areas using cones and other high-visibility barriers to restrict machinery access and allow safe passage for pedestrians (Photos 1 – 2, Photo 28.

In Q3, EFR used locally sourced gravel to reinforce areas within the mine perimeter, specifically the areas used by haul trucks (Photos 3 – 5). There was a small stockpile of gravel recorded in October (Photo 6) which was mainly used at the beginning of Q4. The stockpile was non-existent during the November site visit.

Water Tanks and Non-Stormwater Impoundment

The water storage tanks appear to be in good condition, no visible leaks were observed. The areas around the tanks are kept clean and free of noxious weeds. The rainwater catchment between the storage tanks was dry in October but contained some moisture in November (Photos 7 – 8). By December, the rainwater catchment was dry.

The evaporation system in the non-stormwater impoundment was offline during all three site visits in Q4 (Photos 9 – 13). Although all five evaporators are located within the impoundment, one evaporator remains under repair. EFR reports the evaporation system was seldomly used during Q4.

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.

The propane tanks were recently refilled in November to prepare for colder weather. These tanks are designated for the mine shaft heater, which is only activated when the temperature reaches a specific range during the winter.

Ore and Development Rock Stockpile

The volume of the development rock stockpile steadily increased in Q4 (Photos 14 – 16). Dust abatement for the development rock stockpile occurs using two methods, sprinkler hoses and a water tender. The upper work area of the stockpile is methodically separated to allow for dust suppression activities, while continuing to add material to the stockpile (Photos 17 – 19).

The amount of ore on the ore pad decreased throughout Q4. During the October site visit, there was approximately 10,300 tons of ore on the ore pad. Approximately 5,500 tons of ore remained on the pad during the December site visit (Photos 20 – 24). A water tender is used on the ore stockpile for dust suppression efforts.

Ore Hauling and Access

A shed was previously installed near the entrance of the mine, designated for the Navajo Nation. This shed was recently replaced by a conex box and will be relocated to another location (Photos 25 – 26). The future location of the shed is yet to be determined as of December 2025.

In Q3, the average number of haul trucks departing the mine was 12 – 13 trucks per day. This number increased to 15 – 17 trucks per day during Q4, remaining dependent on production rates, truck availability, and driver schedules. The highest number of trucks used in one day, as reported by EFR, is seventeen. Hauling occurs Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays and ten additional Navajo National Holidays that may be observed. Safety barriers have been placed near the headframe and adjacent structures to restrict haul trucks from entering active areas within the perimeter (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. These signs continue to be maintained and replaced when necessary (Photos 29 – 32).

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 Q4, the main updates from these conversations were the number of haul trucks used per day, the Juniper Zone, and any monitoring updates 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.

EFR reported that a total of 1,885 haul trucks had left the site in 2025, removing a total of 47,025 tons of ore.

EFR continues their analysis of core samples from the Juniper Zone. The data analysis is necessary before EFR commits to extracting ore from the Juniper Zone. EFR is expecting to review results and provide an update during Q1 of 2026.

Other Activities

No Coconino County Uranium Working Group meetings were held in Q4 of 2025.

The Forest Service continued its work connected to recent studies related to groundwater hydrology in the Grand Canyon area. Primary activities were 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 previously completed its review 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 or Q4.

PHOTOS

Photo 1 – View of the headframe from office trailer, facing south. (Oct. 28)

Photo 2 – Overlooking headframe, facing south. (Nov. 25)

Photo 3 – Parking area adjacent to office trailer. (Dec. 17)

Photo 4 – Overlooking central mine area. Propane tanks and ventilation system on righthand side. (Nov. 25)

Photo 5 – Conex box storage for gear, adjacent to office buildings. (Oct. 28)


Photo 6 – Gravel stockpile used to reinforce pathways within the perimeter of the mine. (Nov. 25)

Photo 7 – Rainwater catchment (empty) between the two water tanks in NW perimeter. (Oct. 28)

Photo 8 – Rainwater catchment from previous photo containing water. (Nov. 25)

Photo 9 – Non-stormwater impoundment with ventilation system in background. Dust abatement occurring on development rock stockpile. (Oct. 28)

Photo 10 – Overlooking the safety berm adjacent to non-stormwater impoundment. (Nov. 25)

Photo 11 – Non-stormwater impoundment. All evaporators were offline. (Oct. 28)

Photo 12 – Overlooking non-stormwater impoundment, facing NE. All evaporators were offline. (Nov. 25)

Photo 13 – Non-stormwater impoundment, facing NE. All evaporators were offline. (Dec. 17)

Photo 14 – Entrance of development rock stockpile. (Oct. 28)

Photo 15 – Looking back at entrance of development rock stockpile. (Nov. 25)

Photo 16 – Overlooking upper surface of the development rock stockpile, facing SE. (Oct. 28)

Photo 17 – Overlooking upper surface of development rock stockpile, facing south. Hoses were online for dust abatement during site visit. (Oct. 28)

Photo 18 – Hoses used for dust abatement. (Nov. 25)

Photo 19 – Upper surface of development rock stockpile, facing SW. Hoses were online for dust abatement during site visit (Dec. 17)

Photo 20 – Ore stockpile. Water tender was used on stockpile ramps for dust abatement. (Oct. 28)

Photo 21 – Overlooking ore stockpile and loading ramp. (Oct. 28)

Photo 22 – Overlooking ore stockpile and loading ramp. (Nov. 25)

Photo 23 – Overlooking ore stockpile and loading ramp. (Nov. 25)


Photo 24 – Closer look at ore stockpile. (Dec. 17)

Photo 25 – Previous location of Navajo Nation shed near entrance. Shed replaced by a conex box. (Nov. 25)

Photo 26 – Entrance of Pinyon Plain Mine. (Oct. 28)

Photo 27 – Safety barriers near the ore hopper. (Dec. 17)

Photo 28 – Safety area between headframe and hoist room. (Nov. 25)

Photo 29 – Overlooking a portion of the access road. (Oct. 28)

Photo 30 – Carsonite near the access route missing a sticker. (Nov. 25)

Photo 31 – Overlooking intersection of FSR 305 and FSR 340. (Nov. 25)

Photo 32 – Overlooking the junction of FSR 305 and Hwy 64. (Nov. 25)