


Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Misael Cabrera
Director

Air Quality Field Inspection Report

Company Name: Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc.	Inspection Report No.: 387358
Place Name: Pinyon Plain Mine Place ID No.: 827	Inspector(s): Rob Verville
County: Coconino	Arrival Date and Time: 11/29/2021 11:00 AM
Physical Location: Hwy 64 to FR 305, Tusayan, AZ 86023	Reason for Inspection: <input type="checkbox"/> Complaint Complaint No.: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-Up Original Inspection Report No.:
Mailing Address: 850 E Hwy 89A, Fredonia, AZ 86022	
Coordinates (for new locations): Latitude: Deg.: Min.: Sec.: Longitude: Deg.: Min.: Sec.:	
Permit No.: 88788 Permit Expiration Date: 10/19/2026	Was Inspection Announced? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Onsite Contact Person(s)/Title(s): Mathew Germansen, Geologist Steve Hancock, Supervisor, Corp. S,H&E, Northern AZ	Ops. Status: Standby Mode – no mining
	Type of Source: Class II, Underground Uranium Mine
Other Names: Energy Fuels Nuclear, Denison Mines, Canyon Mine	Last Inspection: 8/13/2020, Insp ID: 354829
Inspection Report Issued: Via email at facility	Facility Initial: ADEQ Initial: 
Results of Inspection: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection. No ADEQ action will result from this inspection. <input type="checkbox"/> Potential deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection. Additional correspondence regarding this inspection may be forthcoming.	
Comments: Pinyon Pine Mine is currently in Care & Maintenance mode. Shaft development has ceased. Energy Fuels continues to remove water from the underground. No drifts have been developed into the ore from the main shaft.	
Process Equipment The proposed mine production rate is 109,500 tons per year (tpy) of uranium ore. No ore processing will be conducted on-site. The ore will be shipped to an off-site processing mill. If the ore cannot be shipped immediately to the mill, it will be placed on site in stock piles within the Ore Stockpile Area (OSA). The OSA will encompass approximately 0.7 acre and can accommodate up to 13,100 tons of stockpile ore. Power for the facility is supplied via overhead electric lines. A diesel generator is used as a source of backup power in the event of power failure. A total of four (4) evaporator fans are currently used to enhance evaporation of water in the evaporation pond. Rock from the mining operations with less than 0.03 percent uranium will be stored on the surface in the Development Rock Area (DRA) and in mined-out areas of the underground workings. The DRA will encompass approximately 1.54 acres.	

RADIATION DISCUSSION¹

Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc.'s Pinyon Plain Mine is an underground uranium mining operation. Uranium is a naturally occurring radioactive element, which is present in virtually all soil, rock, and water.² The extraction of the Uranium ore from the rock will expose the naturally occurring radioactive material to the environment.

Ionizing Radiation

The form of radiation of concern at the Pinyon Plain Mine is ionizing radiation. The ionizing radiation present at the Pinyon Plain Mine site will include x-rays, gamma rays, alpha particles and beta particles. These types of radiation are emitted from the naturally occurring radioactive material found in and around the uranium ore body. The negative health effects attributed to this type of radiation depend on many parameters including the amount of radiation received (dose), the rate at which the radiation is delivered (dose rate), and the type of ionizing radiation (alpha, beta, x-ray, gamma).

When ionizing radiation deposits energy in living matter it produces a physical and biological effect, which may be quantified in terms of dose. The dose to a particular receptor of radiation is expressed in radiological units, known as rems (roentgen equivalent man). However, because this unit is so large it is often useful to divide the value by 1,000 and call it millirem (mrem).

Natural Radiation Environment

Radioactive materials are present in air, water and soil. Their concentrations are expressed in units of radioactivity per volume or mass. Typical concentrations of naturally occurring uranium and Radium-226 in normal soil are on the order of 1 pico-Curie per gram. A pico-Curie (pCi) is equivalent to 2.22 atoms of the radionuclide decaying each minute. These values may vary considerably depending on the extent of uranium mineralization in the area being examined.

The natural radiation environment of the Pinyon Plain Mine site consists of cosmic radiation and radioactive elements including Hydrogen-3, Carbon-14, Potassium-40, Rubidium-87, Uranium-235, Uranium-238 and Thorium-232. Uranium-238 and Thorium-232 are ubiquitous in soil with average concentrations in the range of a few parts per million. Each are parent elements of a radioactive decay series. The parents decay to daughters (or progeny), which are also radioactive. Natural uranium is about 99.3% U-238.

Airborne & Direct Radiation

A progeny of U-238 is Radon-222. Radon is a colorless, odorless and inert gas which diffuses into the atmosphere from rocks, soil and building materials. All the radon progeny are particulates and many decay by emitting alpha particles. It is the alpha particle emitting progeny of Radon-222 that have been linked to negative effects on humans.

Radon gas emanates from earthen materials containing uranium such as natural soil and the ore stockpiles. Once airborne, the gas may be transported by prevailing winds and will decay to its progeny. Uranium and its progeny will be present in dust from the mining operations. The mine shaft vent emissions are subject to limitations set forth of 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 61 subpart B at 10 mrem/year. Radiation exposure from dust associated with the mining operation is dependent on the concentrations of dust in the air and the activity of the compounds in the dust. EFRI is required by the permit to have a Dust Control and Soil Sampling Implementation Plan that will have a radiation monitoring component.

Direct radiation from haul trucks is estimated to be approximately 2 mrem/hr at the truck bed, about 0.3 mrem/hr on the shoulder of the roadbed, and normal background at about 96 feet from the trailer. As a truck passes, individuals standing on the shoulder of the road would receive a dose of radiation too small to quantify. These radiation concentrations can be put in perspective by comparing them to what naturally occurs in various locations. For example, naturally occurring radiation levels for a person living in the Colorado Plateau will receive 400-500 mrem per year based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates. Thus, the estimated radiation exposure from the site does not present a significant risk to human health.

Attainment Classification

The facility is located in Coconino County which is an attainment or unclassified area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

CURRENT OPERATIONS

The source is currently in standby mode with no mine development occurring.

Prior to the inspection, the ADEQ inspector emailed Steve Hancock, to discuss the inspection.

¹ Radiological Assessment of the Arizona 1 Project Prepared for EFNI by Dr. John W. McKlveen January 25, 1988

² Radionuclide Basics: Uranium on EPA.gov (accessed April 16, 2019)

When the ADEQ inspectors arrived at the gate, the gate opened and the ADEQ inspectors proceeded to the office trailer. The ADEQ inspector did not observe any visible emissions or odors when approaching the site. At the office, the ADEQ inspectors met Matt Germansen, Geologist and Steve Hancock, Supervisor Corporate E,H & S, & Northern AZ mines.

The ADEQ inspectors signed in and received a safety briefing from Mr. Germansen. The Notice of Inspection Rights (NOI) was presented to and signed by Mr. Germansen. The source received a permit renewal from ADEQ in October 2021. The inspector used the source inspection checklist during the inspection. Mr. Germansen provided the requested information.

Mr. Germansen and Mr. Hancock explained current operations at the site. The mine shaft has been mostly developed and development operations have ceased. The shaft receives water infiltration from different levels and the different water is pumped to different handling/treatment systems. The vent shaft has not been developed.

The water that enters the evaporation pond is water from the bottom of the shaft. The water discharged to the evaporation pond can be heated to assist with evaporation in colder months. The evaporation pond has four APEX down firing evaporators to assist with evaporation. The ADEQ inspectors walked around the pond and did not observe any water mist escaping the evaporation pond boundary. A water mist is clearly visible above the pond surface.

The Coconino level water is managed separately and pumped to a water treatment system and to an open top holding tank. Mr. Germansen stated, the treated water can be used for onsite dust control and area ranches can use the treated water.

During the physical site inspection, the ADEQ inspectors observed the emergency generator, lift hoist, headworks & entrance to the underground shaft, evaporation pond, misc. equipment storage, water storage tanks, internal haul roads, radiation monitors, development rock area and topsoil storage.

Prior to the ADEQ inspectors entering site, the haul roads had been wetted.

The ADEQ inspectors discussed the APEX evaporators and how they automatically turn on and off depending on wind speeds. The ADEQ inspector inquired about what wind speeds the evaporators turn off. Mr. Germansen stated that he did not know the specific wind speed and the electrician was no longer with the company. Mr. Germansen stated he would contact APEX.

Exit Debrief:

Provide the ADEQ inspector with the wind speed shut off miles per hour setting.

Attachments:

Notice of Inspection Rights
Photograph Log

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF INSPECTION RIGHTS**

FACILITY INFORMATION	ADEQ INFORMATION
Facility Name (Customer): Pinyon Plain Mine	Date of Inspection: 11/29/2021 11:00 AM
Facility Location (Place): Hwy 64 to FR 305, Tusayan, AZ 86023	County: Mohave
	Inspector: Rob Verville
Mailing Address: 850 E Hwy 89A, Fredonia, AZ 86022	Telephone: (602) 771-4111
	Accompanied by: Tim Pippenger, Inspector Mariana Mendez-Armendariz, Permit Engineer
Responsible Party: Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc.	ADEQ Follow-up Contact: David Kim Air Compliance Unit
On-Site Representative: Matt Germansen	
Title: Geologist	Title: Manager
Telephone: 928-607-9651	
Email: mgermasen@energyfuels.com	Telephone: (602) 771-4365

The ADEQ representative(s) identified above were present at the above address on the above listed date and time. Upon entry to the premises, the ADEQ representative(s) met with me, presented photo identification indicating that they are ADEQ employees and explained:

☒ **That the purpose of the inspection is to determine:**

☐ Compliance with Title 49 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 18 of the Arizona Administrative Code* and/or:

Arizona Revised Statutes: Title 49, Chapter 3
Arizona Administrative Code: Title 18, Chapter 2
Permit/Agreement Number: 88788

☐ Qualification for a license issued pursuant to:

Arizona Revised Statutes: Title 49, Chapter 3
Arizona Administrative Code: Title 18, Chapter 2

☐ That this inspection is conducted pursuant to the authority granted in Arizona Revised Statutes § 49-104(B)(8) and/or:

Arizona Revised Statutes: § 41-1009
Arizona Administrative Code: Title 18, Chapter 2
Permit/Agreement Number: 88788

☐ That the state shall not be barred by the statutes of limitations of actions, according to A.R.S. § 12-510, except as provided in A.R.S. § 12-529

concerning certain claims based on navigability of watercourses. According to 28 U.S.C. § 2462, the U.S. government must commence an action within 5 years after the date the claim first accrued.

☐ Possible applicability of Small Business Bill of Rights pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1001(21)

That the fee for this inspection is: No fee for the inspection

*The Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) can be found on the internet: www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp while the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) can be found at www.azsosaz.gov/public_services/Table_of_Contents.htm

While I have the right to refuse to sign this form, the ADEQ representatives may still proceed with the inspection

☒ I have read this notice and discussed any questions or concerns with the ADEQ representatives and I have received the Small Business Bill of Rights



Signature of Regulated Person or Authorized On-Site Representative

11/29/2021

☐ The regulated person or authorized on-site representative refused to sign.

Name of Regulated Person or Authorized On-Site Representative

Title

☐ The regulated person or an authorized on-site representative was not present at the facility.



Signature of ADEQ Representative

11/29/2021

INSPECTION RIGHTS

☒ I understand that I can accompany the ADEQ representative(s) on the premises, except during confidential interviews.

☒ I understand that I have right to, on request:

- Copies of any original documents taken during the inspection, and that ADEQ will provide copies of those documents at ADEQ's expense;
- A split of any samples taken during the inspection, if the split of the samples would not prohibit an analysis from being conducted or render an analysis inconclusive;
- Copies of any analysis performed on samples taken during the inspection and that ADEQ would provide copies of this analysis at ADEQ's expense;
- Copies of any documents to be relied on to determine compliance with licensure or regulatory requirements if the agency is otherwise permitted by law to do so.

☒ I also understand that:

- Each person who is interviewed by an ADEQ inspector during the inspection must be informed that:
- participation in an interview is voluntary, unless legally compelled to participate;
- they have the right to have an attorney or other experts in their field present during the interview to represent or advise the regulated person;
- the ADEQ inspector may not take any adverse action or treat less favorably or draw any inference as a result of the regulated person's decision to be represented by an attorney or advised by any other experts in their field;
- statements made by the person may be included in the inspection report; and
- they have the right to 24 hours to review and revise any written witness statement drafted by the ADEQ inspector on which the ADEQ inspector requests that person's signature.
- If the information and documents provided to the ADEQ inspector become a public record, trade secrets and proprietary and confidential information may be redacted, unless the information and documents are not confidential pursuant to statute.
- Each person interviewed during the inspection must be informed that statements made by the person may be included in the inspection report;
- Each person whose conversation is tape recorded during the inspection must be informed that the conversation is being tape recorded;
- If an administrative order is issued or a permit decision is made based on the results of the inspection, I have the right to appeal that administrative order or permit decision. I understand that my administrative hearing rights are set forth in Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1092 et seq. and my rights relating to an appeal of a final agency decision are found in Arizona Revised Statutes § 12-901 et seq;
- If I have any questions or concerns about this inspection, I may contact the person listed as the ADEQ Follow-up Contact on the front of this form; ADEQ's Ombudsman at (602) 771-4322 (toll free inside Arizona at (800) 234-5677, extension, 771-4322); or the Arizona Ombudsman-Citizens' Aid office at (602) 277-7292 (toll free at (800) 872-2879);

If I have any questions concerning my rights to appeal an administrative order or permit decision, I may contact ADEQ's Office of Administrative Counsel at (602) 771-2212 (toll free inside Arizona at (800) 234-5677, extension 771-2212).

41-1001.01. Regulatory bill of rights; small businesses

A. To ensure fair and open regulation by state agencies, a person:

1. Is eligible for reimbursement of fees and other expenses if the person prevails by adjudication on the merits against an agency in a court proceeding regarding an agency decision as provided in section 12-348.
2. Is eligible for reimbursement of the person's costs and fees if the person prevails against any agency in an administrative hearing as provided in section 41-1007.
3. Is entitled to have an agency not charge the person a fee unless the fee for the specific activity is expressly authorized as provided in section 41-1008.
4. Is entitled to receive the information and notice regarding inspections and audits prescribed in section 41-1009.
5. May review the full text or summary of all rulemaking activity, the summary of substantive policy statements and the full text of executive orders in the register as provided in article 2 of this chapter.
6. May participate in the rulemaking process as provided in articles 3, 4, 4.1 and 5 of this chapter, including:
 - (a) Providing written comments or testimony on proposed rules to an agency as provided in section 41-1023 and having the agency adequately address those comments as provided in section 41-1052, subsection D, including comments or testimony concerning the information contained in the economic, small business and consumer impact statement.
 - (b) Filing an early review petition with the governor's regulatory review council as provided in article 5 of this chapter.
 - (c) Providing written comments or testimony on rules to the governor's regulatory review council during the mandatory sixty-day comment period as provided in article 5 of this chapter.
7. Is entitled to have an agency not base a licensing decision in whole or in part on licensing conditions or requirements that are not specifically authorized by statute, rule or state tribal gaming compact as provided in section 41-1030, subsection B.
8. Is entitled to have an agency not make a rule under a specific grant of rulemaking authority that exceeds the subject matter areas listed in the specific statute or not make a rule under a general grant of rulemaking authority to supplement a more specific grant of rulemaking authority as provided in section 41-1030, subsection C.
9. May allege that an existing agency practice or substantive policy statement constitutes a rule and have that agency practice or substantive policy statement declared void because the practice or substantive policy statement constitutes a rule as provided in section 41-1033.
10. May file a complaint with the administrative rules oversight committee concerning:
 - (a) A rule's, practice's or substantive policy statement's lack of conformity with statute or legislative intent as provided in section 41-1047.
 - (b) An existing statute, rule, practice alleged to constitute a rule or substantive policy statement that is alleged to be duplicative or onerous as provided in section 41-1048.
11. May have the person's administrative hearing on contested cases and appealable agency actions heard by an independent administrative law judge as provided in articles 6 and 10 of this chapter.
12. May have administrative hearings governed by uniform administrative appeal procedures as provided in articles 6 and 10 of this chapter and may appeal a final administrative decision by filing a notice of appeal pursuant to title 12, chapter 7, article 6.
13. May have an agency approve or deny the person's license application within a predetermined period of time as provided in article 7.1 of this chapter.
14. Is entitled to receive written notice from an agency on denial of a license application:
 - (a) That justifies the denial with references to the statutes or rules on which the denial is based as provided in section 41-1076.
 - (b) That explains the applicant's right to appeal the denial as provided in section 41-1076.
15. Is entitled to receive information regarding the license application process before or at the time the person obtains an application for a license as provided in sections 41-1001.02 and 41-1079.
16. May receive public notice and participate in the adoption or amendment of agreements to delegate agency functions, powers or duties to political subdivisions as provided in section 41-1026.01 and article 8 of this chapter.
17. May inspect all rules and substantive policy statements of an agency, including a directory of documents, in the office of the agency director as provided in section 41-1091.
18. May file a complaint with the office of the ombudsman-citizens aide to investigate administrative acts of agencies as provided in chapter 8, article 5 of this title.
19. Unless specifically authorized by statute, may expect state agencies to avoid duplication of other laws that do not enhance regulatory clarity and to avoid dual permitting to the extent practicable as prescribed in section 41-1002.
20. May have the person's administrative hearing on contested cases pursuant to title 23, chapter 2 or 4 heard by an independent administrative law judge as prescribed by title 23, chapter 2 or 4.

B. The enumeration of the rights listed in subsection A of this section does not grant any additional rights that are not prescribed in the sections referenced in subsection A of this section.

C. Each state agency that conducts audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement actions pursuant to section 41-1009 shall create and clearly post on the agency's website a small business bill of rights. The agency shall create the small business bill of rights by selecting the applicable rights prescribed in this section and section 41-1009 and any other agency-specific statutes and rules. At the request of an authorized on-site representative of the regulated small business, the agency shall provide a written document of the small business bill of rights. In addition to the rights listed in this section and section 41-1009, the agency notice of the small business bill of rights shall include the process by which a small business may file a complaint with the agency employees who are designated to assist members of the public or regulated community pursuant to section 41-1006. The notice must provide the contact information of the agency's designated employees. The agency notice must also state that if the regulated person has already made a reasonable effort with the agency to resolve the problem and still has not been successful, the regulated person may contact the office of ombudsman-citizens aide.

Air Quality Field Inspection Photograph Log


Site Location: Pinyon Plain Mine - Hwy 64 to FR 305, Tusayan, AZ 86023		Photographer: Rob Verville	Camera: Samsung
Weather: clear			
Photo No. 1	Date: 11/29/2021		
Direction Photo Taken: Down			
Photo Description: Shaft into underground.			

Photo No. 2	Date: 11/29/2021	
Direction Photo Taken: West		
Photo Description: Vent fan for underground. End is capped.		


Photo No. 3	Date: 11/29/2021	
Direction Photo Taken: Northeast		
Photo Description: Headworks visible in background.		

Photo No. 4	Date: 11/29/2021
Direction Photo Taken: Northeast	
Photo Description: APEX Water Evaporators in pond and water tanks in background.	


A photograph of a water treatment facility. In the foreground, there is a large pond with a dark, possibly black, liner or material covering a portion of it. In the background, there are several green storage tanks and other industrial equipment. The sky is clear and blue.

Photo No. 5	Date: 11/29/2021	
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Direction Photo Taken:

Northeast

Photo Description:

APEX water evaporators operating. Mist from evaporators is visible above pond surface.



Photo No.
6

Date:
11/29/2021


Direction Photo Taken:

West

Photo Description:

Wetting on ground.



Photo No. 7	Date: 11/29/2021	
Direction Photo Taken: East		
Photo Description: Wetted road and water truck in background.		