

1868 Treaty with U. S. Government
Navajo language use is prominent
Population about 300,000

Navajo Nation

(Arizona, New Mexico, Utah)

Navajo Nation (cont'd)

- Navajo Nation comparable to size of W. Va
- 110 political units in Five main agencies
- Education : older generation lack any formal education, younger generation have some education; well educated live in cities
- Socio economic status : unemployment rate remained at 60% but this may now be higher
- Language – Navajo used by 30% of communities; young do not participate in local meetings

Abandoned Uranium Mines

- Navajo Nation supplied a lot of uranium for the Cold War (mines and mill sites)
- Navajo Nation figures there are about 1100 'aums' in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico
- First Congressional Hearing (1990) failed to bring attention to cleanup of 'aums'
- 1998-2000 USEPA conducted Water Sampling
- 2004 USEPA developed AUM atlas

2nd Congressional Hearings

- 1100 aums (Navajo Nation / USEPA # differs)
- Senator Waxman (Ca) conducted second congressional hearing Oct. 2007
- Water Sampling – uranium and arsenic problems
- Homes made with materials from 'aums'
- Northeast Church Rock mine site (NM)
- Tuba City Open Dump

Community Involvement

- Navajo and English language
- Limitations of Navajo language to communicate scientific research/ findings
- Lack of education of Navajo people presents its own challenges
- Difficult to meet regulatory requirements for community involvement because public does not understand site characterization and science in cleanup options

Science, Research Information is Critical for all cultures and societies

- Despite difficulties and obstacles, it is critical to communicate science and research to all facets of societies because knowledge enhances peoples' lives and it can enable people to 'make appropriate decisions' to incorporate into their lifestyles.
- Ex: Navajo people use water for livestock, some of these sources have uranium and arsenic and when you inform people of the dangers, some people change their minds of continuing these practices. It is the same with homes.

Future for work on AUMs

- NNEPA is hopeful that adequate funding will come to bolster the agencies' deficiencies
- Cleanup of NECR is undergoing EE/CA review with Region 9
- USEPA / NNEPA is conducting meaningful work to address Five Year Plan projects (NECR, TCOD, contaminated homes and aums)