



DiNEH Project

Diné Network for Environmental Health

American Public Health Association

November 7, 2007

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**Funded by NIEHS, P30 ES-012072, R25 ES013208, & R01 ES014565*

Genesis of Health Surveys

- Presentations
 - Chapter Planning meeting – inform and educate Chapter officials
 - Regular monthly Chapter meetings – inform, educate and recruit health survey participants
 - Collaborate with the chapter Community Health Representatives (CHRs) – who have knowledge of the community and well sites
- Ground truthing well sites
 - Maps from NN EPA, NN Water Resources, Army Corps of Engineers, Chapter data
 - Locate and GPS in the field

Health Survey Recruitment

- Volunteers asked to sign-up
 - Volunteers surveyed recommend a relative who hauls water, resides near a uranium mine, or once employed as a uranium mine worker.
- DiNEH Project staff set up booths at health fairs, community grocery stores, other public venues.

Health Survey Recruitment-(con't)

- Public Service Announcements on local radio stations in Navajo
- Posters, flyers, brochures
- Word of mouth, one-to-one contacts
- Use health board members
- Training and educating community leaders

Challenges in the Field

- Distance
- Appointments
 - Often not kept
 - Follow-up complicated – no phones, distance, poor roads
- Community reverence for funerals
 - Project work stops in Chapter
- Weather and road conditions

Challenges in the field (con't)

- Recruitment of CEHWs difficult
- Project staff unfamiliar with community settings
- \$10 voucher not enough
- Chapter meetings
 - Rescheduled due to lack of quorum
 - Meetings are on Sundays
- Conflicts with in community over new mining

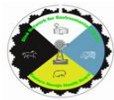
Lessons Learned

- No surveys the first week of month
- Rapport must be earned through the Navajo clanship system
- Fluency in Navajo language essential for surveying
- Mostly elderly at home during day
 - Alter work schedule of staff for diverse population sample
- Periodic updates for Chapters necessary

More Lessons Learned

- Quality assurance of survey data essential
 - Internal consistency for all answers
 - Difficult when working in two languages / cultures
- Monthly partnership meetings are essential
- Health Surveys conducted at well-sites was not practical
 - Haulers were afraid to approach well-site
- Scientific words do not translate into Navajo easily
 - Need to have consistent and accurate translation within team
- Documenting participants experience important
- Annual orientation for new Health Board members
- Develop community mapping and profile prior to surveying

Safe Water Hauling Practices



Safe Water Hauling Guide A guide for safe water hauling from the DINEH Project

Water Barrels

- Use barrels that are made to haul drinking water
- Use clean food containers
- Use the steps on the back of this sheet to clean food containers



Hoses

- Use hoses that are made for drinking water, such as hoses for RVs and boats
- Do not use gardening, green, or orange water hoses
- Look for approval on the label for "Drinking Water"
- Do not let the hose fittings touch the ground
- Clean hose fittings well & often



Suggested Retail Outlets for Water Hauling Supplies for Barrels and/or Hoses

- Gallup** Gallup Lumber & Supply • 863-4475 • 1724 South 2nd T & R Feed • 722-4366 • 671 Hwy 491
- Grants** Diamond G • 287-8861 • 225 El Morro Rd.
Wal-Mart Super Center • 285-3350 • 1000 Roberts Dr.
- Albuquerque** Central Trailer Supplies • 266-5687 • 8225 Central NE
Myers RV Center • 298-7691 • 12024 Central SE
- Farmington** Aaladin Southwest • 327-6722 • 1516 W. Murray Dr.

For more information call
Navajo EPA at 928-871-7755



The Navajo Nation
Environmental Protection



Diné Network for
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Project



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Stories from the field



Many years ago, our flocks and herds were large. We had sheep, horses, and cattle. The day of the uranium tailing spill, I went out to find the sheep to see if they were all right. I found the sheep trapped in the spill in the arroyo. I waded out to the sheep to rescue each one of them. The water smelled bad and was yellowish. I lost most of my sheep. I developed sores and still have these sores on both of my legs. My neighbor down the way, she only wore socks while walking in the water not knowing that the water was the uranium tailing spill. Shortly after that, we were told not to worry that it was safe and harmless. It was not long after that my neighbor started to experience a rash that turned into sores. Our sheep were dying one by one. We lost most of our sheep. My neighbor experienced the most painful and traumatic treatment of amputating both of her legs up to her mid thighs. She eventually died. I sit here alone heart broken with no more sheep to tend to. My family members and others in the community begin to get ill. The environment is not the same any more. We hauled water from nearby unregulated water for years. We are not aware of contaminants of uranium and other metals in our water. I am glad you are now taking samples and testing to determine safe and unsafe drinking water.

- Navajo Woman in Eastern Navajo Chapter community –
Summer 2006

Stories from the field (con't)

I remember the mining company moving in one day with their heavy equipments. The next day, they just started to excavate the soil where the underground mine was going to be which was about 500 ft. from their house. They did not tell us what they were doing but we would all of sudden hear loud blasting. Dirt would spew up and fall back to the ground covering everything nearby. We could not tolerate this any longer so we would send the young children out with the sheep and told them to stay clear from the blasting until they stop mining activity for the day. Usually, the children did not have anything to eat but water. The rest of us took the younger children and walk to hills south of our home and took shelter under trees on hot days. One day we came home and found our glass windows shattered. These were never replace or acknowledged by mining companies. We were never told us that uranium was dangerous to our health. They left the mine open with a big hole for quite some time before they covered it. Today, we are dealing with poor health states among our children. It brought us false economy. Today, families are not talking to each other because of land.



- Elderly Woman in Eastern Navajo Chapter Community –
Summer of 2006

Stories from the field-(con't)

My mother lived in the Crownpoint area for more than 60 years. A woman who raised her children through rug weaving and raising sheep and goats. Healthy throughout her life, she suddenly became ill and was diagnosed with kidney cancer. Bravely fighting her last months of life she talked with all of us speaking on the uranium mining activities



during the 70's & early 80's in the Crownpoint area and in her mind she felt sure her kidney cancer was attributed to the contamination in the water, the air and the environment. She did not go through formal Western education, but she had a lot of wisdom in her words. She said, "one day in the future, my speculation will be the findings behind my type of illness, my children. I am afraid for the future generations to come".

Surviving Daughter, Crownpoint, NM

DiNEH Networking International Network for Indigenous Health, Knowledge and Development



Ceremony, presentation at Rotorua, New Zealand, October 2007