

#### IV. Next Steps

At the conclusion of the risk evaluation phase, EPA must use the risk evaluation as a basis to determine whether the chemical presents an unreasonable risk to health or the environment under the chemical's COUs. TSCA prohibits EPA from considering non-risk factors (e.g., costs/benefits) during risk evaluation. This includes risks to subpopulations who may be at greater risks than the general population, such as children and workers.

If at the end of the risk evaluation process, EPA determines that a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk to health or the environment, the chemical substance must immediately move to risk management rulemaking action under TSCA. At the risk management stage, EPA is required to implement, via regulation, regulatory restrictions on the manufacture, processing, distribution, use or disposal of the chemical substance to eliminate the unreasonable risk. EPA is given a range of risk management options under TSCA, including labeling, recordkeeping or notice requirements, actions to reduce human exposure or environmental release, and a ban of the chemical substance or of certain uses. Like the prioritization and risk evaluation processes, there is an opportunity for public comment on any proposed risk management actions.

For more information about the TSCA risk evaluation process for existing chemicals, go to <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsc>.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*

Dated: August 28, 2024.

**Michal Freedhoff,**

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.*

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA R9-2024-01; FRL-12107-01-R9]

#### Notice of Proposed Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Actions and Recovery of Past Response Costs at the Max Johnson No. 9, Manuel Denetsone No. 2, and Juan Horse No. 3 Abandoned Uranium Mine Sites, Navajo Nation, Coconino County, Arizona

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed settlement; request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has entered into a proposed settlement, embodied in an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent ("Settlement Agreement"), with Wells Cargo, Inc. ("Wells Cargo"). Under the Settlement Agreement, Wells Cargo agrees to take response actions and pay a portion of EPA's past response costs at the Max Johnson No. 9, Manuel Denetsone No. 2, and Juan Horse No. 3 abandoned uranium mine sites ("Sites") in the Navajo Nation in Coconino County, Arizona.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 3, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** The proposed settlement agreement is available for public inspection at <https://insert link>. Comments on the Settlement Agreement should be submitted in writing to Gregory Krauss at [krauss.gregory@epa.gov](mailto:krauss.gregory@epa.gov). Comments should reference the Wells Cargo Sites and Docket No. 2024-01, the EPA Region 9 Docket Number for the Settlement Agreement. If for any reason you are not able to submit a comment by email, please contact Mr. Krauss at (415) 972-3913 to make alternative arrangements for submitting your comment. EPA will post its response to any comments at <https://www.epa.gov/navajo-nation-uranium-cleanup/western-abandoned-uranium-mine-region>, EPA's website for the Western Abandoned Uranium Mine Region in the Navajo Nation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gregory Krauss, Assistant Regional Counsel (ORC-3), Office of Regional Counsel, U.S. EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; Email: [krauss.gregory@epa.gov](mailto:krauss.gregory@epa.gov); Phone (415) 972-3913.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of this proposed administrative settlement is made in accordance with section 122(i) of CERCLA. The Settlement Agreement concerns the performance of response actions at the Sites and the recovery by EPA of past response costs. The Settlement Agreement requires Wells Cargo to perform removal site evaluations at the Max Johnson No. 9 and Manuel Denetsone No. 2 mines, conduct certain sampling at the Juan Horse No. 3 mine, and complete an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis for each of the Sites as

determined to be necessary by EPA. Wells Cargo will also pay \$391,183.15 to resolve its liability for EPA's past response costs through March 31, 2019. The Settlement Agreement includes a compromise of around \$75,000 on interest payments and some indirect costs and provides Wells Cargo contribution protection and a covenant not to sue regarding response costs incurred through March 31, 2019, and the work to be performed. EPA will consider all comments received on the Settlement Agreement in accordance with the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections of this Notice and may modify or withdraw its consent to the Settlement Agreement if comments received disclose facts or considerations that indicate that the settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate.

Dated: August 27, 2024.

**Will Duncan,**

*Acting Director, Superfund and Emergency Management Division, EPA Region 9.*

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#### FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

##### Sunshine Act Meetings

**TIME AND DATE:** 10 a.m., Thursday, September 12, 2024.

**PLACE:** You may observe this meeting in person at 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090, or virtually. If you would like to observe, at least 24 hours in advance, visit [FCA.gov](https://fca.gov), select "Newsroom," then select "Events." From there, access the linked "Instructions for board meeting visitors" and complete the described registration process.

**STATUS:** This meeting will be open to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** The following matters will be considered:

- Approval of Minutes for August 8, 2024
- Quarterly Report on Economic Conditions and Farm Credit System Condition and Performance

##### CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If you need more information or assistance for accessibility reasons, or have questions, contact Ashley Waldron, Secretary to the Board. Telephone: 703-883-4009. TTY: 703-883-4056.

**Ashley Waldron,**

*Secretary to the Board.*

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