



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

April 11, 2019

Rita M. Capitan, President
Crownpoint Chapter
Community Services Coordinator
Navajo Nation Crownpoint Chapter
P.O. Box 366
Crownpoint, New Mexico 87313

Subject: No Further Action
Former Palmers Mercantile Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Site
Crownpoint, New Mexico (EPA ID# NAV219)

Dear Ms. Capitan:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of documents pertaining to the former Palmers Mercantile leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanup site. EPA has determined, in concert with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA), that no further action (NFA) is warranted for the Site based on the findings of the site assessment and remediation activity conducted on September 25, 2018 and February 27, 2019. Specifically, this NFA determination is based on the following

- Residual soil contamination that was present was excavated in September 2018 and February 2019;
- All samples noted that the Contaminates of Concern are below applicable standards (including Navajo Nation Cleanup Standards, 2012); and
- No groundwater was encountered during site assessment and remediation activities in 2015, 2018 and 2019.

EPA recommends No Further Action at this time. However, if additional information becomes available in the future regarding hydrocarbon contamination in soil and/or groundwater at the Site, EPA may determine that additional site assessment and/or corrective action is warranted.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact Pam Maples of the NNEPA at 928-971-7764, Rebecca Jamison of my staff at (415) 972-3365, or you can contact me directly at (415)-972-3369.

Sincerely,

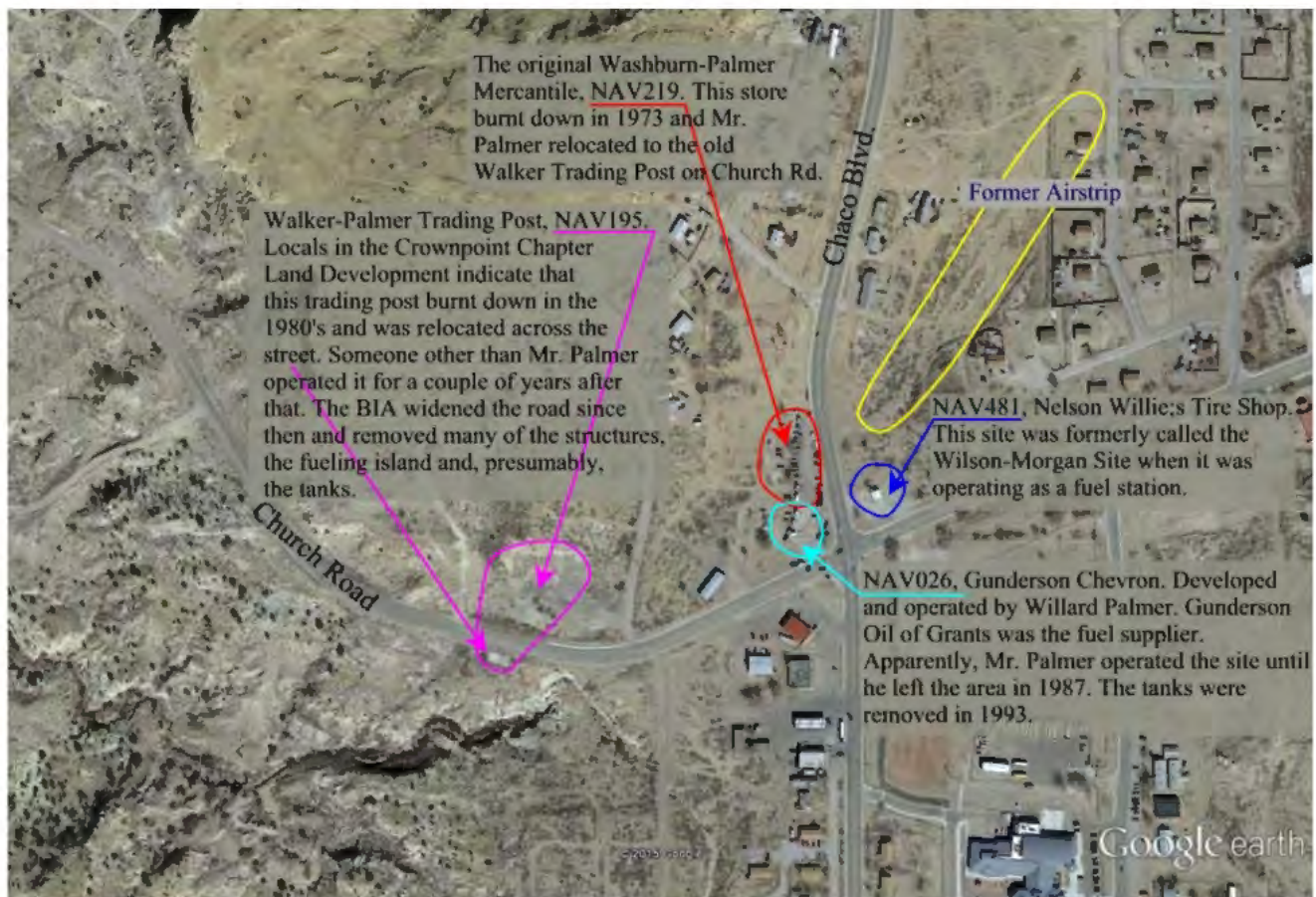
Steven C. Linder, P.E., Manager
Underground Storage Tanks Program

cc: Aaron Edsitty, Crownpoint Community Services Coordinator
Bart Stevens/G. Padilla, BIA-Navajo Region
Navajo RBDO-Shiprock Office
D. Malone/P. Maples, NNEPA

Enclosure A

NAV219 - Former Palmers Mercantile

LAT/LONG: 35.681929, -108.15431



Google earth

feet 1000
meters 500



Enclosure B

Background

The site was a former mercantile (store) run by Bill & Lavone Palmer. According to an article in the Crownpoint Baahané, they purchased a trading post in Crownpoint and named it the Palmer Mercantile in 1953. Lavone's brother managed the store for the Palmers until purchasing his own trading post a year later. Lavone Palmer ran the store after that time until the store burnt down in 1971. The Palmer's other establishment (Crownpoint Trading) was refurbished and renamed Palmer Mercantile. Lavone passed away in 1978. Bill, and his second wife Louise, ran the store until 1986 when it was sold to Phil Foutz. The second Palmer Mercantile location burned down in 1986. There are conflicting statements regarding the removal of USTs at both locations (1973 or 1990).

Current Status

The subject site is currently vacant and has been recently fenced off from the adjacent properties. A 12-foot cattle gate allows access from the southeastern corner of the property. All previous stone and concrete slab remnants of the former store and residence have been removed and the lot is open and relatively flat. The property was previously used as a local flea market site for vendors to sell food and other items. Currently the site has been secured from vehicular traffic by the placement of several Jersey Barriers along Chaco Drive and Church Drive.

In 2015, site assessment activities were conducted by EPA's contractor, iiná bá. Additional site work was undertaken in September 2018 and February 2019. 120 cubic yards (11.85 tons) of petroleum contaminated soil were excavated from the former UST basin down to 12 feet below grade. The soil was then transported off-site to the San Juan County Regional Landfill.

No soil remains at the site location above those Cleanup levels after the 2019 activities.

Potential receptors and hydrocarbon exposures

Contaminated soil was excavated and removed off-site. Groundwater was not encountered during the 2018 or 2019 excavation activities. The depth to groundwater and flow direction are unknown.

EPA believes there are no known potential exposure pathways.