Thirteen years after Diné leaders signed the Treaty of 1868 with the United States to end their incarceration at Fort Sumner, the completion of the Atlantic and Pacific railroad connected New Mexico to California directly through Diné (Navajo) homelands, in what is now known as Arizona. As a result, the production of these settler railroad allotments not only attempted to eradicate Indigenous claims to territory but also created the ambiguous "checkerboard" jurisdiction that continues to pose ongoing problems for the exercise of Diné sovereignty in the 21st century. To theorize this particular territorial arrangement, I develop the analytic of permeability to reimagine how historical land dispossession and violence in the Southwest borderlands converges with broader contemporary issues of toxic contamination, environmental politics, and public health for Indigenous communities today.