

Bonita Peak Mining District Update

June 2018



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak>

Planned Activities:

EPA is releasing for public comment the Proposed Plan for Interim Remedial Actions for the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site. The 30-day public comment period is open from June 14, 2018 through July 16, 2018. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit any comments on the proposed plan to EPA.

EPA also will host a public meeting to present the proposed plan and take public comments.

Proposed Plan Public Meeting

Thursday, June 21, 2018

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Silverton Town Hall

1360 Greene Street in Silverton, Colo.

A fact sheet with a summary of the proposed plan is available at

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100004624>.

The proposed plan is available at

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100004546>.

You may obtain a copy of the proposed plan and the associated administrative record collection at by calling the EPA Superfund Records Center at (800) 227-8917 ext. 312-7273. You can also view them at one of the following locations:

Silverton Library
1117 Reese Street
Silverton, CO 81433

Farmington Public Library
2101 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, NM 87401

Durango Public Library
1900 East Third Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

Diné College Shiprock Campus Library
(Senator John Pinto Library)
BIA Road 0570, Shiprock, NM 87420

Comments on the proposed plan may be submitted until July 16, 2018, via email to peterson.cynthia@epa.gov or by postal mail to:

[Cynthia Peterson](#) (80C-PAI)

U.S. EPA, 1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

2018 Priorities for Superfund Site Work

Continuously **improve environmental conditions** in the mining district by implementing identified early, interim cleanup actions and prioritizing additional response activities for future years.

Increase overall understanding of the mining district through ongoing investigations, site modeling and adaptive goal development.

Involve potentially responsible parties (PRPs), property owners and others in site investigative and cleanup activities.

Continue to **foster active engagement** with all interested parties.

Recent Activities

Since October 2015, EPA has treated discharge from the Gold King Mine at the Interim Water Treatment Plant (IWTP) at Gladstone. All the sludge storage capacity at that location has now been used, and in cooperation with the property owner, EPA is establishing a new interim sludge management location at the Kittimac Tailings source area, approximately 6.5 miles northeast of Silverton, along County Road 2.

EPA will mix the non-hazardous sludge with mine tailings located at Kittimac. This will reduce the high water content of the sludge and allow it to be more efficiently managed. A secondary benefit will be to immobilize heavy metals found in the tailings.

Sludge will be transferred to the interim sludge management location by truck using the County Road 110 bypass. EPA is identifying ways to decrease any negative impacts to local residents, including reducing the speed of trucks near homes to minimize noise and using dust suppressants on all haul roads. Signs will be posted and flaggers will be stationed at appropriate locations to alert other drivers. EPA also will repair any damage to the roads caused by truck traffic and return the roads to their current condition.

EPA plans to conduct a pilot test of this transfer process for one week in mid-June. At the request of local officials, EPA will resume transportation of sludge to the interim sludge management location after the summer tourist season (early fall) for a duration of about five weeks.

A fact sheet about the interim sludge storage location is available at <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100004554>.

New on the Web

- Bonita Peak Mining District Update, April 2018- Spanish (Novedades del distrito minero Bonita Peak, Abril de 2018) <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100004397>
- Bonita Peak Mining District Interim Sludge Management Fact Sheet, May 2018 <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100004554>
- Proposed Plan for Interim Remedial Actions for the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site Fact Sheet <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100004624>
- Proposed Plan for Interim Remedial Actions for the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100004546>



In May 2017, Administrator Scott Pruitt established a task force to restore EPA's Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.



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