

Bonita Peak Mining District Update

July 2019



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



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

Current Activities

- This summer, EPA is finishing work to stabilize the tailings at the Kittimac Sludge Management Location. This work will include mixing the tailings with sludge, then laying down the mixture on the berm at the location. The berm will then be covered with 12 to 18 inches of soil. At that point, EPA will conduct restoration activities on the eight-acre site consisting of final grading, soil amendments, tilling and seeding.
- EPA has begun the process of installing a monitoring well into the American Tunnel. This involves directionally drilling from an existing well pad to assess groundwater conditions between bulkheads 2 and 3 in the tunnel. Information gathered from this well will be used to better understand the water levels in the tunnel and connection with the larger Sunnyside mine pool, as well as connections with other mine workings within the Bonita Peak Groundwater System. This data will inform future decisions about how to control or treat discharges from affected mines.



Setting up the drill rig to install a monitoring well into the American Tunnel.

EPA is conducting this action in accordance with rigorous safety and contingency measures developed in a plan for the completion of the well. Although artesian flow is not expected, out of an abundance of caution, a valve and blow-out preventer will be installed at the top of the casing and used during drilling operations to minimize the potential for unplanned releases from the well. By using a well pad constructed in 2017, EPA is limiting ground and local traffic disturbances as well as potential impacts to cultural resources.

Upcoming Events

- The Bonita Peak Mining District has been chosen as one of six Superfund sites nation-wide to conduct an adaptive management pilot study through the development of a site management strategy. EPA will be presenting information about the pilot study at the next Community Advisory Group meeting. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held on July 25, 2019, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Durango Recreation Center, 2700 Main Ave., Durango, Colo.

New on the Web

- [Bonita Peak Mining District Update, June 2019 – Spanish \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100006602) (2 pg, 700 K)
(Novedades del distrito minero Bonita Peak, Junio de 2019)
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100006602>
- [Digging Deeper Presentation: Human Health Risk Assessment \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100006549) (39 pp, 3.6 MB)
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100006549>