

Bonita Peak Mining District Update

June 2017



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



Upcoming Events

- In response to requests from stakeholders, the site team will begin holding informal meetings for in-depth discussions of specific topics related to work being done in the Bonita Peak Mining District. These “Digging Deeper at Bonita Peak” meetings will take place throughout the year.

Digging Deeper at Bonita Peak: Underground Hydrology

EPA Hydrologist Ian Bowen will discuss the site team’s ongoing hydrological investigations.

Tuesday, June 20, 7 p.m.

Silverton Town Hall, 1360 Greene St., Silverton, Colo.

Digging Deeper at Bonita Peak: Innovative Technologies

Steve Dymont from EPA’s Office of Research and Development will discuss innovative technologies his office is evaluating for use at the Bonita Peak Mining District.

Tuesday, July 25, 7 p.m.

Silverton Town Hall, 1360 Greene St., Silverton, Colo.

Coming this fall: Aquatic Ecological Risk Assessment

2017 Priorities for Superfund Site Work

Early Actions – initiate interim response actions to address simple water management and waste pile stability concerns.

Stability – identify for future action those mine features that may be the most unstable and at risk of unplanned releases of contamination.

Significant Sources – identify for future action mine features with relatively high contributions of contamination.

Human Health – conduct a Human Health Risk Assessment.

Recent Activities

- The Draft Final Bonita Peak Mining District Community Involvement Plan (CIP) has been released for public comment. The CIP will provide the roadmap for how the Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will engage and inform community stakeholders, government officials, the media and other parties regarding investigation and cleanup activities at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site.

A physical copy of the Draft Final CIP is available at:

- Silverton Library, 1117 Reese Street, Silverton, Colo.
- Durango Public Library, 1900 East Third Ave., Durango, Colo.

The CIP is available online at: <http://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/1883580>

Comments on the CIP may be submitted in writing until July 17, 2017, to:

Cynthia Peterson, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
1595 Wynkoop Street (8OC-PAI), Denver, CO 80202

Peterson.cynthia@epa.gov

- The week of June 5th, EPA staff and contractors conducted routine high-flow sampling at accessible low-elevation sites in the Bonita Peak Mining District. Surface water was sampled from the Upper Animas River, Cement Creek and Mineral Creek. Samples will be evaluated for total and dissolved metals, alkalinity and anions, and at select locations, stable isotopes. The week of June 12, Sunnyside Gold Corp. planned to conduct characterization activities in the Upper Animas River in the area around the Mayflower Tailings.

Planned Activities

In the upcoming weeks, EPA will improve the pipeline that drains the adit at the Red and Bonita Mine. The site team will add a “T” valve in the line to redirect the adit flow away from the waste rock pile and lower the depth of water in the adit. This will help stabilize the waste rock pile at the mine as well as reduce the pollutant load to Cement Creek.

As part of this early response action, EPA will evaluate the installation of an ultrasonic flowmeter on the pipeline, which would assist in the agency’s continuing investigation of underground hydrology at the site.



Red and Bonita Mine

Meet the Bonita Peak Site Team

Steve Dymont, Superfund and Technology Liaison EPA Office of Research and Development, Region 8

Steve Dymont is a chemist with more than 20 years of experience, including 4 years in a commercial analytical laboratory and 8 years in environmental consulting. He joined the EPA in 2005 with a focus towards enhancing acceptance and use of emerging analytical technologies and sampling strategies. He also conducts research on issues of national significance while connecting regional research needs with national expertise provided by the EPA Office of Research and Development. Steve holds a B.S. in Environmental Science/Toxicology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In his free time, he enjoys all things outdoors, including winter sports, fishing, hiking and camping.

Drawing upon his years of practical laboratory and field experience, Steve is providing direct project support for the BPMD by compiling vendor information and evaluating innovative technologies for potential application at the BPMD. He will be discussing this work at a “Digging Deeper at Bonita Peak” presentation on July 25, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at Silverton Town Hall.

New on the Web

Bonita Peak Mining District Update, April 2017 - Spanish (Novedades del distrito minero Bonita Peak, Abril de 2017)
<http://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/1883651>

Sampling Activities Report 2016 Sampling Events: Bonita Peak Mining District Site
<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.scs&id=0802497&doc=Y&colid=35661&requestTimeout=480>

More Information

Visit the Bonita Peak Mining District website <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak>.