



Black Butte Mine Superfund Project Update #6

July 2016

The Black Butte Mine Superfund Site is located near Cottage Grove, Oregon in Lane County. Mercury and other contamination from tailings piles at the abandoned mine site affect creeks that flow into Cottage Grove Lake and the Coast Fork Willamette River. The Black Butte Mine site was added to EPA's National Priorities List on March 4, 2010, making it eligible to receive federal funds for long-term cleanup. EPA began field work at the former Black Butte Mine in late October 2012. The boundary of the mine study site is shown on the map below outlined as Operable Unit (OU) 1 Boundary.

In September 2014, EPA contractors completed a Draft Black Butte OU1 Data Summary Report – Addendum 1, which summarized the results of additional field data collection activities conducted through the summer of 2014. Activities described in the summary report include a demonstration of methods applicability, storm event and baseline surface water sampling, and groundwater sampling. Two additional storm water sampling events were conducted in March 2016. Additional sampling is planned for fall 2016 to fill remaining data gaps necessary to complete the OU1 Remedial Investigation. Planned sampling includes: sampling of soil from multiple decision units within OU1 (see Figure 1) as well as dust and building materials associated with standing and collapsed structures within the Old and New Furnace areas; and additional surface water sampling during 2016/2017 wet season high precipitation storm events.

The Furnace Creek drainage is an ongoing dominant source of mercury from the Black Butte Mine to the downstream watershed of Garoutte Creek. As a result, EPA is proposing a non-time critical removal action to control sources of mercury within the Furnace Creek drainage. An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) has been prepared for the Furnace Creek area to describe the proposed removal action. The EE/CA will be available for public comment on August 24, 2016 and a public meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2016. Once the remedy is selected, the removal action is targeted to take place in the dry season of 2017.

EPA has established an Information Repository at the Cottage Grove Library at 700 Gibbs Avenue in Cottage Grove. We will routinely add materials, including Project Updates, to the repository and website <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/bbm>. For more information, contact EPA project manager, Dave Tomten at 208-378-5763, tomten.dave@epa.gov or Judy Smith, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 503-326-6994, smith.judy@epa.gov.

