

Superfund Construction Project – Funding Pending



Brewer Gold Mine Superfund Site Jefferson, South Carolina

Site Description

The [Brewer Gold Mine](#) Superfund site is located in a rural area approximately one mile west of Jefferson, South Carolina. The contamination sources originate from mining operations that took place at the site from 1882 to 1995. When the company abandoned the site in 1999, EPA took over site water treatment operations to contain acid mine drainage (AMD) that could harm Little Fork Creek and the Lynches River. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in 2005. The site includes AMD in the former Brewer pit, the waste-rock dump area and contaminated groundwater.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- Under its Superfund removal authority, EPA took over AMD treatment when the previous owner abandoned the site in 1999. Once added to the NPL in 2005, EPA transitioned the site's cleanup activity to its remedial authority; AMD treatment through the existing treatment plant continues to this day.
- In 2005, EPA issued an interim site cleanup plan, which included collecting contaminated seepage from several springs downgradient of the backfilled pits; pumping contaminated water out of the on-site pit and the sediment pond; and storing contaminated water in a lined storage pond. The cleanup plan also included monitoring discharge into, and surface water quality of, Little Fork Creek.
- EPA signed a record of decision in 2014 for the permanent remedy to ensure surface water protection through capture and treatment of mine-impacted groundwater. The main components of the selected remedy include:
 - Revegetating the former waste rock hill slope to minimize degradation of precipitation runoff from contact with acid producing material;
 - Installing a new extraction well within the former Brewer pit;
 - Collecting affected water from the B-6 pit;
 - Capturing the upper and lower seeps;
 - Constructing a new 5- million gallon annual capacity lime treatment plant;
 - Constructing a new passive zero valent iron treatment system and aerobic wetland to polish the lime treatment effluent and reduce selenium concentrations in treated water prior to discharge;
- EPA completed the remedial design in 2016.
- In February 2019, a temporary receiver was appointed for the 1,100-acre abandoned Brewer Gold mine site.

Project Pending Funding, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2019

This work entails revegetating the waste rock slope, installing a new extraction well in the backfilled Brewer pit, and constructing a new wastewater treatment plant to treat AMD-contaminated water.

Funding Through Fiscal Year 2019

EPA has provided approximately \$23 million for cleanup activities at the site.