

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

**BARITE HILL/NEVADA GOLDFIELDS SUPERFUND SITE
McCORMICK, SOUTH CAROLINA**

October 2012



**U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA)
SUPERFUND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM IS COMMITTED
TO PROMOTING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THE AGENCY.

ACTIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PUBLIC PROJECT.

EPA'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES AT THE
BARITE HILL/NEVADA GOLDFIELDS SUPERFUND SITE
ARE DESIGNED TO

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE NATURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL AFFECT THEM,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE RESPONSES UNDER CONSIDERATION TO REMEDY THESE ISSUES, AND

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TO IMPLEMENT THE REMEDY.

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Section 1.0

Overview of the Community Involvement Plan

EPA developed this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site (the Site) and EPA and to encourage community involvement in Site activities. EPA will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This CIP addresses EPA's relationship with the community (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents EPA's community involvement program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of resources available (Appendices). EPA drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and Site files. EPA's Office of Superfund Public Affairs and Outreach (OSPAO) will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this Plan.

This CIP identifies issues of community concern regarding the Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site in McCormick, McCormick County, South Carolina and outlines community involvement activities including citizen involvement. The CIP also summarizes the proposed Community Involvement Program developed for the Site that is designed to provide the public an opportunity to remain informed in Site remedial activities, and resolve any potential conflicts resulting from the remedial process. Further, this document describes proposed community involvement activities to be conducted by the EPA throughout the Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site remedial action.

1.1 Site Contacts

If you have technical questions regarding the remedial action, please contact:

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If you have questions regarding the Community Involvement Plan, or need any information regarding the remedial action please contact:

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EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
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Section 2.0

Capsule Site Description

2.1 Site History

The Barite Hill property was previously owned by Nevada Goldfields Inc. Mining operations began in 1991. Gold and Silver were actively mined until 1992, and then mainly gold until 1995. The gold ore was mined from the two on-site pits, crushed, agglomerated, and placed on a leach pad. Heap leaching is a process whereby valuable metals (usually gold and silver) are leached from a heap of crushed ore by solutions percolating down through the heap. At Barite Hill, a cyanide solution was used as the lixiviant to dissolve and remove the gold.

In 1995, Site reclamation activities at the Barite Hill Site began. Areas that were reclaimed by the mining company include; the permanent leach pad, the Waste Disposal Area C landfill, the Rainsford Pit, Waste Disposal Area A, and the former crusher/reusable leach pad area.

In June 1999, Nevada Gold Fields Inc. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and in July of the same year, the keys to Barite Hill were given to South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Site was abandoned.

When the mine was abandoned, pumping water from the Main Pit ceased and the pit began to fill with water. The Main Pit contained approximately 100 million gallons of water with a pH of between 2 and 2.2 and a high dissolved metal content; and a serious potential for overflow or breach into the northern unnamed tributary of Hawes Creek. This prompted EPA to initiate a removal action to treat the pit water to near neutral pH and construct a spillway. Seeps from the Main Pit containing acidic water with high dissolved metal content are being released to the tributary.

The EPA Region 4 Superfund program is now completing a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) to identify, select, and implement a permanent remedy for the Site.

2.2 Site Description/Location

The Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site is located approximately three miles south of McCormick, South Carolina between US 378 and US 221 in McCormick County, South Carolina in a residential neighborhood.



Photo sourced from Bing.com - <http://binged.it/zqjXEH>

2.3 Site Inspections and Cleanup Activities

As per a referral by the State of South Carolina, the EPA Region 4 Removal Program conducted a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) according to the National Contingency Plan (NCP). During the RSE of March 2007, the OSC conducted an emergency response whose scope included the demolition of a furnace building and on-site neutralization of over 2000 lbs of varying strength acids and bases. In September 2007, the Agency approved an Action Memorandum to conduct a removal action. The removal action commenced on October 15, 2007 and included a Bureau of Reclamation designed cap for the 250,000 cubic yards (CYS) of acid producing waste rock adjacent to the Main Pit, and Main Pit neutralization and cyanide deactivation in one of the on-site process ponds. Neutralization using carbide lime combined with a patented carbon loading treatment methodology of the Main Pit water began on February 4th, 2008. The carbon loading included approximately 1281 tons of aged-wood chips (provided by Georgia Pacific), 375 tons of molasses, and 21 tons of methanol. A spillway was also constructed at the Site in addition to grading and capping of the north and south waste rock piles. All removal and subsequent construction activities were completed in October 2008.

An Advanced Monitoring System designed to monitor the waste rock cap and Acid Pit is anticipated to be installed at the Site beginning April 2009. This unique monitoring system designed by the Idaho National Laboratory consists of hydrological and geochemical monitoring components together with some basic infrastructure.

The primary environmental assessment process that EPA uses is referred to as a “Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS), and Baseline Risk Assessment (BRA).” The purpose of the RI is to document the nature and extent of contamination and potential risks to human health and the environment from exposure to contaminants present in the soil, water, and air. The BRA is an evaluation of potential risk to human health and the environment related to the Site. The FS is an evaluation of cleanup alternatives and management approaches used to reduce any risk to human health and the environment.

A Work Plan that describes the process and objectives for conducting an RI/FS at the Site has been prepared and is available for review in the Information Repository. The approach for prioritizing investigations at the Site is based primarily on the goal of addressing areas that are believed to pose the potential for greater risk to human health and the environment.

Field work for the RI/FS began in February 2011. It will take approximately two years to complete the investigation and issue a report. The RI Report and FS Report will be placed in the Information Repository and made available for review and comment. EPA anticipates that updates will be provided to the public periodically during Site investigation activities.

Project updates may be viewed at the NPL Site Summary Page for the Barite Hill / Nevada Goldfields Site at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0407714>.

Section 3.0 Community Background

3.1 Community Profile

The Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site is located in McCormick, McCormick County, South Carolina. McCormick is the county seat and is located in northwest portion of South Carolina.

3.2 History of Community Involvement

Media coverage at the Site only slightly increased the awareness of the activities at the Site. Some residents were aware of the Site and the remedial activities underway but only those near the facility.

In July 2011, community interviews were conducted that specifically focused on the Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site. These interviews were designed to transmit information, gain an understanding of the level of interest and concern in the community, and determine the best way to communicate with the public.

3.3 Key Community Concerns

The following section lists the Site-related community issues and concerns identified during the community interviews conducted by EPA in July 2011.

Interviews with citizens revealed that the primary concern of persons living near the Site was the company may have damaged their homes when blasting during the mining process. Citizens are concerned by rumors that there is arsenic and cyanide at the Site. One resident felt that there was a high rate of cancer in the area.

3.4 Response to Community Concerns

None have been taken at this time.

3.5 Summary of Communication Needs

Most community members indicated that mail or email was the best way to get information to them. Local television and newspaper were also mentioned as options.

Section 4.0

EPA's Community Involvement Program

The overall goal of EPA's community involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the EPA and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the cleanup process. EPA will implement the community involvement activities described below. The following plan is based on the results of the community interviews described earlier; it addresses each issue that was identified as being important to the community.

4.1 The Plan

Issue 1: Keeping the public informed and up to date.

Activity 1A: Designate an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC).

- Objective: To provide a primary liaison between the community and the EPA, and to ensure prompt, accurate, and consistent responses and information dissemination about the Site. In those instances where EPA's CIC may be unable to provide adequate information (such as on technical issues), inquiries will be directed to the appropriate EPA contact.
- Method: EPA will designate an EPA CIC to handle Site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members. The CIC is appointed by the Region 4 headquarters. Sherryl A. Lane is the EPA CIC assigned to the Site. She will work closely with Brad Jackson, EPA's Remedial Project Manager for the Site.
- Timing: The CIC was designated on February 23, 2009.

Activity 1B: Prepare and distribute Site fact sheets and technical summaries.

- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about the Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields Superfund Site.
- Method: Fact sheets will be mailed to all parties on the Site mailing list. In addition, copies of the fact sheet will be available at the information repository and in various cooperating business locations in the community.
- Timing: EPA will prepare and distribute fact sheets concurrent with major milestones involving the Site.

Activity 1C: Provide information for the community to contact EPA.

- Objective: To enable citizens to get the latest information available when they want it, rather than having to wait for a meeting or a fact sheet, and without incurring any cost.
- EPA will provide the contact information for the CIC and RPM via factsheet and public notice.

Activity 1D: Maintain a mailing list for the Site.

- Objective: To facilitate the distribution of Site-specific information to everyone who needs or wants to be kept informed about the Site.
- Method: EPA will create a mailing list that includes all residences adjacent to the Site, in known or suspected paths of migration, or those otherwise affected by the Site. EPA will also solicit interested parties via fact sheets, newspaper articles, public meetings, public availability sessions, etc.
- Timing: EPA will begin working on this mailing list immediately and will review/revise it periodically to keep it current.

Activity 1E: Establish and Maintain Information Repositories.

- Objective: To provide a convenient location where residents can go to read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about the Site and EPA activities.
- Method: The repository is a reference collection of Site information containing the Administrative Record file, other Site-specific information, the Community Involvement Plan, information about the Technical Assistance Grant program, and the general Superfund process. The Community Involvement Coordinator will work with a local contact to establish the local repository. This repository will be accessible to the physically challenged, will have copier facilities, and will be available to residents during normal business hours and at least some evening and/or weekend hours. Additional repositories may also be established, including one at the EPA Region 4 office in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Timing: EPA established the local repository in 2008 at the McCormick Library, 201 Railroad Ave., McCormick, SC 29835. EPA adds new documents as they become available.

Activity 1F: Provide Site and Superfund information on the Internet.

- Objective: To provide key resources for searching and listing both general and specific information about Superfund and hazardous waste issues.
- Method: A Site Status Summary for this Site can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/region4/superfund/sites/npl/southcarolina/bhilngldflsc.html>

Information about EPA and Superfund can be found at:

- EPA Headquarters: <http://www.epa.gov>
- EPA Region 4: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region4.html>
- EPA Region 4 Superfund: <http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/sf/comminvolve.htm>

The Proposed Plan and the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site will be placed on the internet as they are completed.

- Timing: Site Status Summaries are periodically updated.

Activity 1G: Provide Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) information.

- Objective: To provide resources for community groups to hire technical advisors who can assist them in interpreting technical information about the Site.
- Method: EPA will provide information about the TAG program at public meetings and in Site fact sheets. EPA will also provide briefing sessions to interested groups if so requested. EPA will provide TAG applications to qualified groups,

Activity 1H: Establish and maintain the Administrative Record.

- Objective: To provide residents with a paper trail of all documents, resources, etc. used by the Remedial Project Manager and Site Team in reaching all decisions about the Site and its cleanup.
- Method: EPA will provide at least two sets of the Administrative Record for the Site, one in the EPA Region 4 offices located at 61 Forsyth St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30303 and one located in the local Information Repository near the Site.
- Timing: The Administrative Record is opened as soon as Site investigation begins and remains open until the last ROD is signed.

Issue 2: Provide adequate and meaningful opportunities for community involvement.

Activity 2A: Conduct public meetings/availability sessions.

- Objective: To update the community on Site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments.
- Method: EPA will schedule, prepare for, and attend all announced meetings/availability sessions. EPA will provide at least two weeks' notice of the scheduled meeting/session. The Remedial Project Manager, Community Involvement Coordinator, and other appropriate EPA staff will attend. Efforts will be made to have the meetings/sessions in the McCormick area.
- Timing: A public meeting is required during the Proposed Plan comment period (see below). EPA will hold other public meetings/availability sessions as appropriate.

Activity 2B: Encourage formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG).

- Objective: To provide citizens with a meaningful way to become actively involved, and to provide the Site Team with a viable means of learning citizen concerns.
- Method: EPA will encourage the formation of a CAG and provide support as appropriate to facilitate its formation. If formed, EPA will provide administrative support but will not be an active member.
- Timing: EPA will respond to any requests for help to form a CAG. As necessary, EPA will promote CAGs regularly throughout the Superfund process.

Activity 2C: Make informal visits to community.

- Objective: To help keep community members informed about the Site, while providing EPA with feedback about Site activities and the community's concerns.
- Method: EPA will establish a presence in the community through informal, often unscheduled visits to talk spontaneously with local residents.
- Timing: Throughout the entire Superfund process.

Activity 2D: Solicit comments during a Public Comment Period.

- Objective: To give community members an opportunity to review and comment on various EPA documents, especially the Proposed Plan. This provides the citizens with meaningful involvement in the process and also provides the Site Team with valuable information for use in making decisions.
- Method: EPA will announce each comment period separately. Announcements will appear in local newspapers and EPA fact sheets or flyers; they will include particulars on duration, how to make comments, where to submit comments, etc. EPA may solicit comments on the following information/draft documents: draft CIP, draft summary of test results (not individual tests) and initial interpretation, preliminary findings on the RI and a list of possible remedies likely to be considered, preliminary findings of the FS and a brief summary of the leading contender for the proposed remedy, and preliminary plans for implementation and construction.
- Timing: Comment periods will be announced as appropriate. A comment period is required in conjunction with the announcement of the Proposed Plan and will last a minimum of 30 days.

Activity 2E: Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary.

- Objective: To summarize comments received during comment periods, to document how the EPA has considered those comments during the decision-making process, and to provide responses to major comments.
- Method: EPA will prepare a Responsiveness Summary as a section of the Record of Decision. The Responsiveness Summary will include four sections: 1. Overview; 2. Background on Community Involvement; 3. Summary of comments received and Agency responses; 4. Remedial Design/Remedial Action concerns. All information, both technical and nontechnical, will be conveyed in a manner that is easily understood.
- Timing: EPA will issue the Responsiveness Summary as part of the Record of Decision.

Activity 2F: Revise the Community Involvement Plan (CIP).

- Objective: To identify and address community needs, issues, or concerns regarding the Site or the cleanup remedy that are not currently addressed in this CIP.

- Method: The Revised CIP will update the information presented in the previous version of the CIP.
- Timing: EPA will revise the CIP as community concern warrants or at least every three years until the Site is closed out.

4.2 Time Frame Summary for Community Involvement Activities

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Designate an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)	Completed February 23, 2009
Prepare and distribute Site fact sheets and technical summaries	Ongoing
Involve students, parents, teachers through area schools	Ongoing
Provide contact information for the community to contact EPA	Ongoing
Maintain a mailing list for the Site	Ongoing
Establish and maintain Information Repositories	Established, update as needed
Provide Site and Superfund information on the Internet	Currently available; update as needed
Provide Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) information	Ongoing
Establish and maintain the Administrative Record	Established, update as needed
Conduct special events	As needed
Hold public meetings	As needed. Proposed Plan.
Encourage formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG)	Ongoing
Make informal visits to community	Ongoing, as needed.
Solicit comments during a Public Comment Period	As needed and required
Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary	Following public comment periods
Revise the Community Involvement Plan (CIP)	As needed, at least every 3 years

Appendix A

EPA and SCDHEC Contacts

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61 Forsyth St, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
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U.S. EPA, Region 4
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Atlanta, GA 30303
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E-mail: lane.sherryl@epa.gov

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Federal Remediation Section
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Bureau of Land and Waste Management
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Phone (803) 896-4162 Fax (803) 896-4292
e-mail: williacj@dhec.sc.gov

Appendix B

Local Officials

City Administrator

David H. Krumwiede
117 West Augusta St.
McCormick, SC 29835
(864) 852-2225

County Commissioner (District 4)

Charles Jennings
223 Pine Grove Church Rd.
Plum Branch, SC 29845
(864) 443-2353

Appendix C

State Officials

Governor

Governor Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 734-2100
Fax: (803) 734-5167

SC Senate

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608 Gressette Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 212-6000

SC House of Representatives

J. Anne Parks
434D Blatt Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 734-3069

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Charles J. Williams, III, Project Manager
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and Revitalization
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
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e-mail williacj@dhec.sc.gov

Appendix D

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Senate

Lindsey Graham (R)

DC Office: 290 Russell Senate Office Bldg.

DC Phone: (202) 2224-5972

Jim DeMint (R)

DC Office: 167 Russell Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20510

DC Phone: (202) 224-6121

U.S. House of Representatives

Jeff Duncan (R)

DC Office: 116 Cannon HOB

Washington, DC 20515

DC Phone: (202) 225-5301

Appendix E

Environmental and Active Citizens Groups

None Identified.

Appendix F Media Contacts

Television Stations:

WJBF (ABC-6)
1001 Reynolds St.
Augusta, GA 30909

WFXG (FOX-54)
3933 Washington Rd.
Augusta, GA 30909

WAGT (NBC-26)
905 Broad St.
Augusta, GA 30909

WBEK (UPN-16)
2567 Central Ave., Suite 1
Augusta, GA 30909

WRDW (CBS-12)
4051 Jimmie Dyess Pkwy.
Augusta, GA 30909

FM

WQAI 89.5
WAEG 92.3
WKER 91.1
WEKL 105.7
WPRW 107.7

AM

WGAC 580
WTWA 1240

Newspapers:

McCormick Messenger
120 Main St.
McCormick, SC, 29835

Radio Stations:

Appendix G

Meeting Locations

McCormick County Chamber of Commerce
100 S. Main St.
McCormick, SC 29835

McCormick County Office Bldg.
610 South Mine St.
McCormick, SC 29835

Appendix H

Repository Locations

Local Repository:

McCormick Library
201 Railroad Ave.,
McCormick, SC 29835

EPA Region 4 Repository:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth St., SW
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, 9th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: (404) 562-8190

Fax: (404) 562-8114

E-mail: r4-library@epa.gov

Hours Open to Public:

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM – 3:45 PM