CURRENT CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

Tailing Facility Seepage Remedial Design

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) have received and are reviewing the Pre-Final Design Report for the Tailing Facility Seepage Barrier Upgrade. The report presents the design for upgrades to portions of the groundwater seepage interception system at Chevron Mining Inc. 's tailing facility. The upgrades will provide additional seepage capture from Dam No. 4 and Dam No. 1 at the tailing facility. The upgrades to the collection system are based on an investigation conducted by Chevron Mining Inc. (CMI) under the Early Design Administrative Order. The results of the seepage investigation are presented in the June 2016 report entitled "PRE-DESIGN INVESTIGATIONS TO UPGRADE SEEPAGE BARRIERS AND WELL EXTRACTION SYSTEMS – TAILING FACILITY FINAL REPORT." The report is available at www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine.

Waste Rock Pile Test Pit and Drilling Program

In other Early Design activities, CMI is conducting additional investigations at Capulin and Goathill North waste rock piles (WRPs) and installing new equipment at Sugar Shack West and Sugar Shack South WRPs. The additional work includes installation of approximately 16 test pits at the Capulin WRP. The intent of the test pit program is to identify the depth to bedrock, provide samples for geotechnical testing and to provide information for selecting drilling locations. The drilling program includes two boreholes on the Goathill North WRP and seven boreholes on the Capulin WRP. The work at Sugar Shack South includes drilling a new borehole to replace a damaged inclinometer and installing piezometers. At Sugar Shack West, CMI will drill a new borehole to replace a sheared inclinometer and install piezometers.

Reclamation Performed Under State Permits

CMI continues to decommission equipment in the Mill Building, including the ball mills, slurry and sump pumps and flotation cells. In addition, CMI's contractors are working on decommissioning the Primary and Secondary Crushers. CMI is preparing a preliminary tailing pipeline removal plan to be submitted to NMED and EMNRD by March 1, 2017 for review. Finally, NMED and EMNRD are working with CMI to close out the Subsidence Zone pursuant to Permit No. TA001RE Revision 05-1 to ensure consistency with work to be performed under EPA's Superfund program.
First Five-Year Review

Eagle Rock Lake after cleanup completion.

EPA is in the process of conducting the site’s first Five-Year Review. The Five-Year Review will determine if the following completed cleanups remain protective of human health and the environment:
- Removal of polychlorinated biphenyl contaminated soil at the Mill Area and off-site treatment and disposal of the excavated soil.
- Piping of unused irrigation water in the Eastern Diversion Channel to prevent its infiltration through historic buried tailing in the Tailing Facility Area.
- Removal of tailing spill deposits along the Red River Riparian Area, including the large tailing pile at the Lower Dump Sump and on-site disposal of the excavated material at the Tailing Facility Area.
- Installation of inlet storm water controls at Eagle Rock Lake, removal of Eagle Rock Lake sediment and on-site disposal of the excavated material.

The Partial Consent Decree

The Consent Decree is a settlement agreement between Chevron Mining Inc. (CMI), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the State of New Mexico. Under the Consent Decree, CMI will perform part of the cleanup work described in EPA’s Record of Decision (ROD) and pay over $5.2 million to reimburse EPA’s past costs for overseeing cleanup work at the site.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EPA strongly believes that public engagement makes for better informed decisions for both EPA and for the community. EPA remains committed to keeping local officials and the community involved and informed as we clean up the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund site.

Each Superfund site has a Community Involvement Plan (CIP), which serves as a road map for EPA to address community needs and concerns during the cleanup process. EPA is in the process of revising the Chevron Questa Mine CIP. The updated CIP will identify areas of current interest and potential concerns of the local community and other stakeholders at the site. To help update the CIP, EPA will interview community members impacted by the site starting in March 2017.

EPA welcomes your feedback and suggestions on how to improve our communication efforts. Do you have suggestions that can improve the exchange of information or ideas regarding the cleanup efforts? Then we want to hear from you! Please share your thoughts with Janetta Coats, the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund site Community Involvement Coordinator, at her contact information listed on the following page.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

On the Chevron Questa Superfund Site: www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine
On Superfund: www.epa.gov/superfund
For more information, please contact...

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Information Repositories
The Administrative Record, including the Record of Decision for the site is available at the following locations:

Village of Questa
2500 Old State Road 3
P.O. Box 260
Questa, NM 87556
(575) 586-0694

New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2340

Inquiries from the news media should be directed to the External Affairs Office at (214) 665-2200 or by email at R6press@epa.gov.

U.S. EPA on the Internet
U.S. EPA Headquarters
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U.S. EPA Region 6
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U.S. EPA Region 6 Superfund
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