



# Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Recorded Presentation Series

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • June 2021

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a seven-part recorded presentation series on the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Superfund site. We hope this information helps you understand the site, EPA's Superfund process, and how we study options to address the contamination. For EPA contacts or more information on the site, please visit our website: [www.epa.gov/superfund/ironkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ironkingmine)



## **Presentation 1 – A Look at the Site (with Photo Tour)**

The former mine and smelter created more than 8 million tons of mine tailing and smelter wastes. Today, the site has many contaminated areas that need cleanup, including the mine and smelter properties and the drainage the lies between them.

## **Presentation 2 – Defining the Problem: The Remedial Investigation**

As part of the Superfund process, EPA conducted a comprehensive investigation of the contamination. During our remedial investigation, we studied what and where contamination is and what risks it may pose to human health and the environment. Over several years, we took thousands of samples and other measurements to complete this investigation.

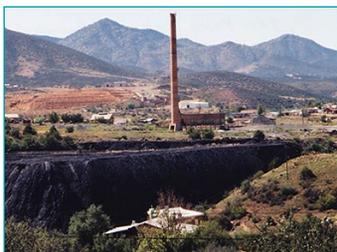


## **Presentation 3 – Options for Cleanup: The Feasibility Study**

As part of the Superfund process, EPA is doing a feasibility study that compares five clean-up options to address the contamination. When comparing the cleanup options, we consider the effectiveness of each alternative, the time it takes to complete, costs and how the options might affect the community, among other factors.

## **Presentation 4 – Interim Dust Control, Fencing and Signs**

The Superfund process takes time. In 2019-2020, EPA took short-term actions to protect human health until we could select a final, long-term cleanup. These actions included dust control at the former smelter property. In addition, we placed many warning signs and added/upgraded fencing at or near both the former mine and smelter properties to warn people to stay away.



## **Presentation 5 – Residential Investigation and Cleanup**

EPA studied the surface soils at almost 600 residential yards in Dewey-Humboldt and considered human health risk when choosing which yards to clean up. Between 2006-2017, EPA cleaned up surface soils at 50 yards.

## **Presentation 6 – Future Reuse of the Smelter Property**

EPA does not choose or pay for future land uses. However, we consider what future land uses the community might want when we select our cleanup options. In September 2018, EPA began learning how the community wanted to reuse the former smelter property. In response, we issued a [reuse assessment for the former smelter property](#) in June 2020.

## **Presentation 7 – A Health Concern: Natural Arsenic in Private Drinking Water Wells**

Naturally-occurring arsenic is present in and around Dewey-Humboldt. It can be found in some groundwater at levels higher than federal and state safe drinking water standards. Arsenic in groundwater is not from the site. However, high arsenic levels are a health concern for those who use groundwater for privately-owned wells. There are actions well owners can take to protect their health.

High levels of contamination are found on privately-owned land once part of the former Iron King Mine and former Humboldt Smelter properties. EPA asks the public to follow posted warnings and stay away from these dangerous, contaminated properties (see [September 2020 fact sheet](#)).

To view these videos, click the hyperlinks in the titles.