

NPL Site Narrative for Fremont National Forest/White King and Lucky Lass Uranium Mines (USDA)

FREMONT NATIONAL FOREST/WHITE KING AND LUCKY LASS URANIUM MINES (USDA) Lake County, Oregon

Conditions at Proposal (January 18, 1994): The Fremont National Forest/White King and Lucky Lass Uranium Mines site is located approximately 18 miles northwest of Lakeview, Oregon. The White King Mine is located on U.S. Forest Service and private land and the Lucky Lass Mine is located entirely on Forest Service land.

The mines were operated from 1958 through 1961 and intermittently through 1964. The Atomic Energy Commission oversaw ore production from the mines. A total of 140 acres were disturbed by mining: 120 acres at White King Mine and 20 acres at Lucky Lass Mine. Contaminant areas include stockpiled ore, overburden mixed with ore, and acid drainage waste water that has filled the pits created by the mining activities.

The primary hazards posed by the mine waste include gamma radiation exposure from radioactive constituents, emanation of radon gas, and environmental contamination by heavy metals and the radioactive constituents in surface and ground water. Surface water and sediments in Auger Creek and nearby wetlands have been contaminated by mining activities. The creek and surface water bodies downstream of the site are used as a source of recreational fishing.

Status (April 1995): In October of 1994, the U.S. Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with EPA and the State of Oregon to: (1) implement a removal action at the Lucky Lass Site during fiscal year 1995; and (2) complete an RI/FS workplan for characterization of the site. An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) has been completed for the removal action and public comments are being addressed. The RI/FS workplan is nearing completion. The agencies are currently negotiating with a PRP to implement the RI/FS workplan with RI sampling scheduled to begin in the summer of 1995.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.