

Bonita Peak Mining District Update

March 2020



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak>

Site Announcements

- As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities we serve is our top priority. As a result, EPA and its Superfund site teams are cancelling or postponing in-person public meeting events, door-to-door visits, and other site-related face-to-face interactions to reflect current COVID-19 guidance from federal, state, tribal and local officials (e.g., gatherings of more than ten people at a time are discouraged, and social distancing should be practiced where possible).

EPA is committed to continuing to keep in contact with affected communities using other communication channels such as fact sheets, postcards, phone, social media, etc., and virtual tools such as on-line meetings, webinars, conference calls, call-in numbers, etc.

Please note that this is a rapidly changing situation and we will continue to be in touch as we know more.

- On May 13, 2020 the CDPHE is hosting FREE 8-Hour Health and Safety Training in Silverton, Colorado. The training is required for those working on Superfund sites and will prepare local residents for employment opportunities that may become available in the Bonita Peak Mining District. Please note that the 40-hour certification should be considered a pre-requisite for taking this refresher class.

There is no charge for participants. For more information or to register, contact [Mark Rudolph](#) at 303-692-3311 or mark.rudolph@state.co.us. Meals will not be provided.

Location: Kendall Mountain Community Center, 1 Kendall Place, Silverton, Colorado

Site Updates

- Beginning in the fall of 2016 and running through the fall of 2018, a total of five sampling events were conducted by the Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) on behalf of the EPA in the BPMD to better understand water quality and quantity emerging from seeps, springs and draining mine adits in the mining district.

These sampling events focused on the upper cement creek watershed above Silverton, and the results will be summarized in the “Bonita Peak Mining District 2016-2018 Seeps, Springs, and Draining Mines Characterization Report” available in April 2020 on the EPA website. The report will be used to fill previously identified data gaps and to improve the hydrogeologic Conceptual Site Model for the study area.



- EPA is in the process of evaluating options for a sitewide repository for waste rock/tailings and Interim Water Treatment Plant (IWTP) sludge.

EPA is focusing these evaluations on the Mayflower tailings impoundments. In fall 2019 EPA conducted geotechnical investigations at the Mayflower tailings which included drilling soil borings and test pits at possible repository locations at the Mayflower tailings impoundment.

The results of the data collected during the investigation will help inform the feasibility study. The feasibility study evaluates repository alternatives against nine criteria which include protectiveness, compliance with laws and regulations, implementability, effectiveness, cost, and state/community acceptance. EPA uses this feasibility study to choose a preferred alternative. This preferred alternative is then presented to the public for comment in a proposed plan. EPA plans to complete this spring and host a public meeting on the preferred alternative described in the proposed plan in summer 2020.



Aerial photograph of waste repository concept at another mine site.

New on the Web

- [Fact Sheet: BMPD Selected Site Strategy \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007380) (2 pp, 2.1 MB)
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007380>
- [EPA Presentation to the Community Advisory Group, February 27, 2020 \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007474) (26 pp, 19 MB)
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007474>
- [Bonita Peak Mining District Update, February 2020 \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007379) (2 pg, 1.1 MB)
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007379>
- [Bonita Peak Mining District Update, February 2020 – Spanish \(Novedades del distrito minero Bonita Peak, Febrero de 2020\) \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007486) (2 pp, 1.1 MB)
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007486>