

# Bonita Peak Mining District Update

April 2021



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



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

## Site Updates

- In preparation for the 2021 field season at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund site, EPA is drafting a list of upcoming projects and tasks, which will continue to focus on the established site goals of improving water quality, stabilizing source areas, and minimizing unplanned releases.

These projects include implementing cleanup at certain mine locations identified in the 2019 IROD, continuing the Mayflower tailings investigation, moving forward with remedial investigations, and designing a repository. One of the planned projects includes an investigation of the rock quality around the Gold King Mine adit. To conduct this investigation, EPA plans to drill a borehole parallel to the existing adit to gather information on the geology and rock quality. Data gathered from this borehole would be part of a multiyear effort to evaluate what long-term improvements are needed or are available for the Gold King Mine. The 2021 task list and five-year plan will be posted on the website when they are finalized.

- EPA and its contractors are working on a preliminary design for the long-term waste repository. As part of the design process, EPA is continuing to gather information and will share updates as they are available.
- The 2018 seeps and springs report and the 2019 addendum are available on EPA's website. Mountain Studies Institute collected high- and low-flow data at numerous seeps, springs, and mines throughout the district, which provides information about the site's hydrology and metals load.
- Mayflower Impoundments pre-peak runoff water sampling began in March and is set to continue in April as part of the remedial investigation. High-flow data will be collected in May/early June. This information will aid our understanding of physical and source characteristics, nature and extent of contamination, and transport mechanisms. Surface water and groundwater sampling is ongoing in addition to the pre-peak runoff sampling. This work is being done by Sunnyside Gold Corporation pursuant to an administrative order with EPA.
- EPA and the State will be onsite in early May to collect information to aid in planning summer field work.



*Mayflower Tailings drainage*

## New on the web

- [BPMD Update, March 2021 \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100010323) (2 pp, 1 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100010323>
- [2016-2018 Seeps, Springs, and Draining Mines Characterization Report \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007694) (481 pp, 15 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100007694>
- [2019 Addendum to 2018 Seeps, Springs, and Draining Mines Report \(PDF\)](https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100009811) (36 pp, 1.5 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100009811>