

# Bonita Peak Mining District Update

June 2021



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



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

## Site Announcements

- EPA plans to begin work at Terry Tunnel in July to dewater and open the portal. This work will cause the closure of County Road 25 and EPA will announce once the road has been reopened. EPA started preparing the area for this work in June.
- EPA is conducting a removal action at the Pride of the West Mill. The action will remove improperly stored chemicals and hazardous materials from the building. For updates visit our [removal website](#) (<https://response.epa.gov/prideofthewestmill>).



Figure 1: Pride of the West Mill

## Site Updates

### Kohler/Junction Mines

- EPA is continuing work from the 2020 season at the Kohler/Junction Mines to remove sediment from settling ponds located at these mines. This work restarted in June and is expected to wrap up in July.

### Bandora Mine

- EPA is currently collecting geophysical data to evaluate stability and the presence of water. Additional work will follow this summer, including mining influenced water diversion, culvert installation, and potential well installation above the collapsed portal.



Figure 2: Kohler Tunnel sediment removal

### Gold King Mine

- EPA expects to begin work to drill a horizontal borehole near the Gold King Mine in July. This borehole will gather geologic data to assist in evaluating options for long term stability and flow control.

### BLM/Mighty Monarch and Lackawanna Mill Site

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will perform work at Mighty Monarch and the Lackawanna Mill site in preparation for the transfer of these lands to the Town of Silverton. Once these lands transfer to Silverton, they will be in ongoing “operations and maintenance” as cleanup activities are completed.

### Site-Wide Waste Repository

- EPA and the State of Colorado are working on a multiple stage design for the long-term waste repository, which will be used to manage and store remediated waste from throughout the site. EPA developed a technical considerations document which is available on the EPA’s website (see link below in New on the Web) to provide preliminary concepts

for the repository and outline various factors EPA and the designers are considering in the design. Multiple stakeholders identified an interest in maximizing the lifespan of the repository. As the design progresses, it will incorporate an increased processing area to allow for refining process options to improve waste handling, allowing for increased capacity and lifespan. For questions or comments, please reach out to [Rob Parker](mailto:parker.robert@epa.gov) (parker.robert@epa.gov).

## New on the Web

- [BPMD Update, April 2021 \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 1 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100010371>
- [Repository Technical Considerations Report, Bonita Peak Design, Phase 1 \(PDF\)](#) (362 pp, 68 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/1966113>
- [Red and Bonita Bulkhead Test, Final Report \(PDF\)](#) (696 pp, 97 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100010330>
- [Red and Bonita Bulkhead Test Closure Field Activity Summary Report \(PDF\)](#) (760 pp, 12 MB)  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100009812>
- [Pride of the West Mill Removal](#)  
<https://response.epa.gov/prideofthewestmill>