

# Bonita Peak Mining District Update

April 2022



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



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

## Site Announcements

- On April 28, 2022, the Federal District Court entered a consent decree detailing a final settlement agreement between the Justice Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the State of Colorado, and Sunnyside Gold Corporation (Sunnyside) and its Canadian parent company Kinross Gold Corporation (Kinross) concerning the Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) Superfund site. EPA and the Justice Department announced the details of the proposed settlement on January 21, which was subject to public review and comment prior to being finalized today. EPA held a public meeting on the Consent Decree on March 16, 2022, at the request of the Town of Silverton/San Juan County to receive additional comments.

Under the agreement, Sunnyside and Kinross will pay \$40,950,000 to the United States; and \$4,050,000 to the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE). The United States will also contribute \$45,000,000 to the continuing cleanup at the BPMD Superfund site. In addition, Sunnyside and Kinross will dismiss its claims against the United States. All money recovered by EPA under the Consent Decree will be placed in an EPA special account and used to fund future response actions at the BPMD site. As a result of this agreement, Sunnyside is relieved of its obligation to carry out remedial investigation work at the site and EPA will take over this work. The Consent Decree also grants property access to the United States, the State of Colorado and other Potentially Responsible Parties for the purpose of carrying out future response actions.

## Site Updates

### Sitewide Repository

- EPA continues to design a sitewide mine waste repository which will be sited at the Mayflower Impoundment #4. The repository design balances safety, capacity, and operational feasibility. It's anticipated that the repository construction will begin in Spring 2023.

### Cement Creek Ice Dam

- Following an orange water observation in Cement Creek on February 3, 2022, EPA confirmed the source was a natural ice dam release in Cement Creek approximately 900 feet upstream of the Yukon Mine site. EPA conducted limited sampling, and the data package is available at the link below.



MAYFLOWER IMPOUNDMENT #4

## Planned Activities

- During the week of May 22, EPA will be conducting a round of high groundwater sampling in the OU1 wells located in the Eureka Fluvial Tails Focus area to better understand seasonal variability in groundwater elevations and seasonal variability in groundwater-surface water interaction.

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

- EPA is hosting a free in-person 40-Hour HAZWOPER Health & Safety Training. 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. There is no charge for participants, but registration is required. For more information, please contact Mark Rudolph at 303- 692-3311 or [mark.rudolph@state.co.us](mailto:mark.rudolph@state.co.us).

May 9-13, 2022

8:00am - 5:00pm

In-person event; Please note the alternate location on Friday, May 13

Location Monday-Thursday: Kendall Mountain Recreation Center, 1 Kendall Pl Silverton, CO 81433

Location Friday: Silverton San Juan Fire & Rescue Authority, 1500 Greene St Silverton, CO 81433

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ddmrh>

- CDPHE is hosting a free in-person/virtual 8-Hour Health and Safety Refresher Training. Please note that the 40-hour certification should be considered a pre-requisite for taking this refresher class. There is no charge for participants, but registration is required. For more information, contact Mark Rudolph at 303-692-3311 or [mark.rudolph@state.co.us](mailto:mark.rudolph@state.co.us).

June 1, 2022

8:00am - 5:00pm

Hybrid in-person/Virtual event

In person location: Kendall Mountain Recreation Center, 1 Kendall Pl Silverton, CO 81433

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/2hbczx9s>

## New on the Web

- [2021 Annual Construction Summary Report: Interim Remedial Action](#)
- [2021 Final Report: London Mine](#)
- [Cement Creek Ice Dam Data Package](#)
- [Red and Bonita Mine Bulkhead Test Closure Analytical Report](#)
- [Technical Memorandum: Surface Water Loading Tool](#)

## BPMD Team Changes

- EPA's BPMD Site Team wishes Rob Parker, Remedial Project Manager, well in his new position supervising the Field Services Section in EPA Region 8's Drinking Water program! Rob has worked on the BPMD Site since 2015. We also bid farewell and well wishes to Kerry Guy, On-Scene Coordinator, who has moved into a management position in EPA's Removal Program. Kerry has worked at the site since 2015 and spent many summer seasons enjoying Silverton!
- EPA's BPMD Site Team welcomes several new members:
  - Jessica Duggan (March 2022) – Remedial Project Manager
  - Craig Myers, Eric Sandusky, Megan Schuette (April 2022) – On-Scene Coordinators