Bonita Peak Mining District Update

June 2023

Site Updates

EPA has begun construction of the Bonita Peak Repository at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site. Throughout the summer, residents of Silverton can expect to see construction activity, including workers wearing personal protective equipment, at Tailings Impoundment 4 of the Mayflower Mill. In May, EPA set up dust monitoring systems on the impoundment. During the month of June, construction equipment will be transported to the site.

Repository construction on Tailings Impoundment 4 Photo: EPA

Planned Activities

EPA

- EPA will be mobilizing in June to install three monitoring wells into the Sunnyside Gold mine workings in the Lake Emma area. Each of the three wells will target narrow mine workings approximately 800 ft. to 1000 ft. below the ground surface. This drilling effort is estimated to take all summer and into the fall. As part of the mobilization, EPA will need to temporarily close CR25, while the drill rig is driven up to Lake Emma. These characterization activities are important to EPA's understanding of water quality and movement of groundwater within the workings and throughout the BPMD groundwater system. Specifically, they will help determine hydraulic gradient, flow direction, potential surface expression of the groundwater.

- EPA will also test the Bonita Peak Mining District Alert and Notification Plan in an exercise planned for early June.

- BLM will be mobilizing into the Wynona Mine and Prospect Gulch area in mid-June. This work will include snow removal for site access so the sites will dry out for proposed construction work. The BLM plans to be in the Prospect Gulch area through August this field season.

Public Participation Opportunities

The comment period is open for BLM's Environmental Assessment of the Mineral Point Ditch Water Rights. For more information and guidance for making a comment, visit the [project webpage](#).

New on the Web

- [Bonita Peak Repository Design Factsheet](#)