

Bonita Peak Mining District Update

October 2023



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



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

Get Involved

- **BPMD Community Sessions:** Join the Silverton community to learn more about the Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD). These entry-level sessions are free, open to the public, and do not require an RSVP. These sessions are hosted by the BPMD Planning Group.

The next BPMD Community Session will be:

- **Intro to Superfund at the BPMD** – Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at Silverton Town Hall, from 6-7pm

- Videos from the Silverton Miners Oral History Project are now [available on YouTube!](#) The videos are part of a DRMS-led project that help tell the story of Silverton's mining history. These videos were shared with the Silverton community at an October 19 BPMD Community Session.

Field Work Update

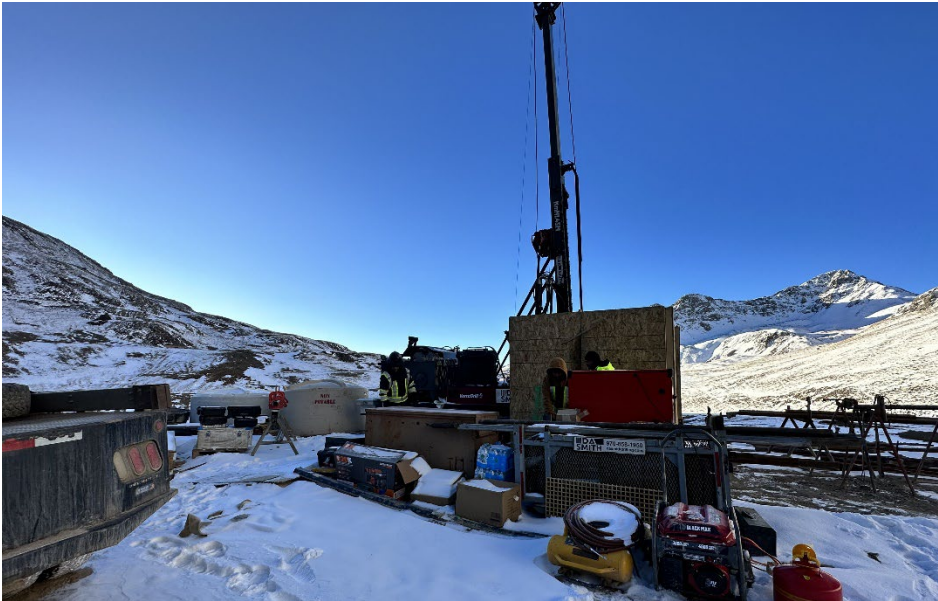
EPA

Construction of the **Bonita Peak Repository** has been ongoing since June. The Repository is located on Tailings Impoundment 4 of the Mayflower Mill, as selected in EPA's [Interim Record of Decision](#). Construction activities will continue until winter conditions prohibit work and will resume in Summer 2024.

The site team continues to prioritize material generated in San Juan County at the Upper Animas Sand and Gravel Pit or producing material onsite to alleviate the overall truck traffic through the Town of Silverton. Trucking of clean fill material from Montrose is currently supplying materials not available in the county.



Liner installation in a stormwater channel of the Bonita Peak Repository



Drilling Equipment at Lake Emma in mid-October

In the **Lake Emma** Area, EPA continued drilling work to install the third of three monitoring wells into the Sunnyside Gold mine workings. These monitoring wells will allow EPA to gather critical data on water quality, and how groundwater moves within the mine workings and throughout the Bonita Peak groundwater system.

As access to the area becomes more difficult, the team is working to winterize the site and plan to resume work in Summer 2024.

In October, EPA completed the extension of the portal shed at the **Gold King Mine** to minimize the risk of rockfall and avalanche debris blocking access. Access to the flow control structure in Level 7 of the Gold King is critical for maintenance and inspections to ensure the conveyance of mine water to the Interim Water Treatment Plant.

More information, including the administrative record for this project, can be found at the [response webpage](#).

Work on the Gold King Mine primary conveyance pipeline has improved and added pipeline cleanout access points while continuing to clear clogs from iron hydroxide build up. The Interim Water Treatment Plant continues to operate as intended and is receiving GKM water through a secondary conveyance line while work on the primary line is conducted.



Completed portal extension at Gold King Mine



Aerial view of fencing installed at Campground 4

DRMS

Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mine Safety finished work at the Mountain Queen, Columbus, and Vermillion Mines as part of the 2019 Interim Record of Decision remedial action to direct mine drainage and stormwater away from waste rock with drainage ditches and short pipe sections.

DRMS also utilized a local contractor to complete a fencing project to prevent access to contaminated soils at Campground 4.