

Bonita Peak Mining District Bonita Peak Repository Construction

June 2025



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Bonita Peak Repository

During Summer and Fall 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is continuing construction of a sitewide mine waste repository at the Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) Superfund Site. The Bonita Peak Repository is located on Tailings Impoundment 4 of the Mayflower Mill, as selected in EPA's [Interim Record of Decision](#). Construction began in Summer 2023.

This fact sheet provides more detail about the third season of construction at the Bonita Peak Repository (BPR) and what the Silverton community can expect while construction is ongoing. More information about the repository design can be found in the [BPR Design Fact Sheet](#).



Aerial view of the Repository, at the start of Season 1 and Season 2

Whats happening in 2025?

The goal of this season of construction is to prepare the facility to accept treatment generated solids (sludge) from the Gladstone Interim Water Treatment Plant. EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, and their contractors will work to:

- Complete stormwater infrastructure including the addition of a passive drainage system for clean runoff to flow from the site.
- Build access roads and the Cell 2 footprint, using compacted aggregate and gravel.
- Prepare to move sludge from Gladstone to Cell 1.

What to Expect?



- Work may occur at the site up to 7 days per week through November 2025 Typical construction hours are from 7:00 am – 5:30 pm but may vary throughout the season.
- Construction workers and activity may be visible from some areas of Silverton, especially while travelling northbound on CR2.
- Equipment noise may be heard on the trails above the construction area.
- A full road closure with a detour of CR2 will be needed to replace culverts running under the road at the Galvin Spring.

Compacted material lays the foundation for the facility

- Water trucks will continue to be used for dust suppression during construction activities.
- Construction plans may shift due to weather or delays
- Construction activities include trucking in large amounts of clean material ranging from pea size gravel to boulders as well as asphalt from Montrose and Durango-area sources. A similar amount of traffic can be expected as in the 2023 and 2024 seasons.
- The previously planned asphalt area for Cell 2 and the perimeter access road will now be built with gravel and aggregate; the CR 2 access ramp will still be paved for stability.
- These efforts will help convert Tailings Impoundment 4 into a fully functional waste repository ready to receive sludge from the Gladstone Interim Water Treatment Plant in 2025 and 2026.



Water truck sprays down a pile of material for dust suppression.

Key Documents

Interim Record of Decision: <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100010443>

Bonita Peak Repository Design Fact Sheet: <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100013180>

Additional Information

EPA and USACE will continue to:

- ✓ Communicate and coordinate with local officials of the Town and County.
- ✓ Provide construction progress updates directly to community leaders.
- ✓ Communicate any expected major disturbances to the Silverton community via the Nixle alert system, operated by the San Juan County Office of Emergency Management.
To sign up for Nixle alerts, text 81433 to 888-777.



For more information about the Bonita Peak Repository Construction Project, please contact:

Athena Jones, Superfund Remedial Project Manager

Jones.Athena@epa.gov

(720) 926-2015