

Bonita Peak Mining District Update

September/October 2016



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



Update of Recent Activities

- On Sept. 9, EPA added the BPMD to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. Superfund is the federal program that investigates and cleans up the most complex, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites to protect public health and the environment. EPA proposed the BPMD site for addition to the NPL on April 7, 2016, and conducted a 68-day public comment period on the proposal. After reviewing and responding to all comments in a responsiveness summary, EPA has added the site to the NPL. For more information, visit <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OLEM-2016-0152>.
- During the week of August 22, EPA's Remedy Optimization Team met in Silverton and toured the BPMD. While in Silverton, the team also met with managers from US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to discuss upcoming cleanup activities at the site. Remedy optimization is the systematic site review by a team of independent technical experts, at any phase of a cleanup process, to identify opportunities to improve remedy protectiveness, effectiveness and cost efficiency, and to facilitate progress toward completion of site work. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup-optimization-superfund-sites>.



The Bagley Mill near Animas Forks, Colo.

Planned Activities

- During October** - EPA, its contractors and partner organizations (Bureau of Land Management, US Geological Survey and Mountain Studies Institute) will be conducting the following sampling events and investigations in the BPMD:
 - Benthic macroinvertebrates study to support the development of the Ecological Risk Assessment
 - Satellite imaging in preparation for the development of a Digital Elevation Model
 - Installation of two weather stations to better understand the area's hydrology
 - Installation of piezometers and sampling of existing excavation pits at the Kittimack tailings
 - Investigation to estimate pre-mining water quality in Cement Creek

- **Week of November 14, 2016** - A series of public meetings are planned for the week of November 14, 2016, in Silverton, Durango and Ignacio, Colorado, and a community in New Mexico. A recap of activities undertaken at the BPMD over the last year will be provided along with an opportunity to talk one-on-one about work being done at the site. **Please note:** Due to these meetings, the BPMD site team will not conduct its regularly scheduled site visit the week of October 24, 2016. Meetings will be held in:
 - Silverton Town Hall, 1360 Greene St, Silverton, Colo., on Nov. 14, at 6:30 pm
 - Durango Public Library, 1900 East Third Avenue, Durango, Colo., on Nov. 15, at 7:00 pm
 - A community in New Mexico –location and time to be determined

For More Information

Visit the Bonita Peak Mining District website <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak>