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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Mine Waste Water Released into Upper Portions of the Animas River – Colorado

Aztec, NM - On Wednesday, August 5, 2015 the Gold King Mine, located above Silverton, Colorado, experienced a breach in their contamination dam, triggering a large release of water containing sediments.

The San Juan Basin Health Department issued a press release today advising that "EPA teams are conducting sampling and visual observations today and will be monitoring river conditions over the next several days." The water associated with the release is visibly discolored by high levels of sediment.

The mine water is estimated to arrive within the city limits of Durango by approximately 3:00p.m. today and is proposed to reach the New Mexico state line early Friday morning.

San Juan County, New Mexico area Water User and Ditch Companies have been notified of the incident and will be taking precautionary measures. The cities of Farmington and Aztec have taken steps to prevent contamination of local water supplies.

San Juan County residents, pet owners, and livestock owners, are encouraged to avoid contact with the Animas River and the San Juan River below the confluence with the Animas River until the mine water discoloration has passed.

A Call Center has been set up for the public in La Plata County, Colorado at 970-385-8700. Information is also available on the La Plata County website at <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/emergency>, San Juan Basin Health Department's Website at www.sjbhd.org, La Plata County Government Facebook and San Juan Basin Health Department Facebook.