

**Incident Briefing
US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of July 26, 2017**

Carribeau Mill Site

Current Situation

Site Description: The EPA Region 8 Removal Program is conducting a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) at the Carribeau Mill Area in the Iron Springs Mining District. This action began the week of July 17th.

This removal action is being performed to gather and consolidate the heavy metals contaminated tailings and bury them in an on-site repository. It will mitigate the human health threat as well as the threat to the environment by removing them from direct contact with humans and animals in addition to preventing them from being released into the watershed by erosion.

Removal Objectives for 2017 Field Season:

1. Protect worker health and safety.
2. Ensure all response actions are consistent with the National Contingency Plan.
3. Excavate tailings located within the natural drainage path to the watershed, and build a repository on site for the tailings.
4. Install control measure (wall) to protect the newly constructed repository in the event of an unexpected natural release from the USFS adit/mine. Widen and armor drainage path from the water draining from the adit/mine.
5. Build a dike adjacent to the beaver dam to ensure existing pond sediment is not released, as well as install a bridge at the adjudicated easement for permanent reliable access to the repository.

Current Actions / Progress to Date

The Carribeau Mill Area Action Memo authorizing work was signed on June 30, 2017.

EPA OSCs and ERRS contractors mobilized to the site July 17, 2017.

EPA had a conference call with the county and attorneys to discuss bridge installation requirements on July 21, 2017.

On July 25, 2017, Deere & Ault's mining engineer, Christoph Goss, conducted site walk and peer review on Hays Griswold's repository design. He ensured the design was technically sound as well as provided guidance on stability sloping, avoiding groundwater tables, etc.

A START mobilized to the site to provide website building, mapping, air monitoring, and photo documentation on July 25, 2017.

Set up office space, equipment mobilization, clearing and grubbing of vegetation, scraping of clean soil for repository.

Access for the low water crossing has been temporarily granted. Negotiation for longer term access is underway with the EPA attorney until the bridge is installed. (Affects two other property owners outside of the site)

Installation of erosion control measures including silt fencing and straw waddles.

Planned Actions for Next Week

1. Conduct Site survey and marking to identify easement for bridge and property boundaries.
2. Start construction of repository and excavation of tailings.
3. Perform air monitoring.
4. Install diking controls for water diversion
5. Back fill excavated areas.

Future Actions (Beyond Next Week)

1. Install permanent access bridge.
2. Widen and armor drainage path from the adit. (Will not touch the adit.)
3. Armor the river bed as needed after tailings removal.
4. Continue repository construction.
5. Continue tailings excavation.
6. Continue backfilling with clean soil.
7. Build a dike outside of the drainage area/settling pond before entering the Howard Fork.

Organization

The EPA Region 8 Removal Program is conducting this removal action with the USFS. Stakeholder communication is being shared with DRMS, CDPHE, San Miguel County, the Town of Ophir, Congressman Tipton's office, and other relevant stakeholders.

Resources On-Site

Personnel on-site include: ERRs contractors, OSCs Hays Griswold and Joni Sandoval, a START contractor, and engineer: Christoph Goss (Deere & Ault 7/25 only).

Community Involvement Activities

Recent Actions:

A public meeting was held in the Ophir Town Hall on July 17, 2017. An additional presentation on site activities was given at the Ophir Town monthly meeting on July 18, 2017.

EPA attended and presented at the Board of County Commissioner's mtg. on July 19, 2017.

EPA briefed Congressman Scott Tipton's office on site activities on July 20, 2017.

Planned Actions:

Reoccurring updates will occur as site conditions warrant for all stakeholders, including for Tipton's staff.

Website and Photos

https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=12271

Scraping of clean soil and exposing tailings.



Engineering consult for repository design on 7/25/17.

