



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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Ref: 8EPR-ER

Date: July 6, 2016

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Mine Site Category Determination for Fiscal Year 2017 Planned Activities at the Camp Bird Site, Ouray, Ouray County, Colorado

FROM: Martin McComb, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) *M McComb*

THRU: Laura Williams, Emergency Response Unit Leader *Laura Williams*

TO: The File

This memorandum is written to the file as documentation of the Mine Site Category determination as required by the EPA Headquarters' memorandum (Mathy Stanislaus) dated March 29, 2016.

The Camp Bird Site is located 6 miles south of the Town of Ouray in Ouray County, Colorado. There are three large tailings deposits outside Level 14 of the Camp Bird Mine. Two tailings piles located on the south side of Canyon Creek are associated with historic milling activities that date back to the early 1900s. A third tailings pile is located on the north side of Canyon Creek and was last used for disposal in the late 1990s. This third modern tailings pile is located within the boundary of an active mining permit administered by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS). There is no impounded water or other fluids present at any of these tailings piles. **Therefore, the Camp Bird Site is determined to be a Category 1 Site using Attachment 2 to the Headquarters' memorandum.**

The entire Site is in bankruptcy and is being managed by a court appointed Trustee. An Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) and Work Plan has been developed in coordination with a potential purchaser, DRMS, the Bankruptcy Trustee, EPA and the Department of Justice. The AOC calls for two phases of work: Phase 1 will be conducted with EPA oversight and addresses erosion and erosion potential at the historic tailings. Phase 2 will be conducted with DRMS oversight under an amendment to the active mining permit and will address erosion and erosion potential at the modern tailings. Tasks to be completed by the purchaser in Phase 1 with EPA's oversight include:

1. Prevent erosion of tailings from flood events into the adjacent perennial streams.
2. Prevent erosion of tailings from wind, storm water runoff, and side drainages into the adjacent perennial streams.

Based upon the planned activities and no fluid hazard, the Camp Bird Site is a sub-Category “1N” site where there is “no known or potential fluid hazard” as described in Attachment 2 to the Headquarters’ memorandum.

Due to the 1N sub-category determination for the Site, no consultation with Headquarters is required prior to initiating the planned activities for 2017 described above.

Attachment: Map of the Camp Bird Site

