1. Site Name	2. Operational Period	Incident Briefing
Camp Bird Mine (A8H9)	September 25, 2017 to October 1, 2017	

3. Site Description

The Site is located 6 miles south of Ouray in Ouray County, Colorado. The Site contains three very large tailings piles that are being actively eroded by three different streams (Sneffels Creek and Imogene Creek enter the Site and combine in the middle of the tailings to form Canyon Creek). All three tailings piles are also susceptible to flood events, increased runoff and failure of the existing slopes.

The two tailings deposits on the south side of Canyon Creek are associated with historic milling activities that date back to the early 1900s. The downstream historic pile is bisected by a side channel / tributary that flows into Canyon Creek. A third modern tailings pile is located on the north side of Canyon Creek and was last used for disposal in the late 1990s. This modern pile is located within an active mining permit boundary administered by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS).

In August 2017, Caldera Mineral Resources purchased the property and signed an Administrative Order on Consent with EPA and the State of Colorado to prevent the erosion the tailings deposits. Work will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 is being conducted as an EPA Time-Critical Removal Action under the direction of a Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and will address all efforts in the creeks and in the historic tailings. Phase 2 will be performed under the direction of DRMS through modification of the existing mining permit and will address stabilization of the modern tailings.

Webmap Website

4. Current Situation

Response operations are currently focused on stabilization of the downstream historic tailings pile, removal of obstructions in Canyon Creek and obtaining restoration materials on-site. Reconstruction of the upstream segment of Imogene Creek has been completed.

Local stakeholders have requested that restoration materials not be trucked through Ouray and that County Road 361 not be improved to obtain these materials from nearby sources. EPA has therefore placed emphasis on the collection of rock and soil on site. Potholes and deep ruts were filled in at the entry to the mine and between the historic buildings to better contain on-site traffic. No additional locations on CR 361 will be improved without consulting with county officials.

Current response operations include using controlled explosives to construct a drainage channel around the lower historic pile, remove obstructions in Canyon Creek and improve existing roads that are on-site and outside of the permitted active mine boundary. All rock that is generated during this blasting is being saved for use during Phase 1 (EPA's Removal Action).

The Site team is using heavy machinery in both Imogene and Canyon Creeks to pull contaminated material back away from the stream, sculpt the channels to account for a variety of flow regimes, armor the lower banks and construct flow control structures directly in the stream channels. Stakeholders and the public should expect the occasional release of greyish sediments during this work.

On-site operations will pause for the season when the county access road is closed for the winter season.

5. Response Operations

PHASE 1 (EPA Time-Critical Removal Action)

1. Stabilize the downstream historic tailings pile.

Planned Activities during this Operational Period

a. Continue construction of a drainage channel along the uphill perimeter of the pile to divert runoff around the tailings.
b. Continue excavation of the tailings east of the bisecting channel and place this material into the center of the pile.
c. Continue the drainage channel around the newly formed slope of the tailings and downhill into the natural drainage that exists to the east of the pile.
d. Continue re-grading the remaining slopes of the pile.

Anticipated Activities during the next Operational Period

e. Construct erosion control features across the surface of the pile.
f. Cover the surface of the pile with topsoil and establish vegetation.

2. Stabilize the upstream historic tailings pile.

Anticipated Activities during the 2018 Construction Season

a. Regrade the slopes of the tailings pile and construct erosion control features.
b. Cover the surface of the pile with topsoil and establish vegetation.

3. Stabilize the stream channels.

Completed Activities

a. Widen and reconstruct Imogene Creek from the pipe bridge downstream to the river crossing.

Planned Activities during this Operational Period

b. Remove rock obstructions from Canyon Creek and thin trees on the south bank.

Anticipated Activities during the 2018 Construction Season

c. Reconstruct the river crossing in Imogene Creek.
d. Widen and reconstruct Imogene Creek from the river crossing to the confluence.
e. Widen and reconstruct the confluence of Imogene and Sneffels creeks.
f. Widen and reconstruct Sneffels Creek from the CR361 bridge to the confluence.
g. Widen and reconstruct Canyon Creek from the confluence to a point downstream of the historic tailings.
h. Armor stream banks, construct erosion control features and establish vegetation in the constructed floodplain.