

TELLURIDE VALLEY FLOOR (TVF)/BOOMERANG ROAD REMOVAL ACTION

August 6, 2021 Update

A lot has been happening at the Telluride Valley Floor/Boomerang Road Time-Sensitive Removal Action site and I would like to share a quick update with you.

Overall Progress:

In order to address community concerns, EPA launched a “soft start” on removal activities at the TVF/Boomerang Road Removal site by delaying our start date, holding community meetings, reducing the initial number of haul trucks, and limiting hauling hours. While this slowed our initial progress a bit, our federal on-scene coordinators overseeing this removal action remain confident they will meet our October deadline on all activities planned for 2021.

Important Note: EPA expects removal of contaminated mine tailings and soil to be completed by October 2021. However, some stream restoration work is likely to continue into 2022.

For real-time updates on our progress, please visit the [EPA’s Telluride Valley Floor site profile](#), scroll down and click on “Site Updates” to enter our new “Experience” web application. This new Experience tool provides a one-stop shop for easy access to our story map, air monitoring data, map viewer, and other helpful information.

Public Office Hours:

EPA will be hosting public “office hours” in Telluride on Wednesday, August 25th, to discuss progress on EPA’s work at the site, answer questions, and address public concerns. Sessions will be held at the Wilkinson Library in Telluride from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and again from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

[To register for one of these sessions, please use our online form.](#)

If you have any difficulty accessing this form, please contact Chris Wardell at: Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov or Laura Jenkins at Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov

Additional office hours are planned for September 22nd and October 20th. We will notify the community when registration opens for these upcoming sessions.

Hauling:

In response to community concerns, EPA reduced the initial number of haul trucks from six trucks per hour down to four. After evaluating the hauling process and modifying procedures to address community concerns (such as truck speeds and dust suppression), EPA plans to add two additional trucks per hour to the hauling schedule. EPA is taking this step to ensure it meets its goal of removing all contaminated mine tailings and soil before winter.

If you experience any unanticipated impacts as a result of this increase, please contact Chris Wardell or Laura Jenkins. In addition to emailing us, residents should also feel free to text Laura at: 720-519-5504, if the issue is time-sensitive.

Trail Reroutes:

EPA and U.S. Forest Service have temporarily rerouted trails away from the removal site. [Maps of the rerouted trails can be found on the TVF site profile.](#)

EPA appreciates everyone's cooperation in following instructions on posted signage directing users to the rerouted trails and warning users against entering the construction zone. While the U.S. Forest Service bridge is closed to pedestrians and cyclists, please use the nearby temporary pedestrian bridge. We understand some recreators are frustrated having to use rerouted trails but these temporary changes are needed to protect the health and safety of users, as well as on-site removal personnel. For more information on site background, [please check out our factsheet.](#)

Please do not remove or bypass construction fencing at the site. EPA is conducting this time-sensitive removal action due to the significant risks posed to human health and the environment from contaminated mine tailings and soil at the site. Contaminants of Concern at this site include high concentrations of lead and arsenic. For information on the effects of exposure to lead and arsenic on human health, EPA encourages you to visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's ToxFAQs website.](#)

Air Monitoring:

Particulate air monitoring is being conducted to ensure dust controls are effective. A total of 3 air monitoring instruments are deployed near the work area, within the town of Telluride, and near the Repository.

For real-time results of air monitoring, please check out our new [Real-Time Particulate Monitoring Chart](#), which is part of our new Experience tool on the TVF site profile.