

Lisbon Valley Mining District

Removal Site Update

Operations Period: 06 November 14-20, 2022

Website: response.epa.gov/LisbonValleyMiningDistrict

Story Map: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d53319ab3b444696a28e2faea977b443>

Site Description

The Historic Lisbon Valley Mining District (Site) is located southeast of La Sal in San Juan County, Utah. Miners discovered copper in the area in 1892 and expanded their mining activities after the additional uranium and vanadium. The area remained a significant producer and area of exploration until mining operations slowed over the decades following World War 2.

In 2022, EPA, BLM and the State of Utah identified two abandoned mines where recreational human exposure to mine waste is evident, the downstream migration of mine waste is significant and no apparent remediation has occurred. These two abandoned mines are the Radon Mine and the Columbia Shaft.

EPA is currently conducting a CERCLA Time Critical Removal Action at the Radon Mine and the Columbia Shaft to control erosion and limit human exposure to mine waste.

Site Safety Message

Radioactive mine waste containing high levels is at the surface at both the Radon Mine and the Columbia Shaft. Visitors to these locations may be exposed to hazardous substances. Hiking, camping and exploring at these mines is discouraged.

Site Objectives

Radon Mine

1. Remove radioactive metal debris found on surface of waste pile.
2. Regrade the waste pile and install erosion control features.
3. Pull toe of the waste pile out of the ephemeral drainage.
4. Restrict visitor access until new vegetation is established.

Columbia Shaft

1. Regrade the waste pile and install erosion control features.
2. Restrict camping and access to the waste pile.

Radon Mine at the beginning of EPA's Removal Action:



Radon Mine at the End of this Operations Period:



Period Objectives

Radon Mine

- Finish pulling the toe of waste pile out of the ephemeral drainage.
- Remove mine waste from the ephemeral drainage to the extent practical.
- Create an runoff control ditch across the face of the pile.
- Complete rough grade of the waste pile.

Period Accomplishments

EPA's Response Team pulled the toe of the Radon Mine waste pile completely out of the ephemeral drainage and above a conservative 10' deep floodway. The toe was pulled back to native bedrock in many locations and rock was used to protect native soil from erosion. Mine waste removed from the drainage was moved to the top of the pile.

The Team left the drainage and regraded their access ramp into a runoff control ditch. The entire waste pile was graded to better control erosion and keep mine waste from entering the drainage and migrating off-Site.

Planned Activities

Response Operations at the Radon Mine are largely complete. EPA's Response Team will reseed the regraded waste pile with hydro-mulch and place boulders in front of the gate to the mine to best restrict access until vegetation is established.

The Response Team will move equipment and resources including communications to the Columbia Shaft at the beginning of the next Operations Period. Field activities will be paused for Thanksgiving.

New Toe of Waste Pile and Outfall of Culvert at the Radon Mine

