

Lisbon Valley Mining District Removal Site Update

Operations Period: 07 November 21-27, 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 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

- Complete rough grade of the waste pile. Seed the regraded waste pile using hydromulch.
- Install gate with lock at bottom of access road.
- Move equipment to Columbia Shaft location.

Period Accomplishments

The Response Team procured a seed mix recommended by BLM and spread the seed on all disturbed areas using a hydro mulch mix which contained an organic amendment, mulch and a tackifier.

A ranch gate was installed across the mine access road at the point where it leaves the the County Road. The gate will be locked until vegetation on the waste pile is established.

The crew moved its equipment, decontamination trailer, command post and other resources to the Columbia Shaft.

Planned Activities

EPA's Response Team plans to spread another layer of protective hydro mulch on top of the seed, install additional erosion control features (rocked water bars and waddles) and place radiation warning signage provided by BLM.

The Team will also begin regrading the Columbia Shaft waste pile.