

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



Animas River Sampling Efforts

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #15
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)

Date: 8/22/2015

Reporting Period: 8/21/2015 0700 – 8/21/2015 1900

1. Introduction

1.1 Description of Threat

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at www.epa.gov/goldkingmine.

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: (844) 607-9700.

2.1 Operations Section

EPA continues to discuss the short and long term criteria with NMED, as proposed in their submission.

Morningstar Update: Farmington completed the surveying process for increasing the feed lines. This will allow the pump to operate for an extended period of time without pumping its feed tanks dry. Construction is estimated to take 1 to 2 days.

EPA met with Lower Valley Water authority management and notified them that a finished water sample will be taken for total and dissolved metals early next week.

EPA will attend the NMED led Water Fair on August 24th and 25th.

EPA has sent NMED validated data for the following:

- Surface Water Sampling Analytical Data from August 6-14th
- Surface Water Monitoring Data from August 6th-19th
- Intake Sediment Sampling Analytical Data from August 10th-14th
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment Sampling Analytical Data from August 13th-14th
- Sampling Analytical Data from the 114 private and public wells sampled between August 10-15th

Data Posted to the Web

The following data was sent to HQ to post:

- Drinking Water Intake Surface Water Data from August 15-17.
- Drinking Water Intake Sediment Data from August 15-17.

Community Meeting/VIP

No Community Meetings or VIP visits are scheduled.

Toll-Free Number Activity

	8/23/15	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	0	179
Calls Concerning R6	0	62
Calls Returned by R6	0	62

The table below is a breakdown of the calls pertaining to Region 6. Of the eighteen Well Water Test Scheduling calls, seven of the citizens expressed gratitude for EPA's efforts in sampling.

TOPIC	DATE: 08/23/2015	OVERALL TOTALS
Well Water Test Scheduling	0	19
Water Concerns	0	8
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	0	4
Tourism/Media	0	1
Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	0	17
Contractor/Vendor Support	0	6
Daily Totals:	0	62

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

Matrix	U.S. EPA Region	Qty. (8/23/2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Private Drinking Water Wells Resampled	6	0	94
Private Drinking Water Wells Initial Sample Effort	6	0	114

EPA is coordinating with NMED on the draft private water well sample letter.

Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Farmington and Morningstar are working on fixing issues with tank feed lines. Farmington agreed to connect Morningstar to a new line on Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

Matrix	U.S. EPA Region	Qty. (8/23/2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Surface Water Samples	6	9	150
Sediment Samples	6	9	127

Irrigation Ditch Sampling

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed. A total of 59 irrigation ditch samples were collected.

Agriculture and Livestock Water

The agriculture and livestock team demobilized on August 20, 2015.

	Total to Date
Farmers Served	28
Gallons to Farmers	1,068,270
Livestock Farms Served	31
Gallons to Livestock Farms	36,720
Hay/Alfalfa Pickup	244 bales

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report						
Region	U.S. EPA Cumulative Expended Payroll	U.S. EPA Cumulative Expended Travel	U.S. EPA Cumulative Other Charges	Cumulative U.S. EPA Contractors Cost	Total Cumulative Costs	Estimated Daily Burn Rate
6	\$308,730.00	\$89,350.00	\$12,989.44	\$1,826,632.07	\$2,237,701.51	\$95,060.00

3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA
USFWS
NMED
ATSDR
NM Department of Health
NM Office of the State Engineer NM
Department of Game and Fish
County of San Juan – New Mexico

4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	14
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	6
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	3
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	4
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	4
Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field	10