

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

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI



Animas River Sampling

Subject: POLREP #23
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: 9 /1/2015

Reporting Period: 8/31/2015 0700 – 8/31/2015 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 field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

EPA collected the 2nd finished water sample at the Lower Valley UAW. The remaining three Public Water Systems will be sampled per the schedule developed with the Water Systems.

The rented pump which was being used by the Morningstar system was demobilized.

EPA has sent NMED validated data for the following:

- Surface Water Sampling Analytical Data from August 6-25, 2015
- Intake Sediment Sampling Analytical Data from August 10-27, 2015
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment Sampling Analytical Data from August 13-14, 2015
- Private Well Data from August 10-14, 2015 and August 19-21 and August 24-25, 2015

Data Posted to the Web

The following data has been posted:

- Drinking Water Intake Surface Water Data from August 6-25
- Sediment Data from Intakes from August 10-27

Community Meeting/VIP

Senator Udall will be visiting Shiprock, New Mexico on Wednesday September 2. The Region 6 Regional Administrator and the Incident Commander will be attending the meeting.

An Animas River Recovery Open House is scheduled for Farmington, NM on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 from 3 pm to 8 pm MDT. Areas of interest to be covered include, “Anticipated Long Term Environmental Monitoring of the River and Sediments”, “Water Quality” and “Economic Impacts: Claims” The EPA Region 6 Incident Commander is scheduled to attend along with a member of the EPA Region 6 Environmental Unit to answer questions regarding the private wells sampling and sampling results.

Toll-Free Number Activity

	08/31/2015	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	0	190
Calls Concerning R6	0	64
Calls Returned by R6	0	64

TOPIC OF CALL	08/31/2015	OVERALL TOTALS
Well Water Test Scheduling	0	20
Water Concerns	0	8
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	0	4
Tourism/Media	0	1
Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	0	18
Contractor/Vendor Support	0	6

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

Matrix	US EPA Region	Qty. (8/31/2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Private Drinking Water Wells Resampled	6	0	100
Private Drinking Water Wells Initial Sample Effort	6	0	114
Private Drinking Water Wells – New Samples*	6	0	6

* This takes the total number of wells sampled to 120

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

Matrix	US EPA Region	Qty. (8/31/2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Surface Water Samples	6	9	220
Sediment Samples	6	9	199

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report						
Reg	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	\$443,500.00	\$112,450.00	\$12,989.44	\$2,189,000.00	\$2,747,939.44	\$52,500.00

3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA
USFWS
NMED
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	12
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	5
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	3
Region 6 EPA OSC	2
Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field	8