

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

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**Region VI**



**Animas River Core Sediment Sampling**

**Subject: POLREP #25**  
**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 / 3 /2015**

**Reporting Period: 9/2/2015 0700 – 9/2/2015 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

Senator Udall visited Shiprock, New Mexico on Wednesday, September 2, 2015. The Region 6 Regional Administrator, Ron Curry, and the Incident Commander attended the meeting. Presentations were given by the Ron Curry, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Kim Carpenter, the San Juan NM County Executive Officer. Mr. Carpenter was very positive about the work Region 6 EPA has done and especially OSC Mark Hayes.

On September 2, 2015, EPA Region 6 took core and surface water samples at 5 of the 7 planned locations identified by NMED as areas of high sediment deposition. The remaining 2 locations will be sampled Thursday, September 3, 2015.

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 10-28, 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 10-28

#### Community Meeting/VIP

#### Toll-Free Number Activity

|                             | 9/2/2015 | Total to Date |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------|
| <b>Total Calls Received</b> | 0        | 190           |
| <b>Calls Concerning R6</b>  | 0        | 64            |
| <b>Calls Returned by R6</b> | 0        | 64            |

| TOPIC OF CALL                     | 9/2/2015 | OVERALL TOTALS |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>Well Water Test Scheduling</b> | 0        | 20             |
| <b>Water Concerns</b>             | 0        | 8              |
| <b>Health Concerns</b>            | 0        | 4              |
| <b>Livestock/Irrigation</b>       | 0        | 4              |
| <b>Tourism/Media</b>              | 0        | 1              |
| <b>Volunteer Offers</b>           | 0        | 3              |
| <b>General Concerns</b>           | 0        | 18             |
| <b>Contractor/Vendor Support</b>  | 0        | 6              |

#### Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

The table has been removed as the private well sampling effort was completed on August 27, 2015.

### Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

| <b>Matrix</b>                | <b>US EPA<br/>Region</b> | <b>Qty.<br/>(9/1/2015)</b> | <b>Qty.<br/>(Cumulative)</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Surface Water Samples</b> | 6                        | 9                          | 238                          |
| <b>Sediment Samples</b>      | 6                        | 9                          | 217                          |

## **2.2 Finance Section**

| <b>Daily Cost Estimates Report</b> |                                                         |                                                        |                                                      |                                                         |                                       |                                          |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reg</b>                         | <b>U.S. EPA<br/>Cumulative<br/>Expended<br/>Payroll</b> | <b>U.S. EPA<br/>Cumulative<br/>Expended<br/>Travel</b> | <b>U.S. EPA<br/>Cumulative<br/>Other<br/>Charges</b> | <b>Cumulative<br/>U.S. EPA<br/>Contractors<br/>Cost</b> | <b>Total<br/>Cumulative<br/>Costs</b> | <b>Estimated<br/>Daily Burn<br/>Rate</b> |
| 6                                  | \$461,092.50                                            | \$117,550.00                                           | \$12,989.44                                          | \$2,241,050.00                                          | \$2,832,681.94                        | \$38,762.50                              |

## **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**

| <b>Group</b>                                        | <b>Number</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Region 6 EPA @ REOC</b>                          | 11            |
| <b>Region 6 Contractors @ REOC</b>                  | 4             |
|                                                     |               |
| <b>Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO</b> | 3             |
| <b>Region 6 Toxicologist – Farmington, NM</b>       | 1             |
| <b>Region 6 EPA OSC</b>                             | 1             |
| <b>Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field</b>            | 8             |