

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



**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](http://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.

EPA sent the Interim Final Quality Assurance Sampling Plan, Water and Sediment Sampling and Monitoring for Gold King Mine Spill, Farmington, San Juan County, New Mexico, to the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED). This document which included revisions based on comments previously received from NMED.

NMED submitted a recommendation to EPA to shift its focus of sediment sampling at the intakes to sampling at seven new locations along the Animas and San Juan Rivers.

EPA has sent NMED validated data for the following:

- Surface Water Sampling Analytical Data from August 6-14<sup>th</sup>
- Surface Water Monitoring Data from August 6<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>
- Intake Sediment Sampling Analytical Data from August 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment Sampling Analytical Data from August 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>
- Sampling Analytical Data from 102 of the 114 private and public wells sampled between August 10-15<sup>th</sup>

#### Data Posting to the Web

The following data has been posted to the website:

- Drinking Water Intake Surface Water Data from August 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment Data from August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>
- Drinking Water Intake Sediment Data from August 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

Community Meeting/VIP

No Community Meetings or VIP visits are scheduled.

Toll-Free Number Activity

	<b>8/21/15</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Total Calls Received	25	179
Calls Concerning R6	5	62
Calls Returned by R6	0	57

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.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DATE: 08/21/2015</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>
Well Water Test Scheduling	0	18
Water Concerns	1	19
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	0	4
Tourism/Media	1	2
Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	0	16
Contractor/Vendor Support	0	6
<b>Daily Totals:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

EPA sampled fourteen private water wells on August 21, 2015. One owner declined to have EPA resample their wells. Three well owners have asked to have their wells sampled either Saturday or early next week. The EPA has been unable to reach four (4) well owners to schedule the sampling of their well.

The reduction in numbers of contractors in the field reflect the completion of the private well sampling.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Private Wells Resampled</b>
8/19	38
8/20	42
8/21	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94 Distinct Wells</b>
<b>Initial Testing</b>	<b>114 Distinct Wells</b>

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 has agreed to connect Morningstar to a new line on Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	<b>8/21/2015</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
River Surface Water Samples	9	132
River Sediment Samples	9	109

Irrigation Ditch Sampling

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	<b>Total to Date</b>
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	59

Agriculture and Livestock Water

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

	<b>Total to Date</b>
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**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Expended Payroll</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Expended Travel</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Other Charges</b>	<b>Cumulative Contract Costs</b>	<b>TOTAL Cumulative Costs Expended</b>	<b>Estimated Daily Burn Rate</b>
<b>EPA</b>	<b>\$288,720.00</b>	<b>\$80,350.00</b>	<b>\$12,422.00</b>	<b>\$1,678,532.07</b>	<b>\$2,060,024.07</b>	<b>\$128,730.00</b>

### 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

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	10
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	2
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	2
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