

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



**Sample Preparation**

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #18  
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: 8/25/2015**

**Reporting Period: 8/24/2015 0700 – 8/24/2015 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.

Morningstar Update: Farmington began 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.

Lower Valley Water System requested sampling on their finished water for August 28 and 31, 2015. EPA is working with the water system to schedule the sampling.

EPA attended the NMED led Water Fair on August 24, 2015 and will attend on August 25.

EPA has sent NMED validated data for the following:

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

### Data Posted to the Web

The following data was sent to HQ to post:

- Drinking Water Intake Surface Water Data from August 15-18

### Community Meeting/VIP

No Community Meetings or VIP visits are scheduled.

### Toll-Free Number Activity

The EPA number is now immediately connecting to the Headquarters number.

	<b>8/24/15</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
<b>Total Calls Received</b>	11	190
<b>Calls Concerning R6</b>	2	64
<b>Calls Returned by R6</b>	0	64

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

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DATE: 08/24/2015</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>
<b>Well Water Test Scheduling</b>	1	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>	1	18
<b>Contractor/Vendor Support</b>	0	6
<b>Daily Totals:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>64</b>

### Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

<b>Matrix</b>	<b>US EPA Region</b>	<b>Qty. (8/24/2015)</b>	<b>Qty. (Cumulative)</b>
<b>Private Drinking Water Wells Resampled</b>	6	3	97
<b>Private Drinking Water Wells Initial Sample Effort</b>	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 has agreed to connect Morningstar to a new line on Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

### Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

<b>Matrix</b>	<b>U.S. EPA Region</b>	<b>Qty. (8/24/2015)</b>	<b>Qty. (Cumulative)</b>
<b>Surface Water Samples</b>	6	9	159
<b>Sediment Samples</b>	6	9	136

### 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.

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

## 2.2 Finance Section

<b>Daily Cost Estimates Report</b>						
<b>Region</b>	<b>U.S. EPA Cumulative Expended Payroll</b>	<b>U.S. EPA Cumulative Expended Travel</b>	<b>U.S. EPA Cumulative Other Charges</b>	<b>Cumulative U.S. EPA Contractors Cost</b>	<b>Total Cumulative Costs</b>	<b>Estimated Daily Burn Rate</b>
6	\$328,260.00	\$92,650.00	\$12,989.44	\$1,897,882.07	\$2,331,781.51	\$91,680.00

## 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

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Region 6 EPA @ REOC</b>	12
<b>Region 6 Contractors @ REOC</b>	5
<b>Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO</b>	3
<b>Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO</b>	3
<b>Region 6 EPA OSC</b>	2
<b>Region 6/7 Water Technicians</b>	2
<b>Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field</b>	10