

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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

<b>TOPIC OF CALL</b>	<b>08/31/2015</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>
<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

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

\* This takes the total number of wells sampled to 120

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

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

**2.2 Finance Section**

<b>Daily Cost Estimates Report</b>						
<b>Reg</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	\$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**

<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>	1
<b>Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO</b>	3
<b>Region 6 EPA OSC</b>	2
<b>Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field</b>	8