

**AREA COMMAND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / SITUATION REPORT
AREA COMMAND (U.S. EPA REGIONS 8, 6 AND 9)
GOLD KING MINE RELEASE INCIDENT
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**



Gold King Mine staging area

Subject: EXECSUM / SITREP #22
Gold King Mine Release Incident
San Juan County, Colorado
Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384

From: Area Command Situation Unit
Date: 2 September 2015
Reporting Period: 0700 1 September 2015 through 0700 2 September 2015
Website: www.epa.gov/goldkingmine



For Internal Use Only

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Situation Summary

United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Area Command (AC) is comprised of U.S. EPA Regions 8, 6 and 9. AC is continuing strategic management of the response Unified Incident Command Posts (ICPs).

Highlights, Key Updates/Changes

- AC is transitioning from an AC to a single ICP.
- AC is developing a plan to reduce sediment and surface water sampling.
- AC is monitoring drinking water samples collected, analytical results and dissemination of results within Region 8.
- AC continues to monitor relations with the Navajo Nation.

Area Command Emphasis

For the next operational period, the AC command emphasis will be:

- Maintaining positive and professional communications with stakeholders and response personnel.
- Safety and well-being of citizens and response personnel.
- Comprehensive sampling data processing process.
- Coordinate response between Regions 8, 6 and 9.
- Develop a global message that supports transition to watershed monitoring plan.
- Proper documentation of response actions.

The metrics provided in this Situation Report represent quantities reported for work completed on 1 September 2015. Metrics and information highlighted in yellow represent a change from the previous day's Situation Report. Press releases are presented in Attachment 1. Situation reports are presented in Attachment 2 (Region 8), Attachment 3 (Region 6) and Attachment 4 (Region 9).



1.0 OPERATIONS

1.1 Surface Water and Sediment Sampling Operations

Operational activities for surface water and sediment sampling are summarized below. Sample quantities are based on the SCRIBE database, and include field samples and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) samples.

Matrix	U.S. EPA Region	Qty.* (1 Sep 2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Surface Water Samples	8	16	333
	6	9	271
	9	0	234
Sediment Samples	8	17	111
	6	9	281
	9	0	186

*The quantities shown above may vary from the quantities shown in Attachments 2, 3 or 4 because the database is dynamic and changes continuously as samples are collected and recorded. In addition, time during which the samples are recorded and entered into the database within the operational period and preparation of the various situation reports also introduces a variable that affects the quantities reported at a given time.

1.2 Private Drinking Water Well Sampling Operations

Operational activities for private drinking water well sampling are summarized below.

The assessment focus area for private drinking water wells in Region 8 is those private drinking water wells located within 300 feet of the banks of the Animas River (including connected canals), between Baker's Bridge and the Colorado/New Mexico state line. The assessment focus area for private drinking water wells in Region 6 is those private drinking water wells located within 500 feet of the banks of the affected waterways (Animas River, San Juan River and connected canals) within the Animas River watershed in New Mexico. There has been no sampling of private drinking water wells in U.S. EPA Region 9.

Private well samples that have metals concentrations greater than the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and were collected from private drinking water wells during the first sampling event were sampled a second time to confirm the analytical results. In Region 8, the second round of samples at a given property were collected from the tap. Residents that have MCL exceedances have been notified.

A summary of private drinking water well sampling is presented below.

Matrix	U.S. EPA Region	Qty. (1 Sep 2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Private Drinking Water Well Samples Collected (from SCRIBE, includes QA/QC samples)	8	0	351
	6	0	285
Private Drinking Water Well Locations Inside Focus Area	8	0	42
	6	0	120
Private Drinking Water Well Locations Outside Focus Area	8	0	249
	6	0	0



Matrix	U.S. EPA Region	Qty. (1 Sep 2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Within Focus Area: Private Drinking Water Wells Containing Contaminant Concentrations Above MCLs during Second Sampling Event	8	0	1
	6	0	7
Outside of Focus Area: Private Drinking Water Wells Containing Contaminant Concentrations Above MCLs during Second Sampling Event	8	0	4
	6	0	0

Private water well sampling in U.S. EPA Region 6 was completed on 27 August 2015 and is no longer ongoing in U.S. EPA Region 6.

1.3 Water Distribution and Transportation Branch

AC continues to monitor potable water, agricultural water and agricultural food deliveries. U.S. EPA purchased 1,232 cases of bottled water to supply the community. Public support activities completed are summarized below.

Activity	U.S. EPA Region	1 Sep 2015			Cumulative		
		Deliveries (each)	Qty. (gal)	Qty. (hay bales)	Deliveries (each)	Qty. (gal)	Qty. (hay bales)
Potable Water Deliveries	8	1	4,000			62,000	
Livestock / Agricultural Water Deliveries	8	0	0		47	141,980	
	6				59	1,104,990	
	9	0	0		13	218,400	
Agricultural Food Deliveries	6				1		244
	9	0		0	14		5,476

Bottled water was also provided to 3 residences in Region 8. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is handling water deliveries in Region 9. The Region 6 agriculture and livestock team demobilized on 20 August 2015. There have been no potable water deliveries by the U.S. EPA in Regions 6 and 9; nor agricultural food deliveries by U.S. EPA in Region 8.

1.4 Community Engagements

U.S. EPA R6 IC and EU attended an Animas River Recovery Open House in Farmington, NM on 1 September 2015. Community engagements reported are summarized below.

Description	U.S. EPA Region	Qty. (1 Sep 2015)
Community Engagements	8	0
	6	1
	9	0



1.5 Anticipated Events: VIPs/Congressional Visits and Public Events

Known site visits and public events for the next 7 days are summarized below.

U.S. EPA Region	Planned Event	Anticipated Date
Area Command	Southern Ute Tribal Leaders visit Gold King Mine site	2 September 2015
	Response update presentation to San Juan County Commission , including long-term options and consideration of NPL	TBD (week of 31 August 2015)
8	None	N/A
6	Senator Udall visited Shiprock, New Mexico. U.S. EPA R6 RA R6 IC and R9 liaison attended.	2 September 2015
9	None	N/A

1.6 Community Relations Branch

Effective 27 August 2015, calls to the Regional Call Center (970-385-8700) regarding the Gold King Mine Release Incident are being directed to the National Call Center (844-607-9700). The National Call Center is now being operated by U.S. EPA Headquarters. A total of 809 calls were received at the Regional Call Center during its operation by AC. A total of 223 calls were received at the National Call Center during its operation by AC, this included 120 calls related to Region 8, 67 calls related to Region 6 and 38 calls related to Region 9.

2.0 DRINKING WATER SYSTEM IMPACTS

No water systems are currently affected by the release or response operations.

3.0 FINANCE

3.1 Estimated Response Costs to Date

The table below summarizes estimated costs for the response.

Region	U.S. EPA * Cumulative Expended Payroll	U.S. EPA Cumulative Expended Travel	U.S. EPA Cumulative Other Charges	U.S. EPA Cumulative Contractors Cost	Total Cumulative Costs
8	\$713,727	\$139,593	\$18,886	\$2,287,463	\$3,159,669
6	\$464,549	\$112,150	\$12,989	\$2,278,913	\$2,869,601
9	\$509,520	\$77,250	\$0	\$856,846	\$1,443,616
TOTAL	\$1,688,796	\$328,993	\$31,875	\$5,423,222	\$7,472,886

*Costs include a one-time adjustment to cumulative payroll has been made to reflect actual payroll costs through August 20th.



3.2 Estimated Burn Rates

The table below summarizes current estimated burn rates for the response.

U.S. EPA Region	Estimated Daily Burn Rate (as of 1 Sep 2015)
8	\$137,760
6	\$54,530
9	\$60,816
Total	\$253,106

4.0 PARTICIPATING ENTITIES

Federal, regional, local and other entities participating in the response are summarized below.

4.1 Region 8

U.S. EPA
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT)
La Plata County
San Juan County
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
City of Durango
San Juan Basin Health Department

4.2 Region 6

U.S. EPA
USFWS
New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
New Mexico (NM) Department of Health
NM Office of the State Engineer
NM Department of Game and Fish
County of San Juan – New Mexico

4.3 Region 9

U.S. EPA
USCG
Navajo Nation
State of Colorado
State of New Mexico
State of Utah
State of Arizona

5.0 PERSONNEL ON-SITE

The table below summarizes staffing numbers for the federal entities and agencies active in the response.



Table 9 - Personnel On-Site		
Region	Agency / Entity	Number of Personnel (1 Sep 2015)
Area Command	U.S. EPA	14
	U.S. EPA Contractors	3
	USCG	4
8	U.S. EPA	5
	U.S. EPA Contractors	39
	USCG	6
	Other Federal, State, Local and Tribal Entities	4
6	U.S. EPA	15
	U.S. EPA Contractors	13
	USCG	0
	Other Federal, State, Local and Tribal Entities	0
9	U.S. EPA	1
	U.S. EPA Contractors	2
	USCG	0
	Other Federal, State, Local and Tribal Entities	2
Total		108

6.0 CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT (CISM)

AC has implemented a CISM program for personnel involved with the response. On 1 September 2015, the CISM center received 5 visits from response personnel. To date, the CISM center has received 200 visits.

7.0 SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, refer to www.epa.gov/goldkingmine .



Exec. Sum/SITREP #22 (2 September 2015)
Gold King Mine Release Incident
Area Command

**ATTACHMENT 1
PRESS RELEASES**



PRESS RELEASE #1



NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
RUSSELL BEGAYE | JONATHAN NEZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Navajo Nation Press Shop
press@operationyellowwater.com

September 1, 2015

**PRESIDENT BEGAYE REQUESTS APPOINTMENT OF FEMA DISASTER
RECOVERY COORDINATOR**

Window Rock – President Russell Begaye has officially requested the appointment of a Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the Navajo Nation as it recovers from the Gold King Mine spill.

“The appointment of an FDRC by FEMA at this stage of the Nation’s response to this toxic chemical spill would greatly benefit the Nation. An FDRC could assist the Nation to effectively assess the short- and long-term impact of the disaster, determine priorities, and activate a recovery support strategy. As the primary, secondary, and tertiary impacts of the toxic chemical spill are already affecting crucial areas of the Nation’s land, waters, crop production, livestock raising, and economic resources, the authority of an FDRC to coordinate assistance from other federal agencies would enable a focus of federal resources and seamless coordination to effectively respond to this disaster,” wrote President Begaye in a letter to FEMA Administrator W. Craig Fugate.

Although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been appointed as the lead federal agency responding to the disaster, FEMA is best positioned and structured to coordinate all available assistance, long term planning, assessment of impacted communities and developing a recovery support strategy.

President Begaye’s full letter to FEMA Administrator Fugate is below:

William Craig Fugate, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW



Washington, DC 20472
RE: Navajo Nation Request of FEMA to Appoint an FDRC

Dear Mr. Fugate:

The Navajo Nation ("the Nation") respectfully requests the appointment of a Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator ("FDRC") from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") to assist the Nation as it responds to the August 5, 2015 toxic chemical spill into the Animas River and which has expanded into Navajo lands. This expansion into Navajo lands via the San Juan River has critically impacted the River and its dependent ecosystems including wildlife, fish populations, and the land base adjacent to the River. The nature of this toxic chemical spill will acutely and chronically impact the River and dependent ecosystem if immediate and effective corrective actions and remedies are not taken. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management declared the toxic chemical spill a disaster on August 9, 2015, CEM 15-08-09, *see* attached.

The contamination of the San Juan River has affected not only the dependent ecosystem generally but specifically the crops and livestock of the Nation's farmers and ranchers whose produce support families and communities. The River, when its waters are not contaminated, is critical in providing water resources to wildlife, fish, livestock and crops. Water is also an important element in Navajo traditional Lifeways and ceremonies.

The appointment of an FDRC by FEMA at this stage of the Nation's response to this toxic chemical spill would greatly benefit the Nation. An FDRC could assist the Nation to effectively assess the short- and long-term impact of the disaster, determine priorities, and activate a recovery support strategy. As the primary, secondary, and tertiary impacts of the toxic chemical spill are already affecting crucial areas of the Nation's land, waters, crop production, livestock raising, and economic resources, the authority of an FDRC to coordinate assistance from other federal agencies would enable a focus of federal resources and seamless coordination to effectively respond to this disaster. Furthermore, the additional resource of a team of recovery specialists that would accompany the FDRC would enable a simultaneous application of necessary skills and expertise to assist the Nation in effectively responding to this disaster.

For the above reasons, the Nation respectfully requests that FEMA appoint an FDRC to assist us in this time of our great need. Please contact Ms. Roselita Whitehair, who is the Director of the Nation's Department of Emergency Management.

Sincerely,

Russell Begaye

President, the Navajo Nation

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PRESS RELEASE #2



NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
RUSSELL BEGAYE | JONATHAN NEZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Navajo Nation Press Shop
press@operationyellowwater.com

August 31, 2015

**ATTORNEY GENERAL BRANCH SELECTS HUESTON HENNIGAN LLP TO
REPRESENT NAVAJO NATION IN GOLD KING MINE SPILL LAWSUIT**

Window Rock - Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch announced today that she has selected the law firm of Hueston Hennigan LLP to represent the Navajo Nation in its claims relating to the release of hazardous substances from the Gold King Mine north of Silverton, Colorado. The initial release of approximately three million gallons of water contaminated by acid mine waste, including arsenic, lead, and cadmium, created a plume that traveled 215 miles through the San Juan River, one of the Navajo Nation's primary water sources.

"Mr. Hueston and his team of skilled litigators will work tirelessly to secure justice and equity for the Navajo Nation and the Navajo people as we address the aftermath of the disastrous Gold King Mine spill. The impact has been devastating to our culture and economy, as well as to the peace of mind of our people. With unknown amounts of this fine sediment in our water we now we face the risk of reliving this nightmare with every major increased water flow event affecting the river," said Attorney General Branch.

The litigation team at Hueston Hennigan LLP will be led by John Hueston, who is most well-known for his role as lead prosecutor in the Enron trial against Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling. Most recently he represented the Navajo Nation and a number of other governments in securing the \$5.15 billion Tronox settlement, the largest environmental recovery settlement in United States history.

"My firm is fully committed to this case, and we will make this matter a number one priority. Working alongside the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation, our team will be relentless in our efforts to secure justice and fair treatment for the Navajo people," said Mr. Hueston.



Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye announced shortly after the Gold King Mine spill that the Nation would sue the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other potentially responsible parties. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice conducted a nationwide search of top litigation and environmental law firms and ultimately selected Hueston Hennigan LLP out of a group of five highly qualified finalists.

Navajo farmers and ranchers and the Navajo community in Northern Navajo have been significantly impacted by the mine spill that has shut down the San Juan River for the past three weeks. Farmers have had to abandon large portions of their fields in the hopes of salvaging limited plots, and livestock has become dehydrated due to lack of water. Many of these Navajo farms are organic farms and grow heirloom fruits and vegetables. Many Navajo families along the River also grow corn pollen and special types of corn for ceremonial purposes, but many of those crops have already dried up.

Meanwhile the over 300 abandoned hard rock mines from the Upper Animas Mining District continue to pose a threat to the Nation's water source, and contaminated water from the Gold King Mine continues to spew forth at a rate of 610 gallons per minute—thus taking the aggregate spill amount to over 22 million gallons.

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PRESS RELEASE #3



NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
RUSSELL BEGAYE | JONATHAN NEZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Navajo Nation Press Shop
press@operationyellowwater.com

AUGUST 28, 2015

President Begaye opens irrigation to Upper Fruitland, San Juan and Nenahnezad Chapters

NENAHNEZAD - Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye has lifted restrictions on the San Juan River for irrigation purposes for the Chapters of Upper Fruitland, San Juan and Nenahnezad.

President Begaye informed farmers during a meeting at the Nenahnezad Chapter House on Thursday, Aug. 27. His announcement was met with applause from local farmers who have been under significant duress as a result of the Gold King Mine disaster.

"I wanted to hear directly from the farmers that they are comfortable using the water from the San Juan River for irrigation purposes," President Begaye said.

District 13 Council leaders put forth a resolution asking that the declaration of emergency be lifted for irrigation purposes in an effort to address, in part, the devastating economic impacts of the contamination of the San Juan River.

Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) Director Dr. Donald Benn has determined that water from the San Juan River meets the Nation's water quality standards for the limited use of irrigation. This conclusion is based in part on NNEPA's test results, which are consistent with those of other agencies testing the river. The NNEPA intends to continue testing and monitoring the water quality.

After receiving the Resolution from District 13 Council, President Begaye signed a directive to the Division of Natural Resources (DNR), ordering DNR to immediately flush the irrigation canals. After hearing from the farmers, President Begaye opened the canals for irrigation purposes for Upper Fruitland, San Juan and Nenahnezad Chapters. Restrictions are not lifted for



livestock. Vice-President Jonathan Nez said that these steps must be taken to protect the farmer's livelihood but it is unjust that the Nation has been put in this situation.

According to Marlin Saggboy, Irrigation Supervisor for the Department of Water Resources, the canal system is flushed it should reach San Juan by sundown.

At Thursday's meeting Upper Fruitland Chapter President, Hubert Harwood, talked about the urgency of lifting the restrictions.

"The drier things get, the harder it is to bring things back," he said. "What we need to do is turn the water on and save what we have left. Everybody is shooting for time here."

Moving forward, President Begaye said the NNEPA will continue to monitor the water from the San Juan River and test soil along the canal banks and river beds.

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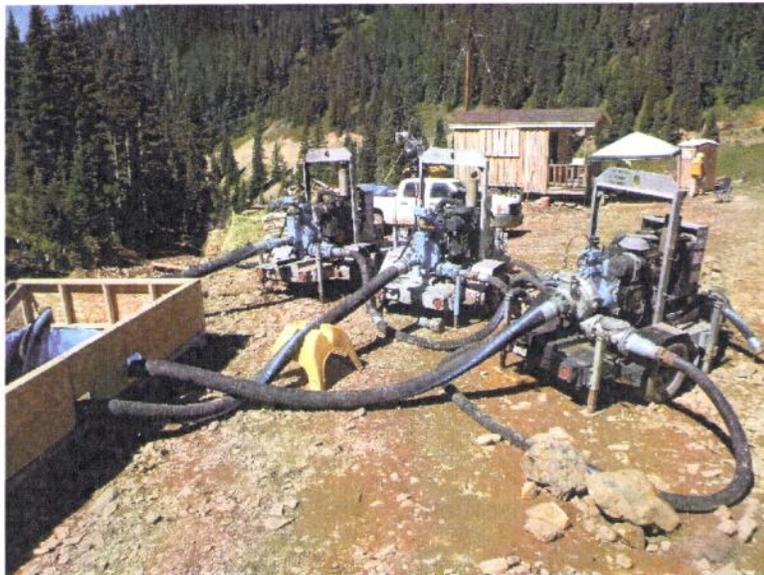


Exec. Sum/SITREP #22 (2 September 2015)
Gold King Mine Release Incident
Area Command

**ATTACHMENT 2
U.S. EPA REGION 8
SITUATION REPORT**

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
2015 Gold King Mine Release Incident
Unified Command Colorado Situation Report (SITREP)

EPA (SW)



Lime Treatment

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 8

Subject: Situation Report #24
Gold King Mine Release Incident
San Juan County, CO
Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384
From: Unified Command Colorado
Date: 09/02/2015
Reporting Period: 09/01/2015
Website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

New information included in the SITREP is in bold text.

Executive Summary

On 8/5/2015, up to three million gallons of contaminated water containing sediment and dissolved metals was suddenly released from the Gold King Mine adit. This water discharged into Cement Creek which feeds into the Animas River, and eventually flows into the San Juan River.

A Unified Command (UC) was established in Durango, Colorado, which continues to assess and mitigate contamination resulting from the release. The UC includes EPA Region 8, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and La Plata County. San Juan Basin Health Department, San Juan County and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are making available Administrators to the UC. The City of Durango and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) are coordinating agencies.

The EPA continues daily sampling of Animas River and Cement Creek surface water and sediment at eight total locations. Additionally, EPA continues to schedule sampling of private wells within an alluvial area surrounding the Animas River and impacted ditches.

An EPA Area Command (AC) is also located in Durango, Colorado and coordinates EPA's response among EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9.

Active disaster declarations remain in effect for State of Colorado, San Juan County, Town of Silverton, La Plata County, City of Durango, and Southern Ute Tribe. The public health advisory issued 8/14/2015 by CDPHE for the Animas River remains active.

Introduction

1.0 Background

Site Number:	A8K9RV	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Start Date:	08/05/15
Response Lead:	EPA	State Notification:	08/05/15
Mobilization Date:	08/05/2015	Demob Date:	TBD
NPL Status:	not listed		

2.0 Site Description

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300' elevation. The mine discharges acidic mine drainage that is a contributor of heavy metals into the Cement Creek drainage of the Animas River watershed. The workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

3.0 Description of Threat

There was a sudden release of mine waste water into Cement Creek and the Animas River on 8/5/2015. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek gauging station was estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of

contaminated water containing sediment and dissolved metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah.

4.0 Critical Resource Needs

Resources for the response continue to be ordered as needed to fill critical resource needs.

5.0 Incident Objectives

- Ensure health and safety of the public and response management personnel
- Continue implementation of private well sampling and river monitoring plans
- Facilitate transition and approach to medium term sediment and river monitoring plans
- Continue coordination with State, Federal, Tribal and local Stakeholders and Neighboring jurisdictions
- Continue management of adit discharge
- Ensure continued access to mine site and continue mine dump stabilization
- Continue data sharing with local stakeholders
- Continue assessment of land owner complaints regarding sediment impacts
- Assess applicable criteria for incident end points
- Facilitate development of real time monitoring and notification plan (separate path from long term monitoring plan)

Operations

6.0 Environmental Branch

6.1 Assessment and Mitigation Group

- EPA continues to deliver water and assess the needs regarding the water systems of residences with MCL exceedances.
- **Continued daily monitoring and coordination with the owner at Little Fishes, LLC trout ponds.**
- **Sampled the well-head of the Tranquillo Canyon community, and verified sampling was taken at the source water location. Will contact well owner to inform them that we are discontinuing hauling potable water on 9/2/15.**
- **Received list of six properties where initial raw water samples indicated exceedances of MCLs for lead and/or arsenic. OSC to contact residents and set up post-filter sampling.**
- **Continued drying two ponds for residents along the Animas River for future sediment removal.**
- **4,000 gallons of potable water was delivered 9/1/2015. In addition, the EPA is providing bottled water service for three residences.**

6.2 Sampling Group

- Eight surface water and sediment samples were taken at the usual locations.
- Eight additional surface water and sediment samples were taken in the Animas River Canyon between the Rockwood Station and just south of Silverton.
- Reviewed data for samples that had been collected at seven surface water locations on the following dates: samples for Aug 16, 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24. Forwarded data to reviewing committee for posting to public website.

6.3 A summary of surface water, potable water and sediment samples collected as of 09/01/2015 is provided in the following table:

Matrix	Number of Samples *	Total Samples Collected
Potable Water	2	354
Sediment	18	111
Surface Water	17	318

*Quality Assurance samples are included in these numbers.

6.4 Private Well Sampling

- The EPA continues to focus on wells in a defined area within approximately 200 to 300 feet from the banks of the Animas River (and various canals) from Bakers Bridge south to the Colorado - New Mexico State line.
- The EPA has mailed 70 flyers to identified owners of additional wells within the defined area. **As of 09/01/2015, results of the mailing has led to seven additional well sampling requests.** EPA has stopped attempting to contact residences outside of the defined area, but will continue to address any requests for sampling on a case by case basis.
- **First set of drinking water well results letters mailed (10). Includes wells with lab results validated on or before August 15th, located outside the Southern Ute Indian Reservation Boundary and not in exceedance of metals listed as EPA primary drinking water contaminants.**
- **Delivered drinking water well spreadsheet and script to National Call Center enabling the center to inform callers of sample dates, if data has been validated, and if results exceed or do not exceed metals listed as EPA primary drinking water contaminants.**
- **We have secured commitment from EPA Region 8 Staff/Senior Environmental Employees (SEE) for making outreach calls to drinking water well owners that we have sampled with sample results below the EPA recommendations for Drinking Water. Awaiting cleaning up of spreadsheet identifying well owners that haven't been called.**

6.5 A summary of private well sampling data is provided in the following table.

Total private wells sampled	291
Private wells sampled within 200'-300' area of river	42
Private wells sampled outside 200'-300' area of river	249

***This data is for unique spatial sample locations only.**

6.6 A summary of private wells with primary drinking water exceedances is provided in the following table. Data is for exceedances on second sampling at the tap.

	Inside the defined area	Outside the defined area
Primary drinking water exceedances: Second sampling	1	4

7.0 Mine Site Division

The EPA continues to operate and work on optimizing treatment and sedimentation ponds at the mine site.

7.1 Water Treatment

- **Installing more baffles to dissipate the energy flow of water through the Red and Bonita ponds.**

7.2 Water Quality Sampling of the adit discharge

- **Water quality parameters collected at five locations, three times daily.**
- **Flow Rate of 541 GPM with a pH of 3.85 was recorded at 0830 from the Gold King Mine adit portal.**
- **Flow Rate of 545 GPM with a ph of 3.73 was recorded at 1515 from the Gold King Mine adit portal.**

7.3 Sediment Recovery

- **Completing removal of sludge from 40 yard dumpster, for transfer to the Gladstone repository.**

7.4 Gladstone Settling Pond

- **Roughing in Gladstone settling ponds 1-4. These ponds are currently planned as emergency ponds, and may also be used for longer term treatment.**

7.5 Mine Logistics

No change.

7.6 Site Visits

None.

7.7 Mine Division Anticipated Activities

- SUIT members are scheduled to visit the mine site on Wednesday, 9/2/2015.
- Proceeding with preparations to treat mine discharge at Gladstone with lime neutralization and settling of solids.
- Removal of Gold King Mine treatment ponds 1-3. Drain, dry, muck, and remove to repository.
- Divert Cement Creek for waste rock cleanup and removal of Gold King treatment pond 4.
- Preparing to “shotcrete” inside the Gold King Mine, to prevent additional rock fall and obstructions of the adit.
- **Will be installing piping to regulate the flow of water from the mine portal and will begin removing sludge from the mine portal area. This operation may cause discoloration in the creek.**

Command and General Staff

8.0 Logistics Section

No Report.

9.0 Finance Section

- The EPA Region 8 total cost as of **09/01/2015** is **\$3,159,669.00**. Reflects a one-time adjustment to cumulative payroll that has been made due to actual payroll costs through **08/20/2015**. This adjustment resulted in a reduction of expenditures by **\$283,780.00**. The estimated burn rate (\$/day) is **\$137,760.00**.
- **Met with Southern Ute Tribe 09/01/2015**. The Tribe shared that their pre-award costs are **\$150,000**. They are still working on their application and scope of work for their future needs. EPA will be providing technical support to the Tribe in preparing their workplan. They expect to have an application prepared within the next two weeks.
- **Met with City of Durango**. The City of Durango has completed the majority of the required grants forms. They have documentation for pre-award costs of **\$250,000**. They are looking at entering into a long term agreement to conduct sampling and put an alert system into place. EPA will be providing technical support to the City in preparing their workplan. They expect to have a complete application by the end of the month.
- **Met with San Juan Basin Health Department**, which has incurred **\$50,000** in pre-award costs.
- **Met with LaPlata County**. They provided a preview of costs that they’ll be requesting under the Purchase Order through CDPHE, which is estimated at just over **\$179,000**.
- **Meeting on Wednesday with the City of Silverton and San Juan County**, and providing follow up to the groups we met with earlier in the week.

10.0 Safety Officer

- Be aware of students walking to school during morning and evening hours. Be especially mindful of students running into crosswalks, and just crossing where no crossing exist
- Inspect turn signals, brake lights, driving lights and brake pedal movement on your vehicles in the morning and throughout the day. Ensure your vehicle can be seen and you can be seen at night.
- No injuries/illnesses (beyond first aid) were reported on 09/01/2015. Three total to date.
- The Emergency Response Peer Support team offers trained peer staff with whom you can talk to on a private basis, either in person or over the phone, when you feel stressed. Come and relax at the CISM Room. You can rest, have snacks, meditate or just chat.
- You can contact your CISM team member at any time (24/7):
- Tony Honnellio: 617 947-4414
- **CISM had 5 visitors on 9/1/2015.**

11.0 Liaison Officer

No report.

12.0 Information Officer

No Report.

13.0 Other Durango Area Activities

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) held a “Hot Wash” for the Gold King incident response. Trevor Denney, CDPS DHSEM IC assisted in leading the hot wash.

The SUIT is 75% complete in installation of RO filtration systems at thirteen potentially impacted tribal residences.

14.0 Visits

No Report.

15.0 Total Personnel in the Field as of 09/01/2015.

Group	Number of Personnel
EPA in Field	5
EPA Contractors in Field	39
USCG	6
ERT	0
Subtotal EPA Region 8 Resources	50

16.0 Personnel working at the Colorado Unified Command Post as of 09/01/15.

(Does not include Area Command Personnel):

Position / Section	Number of Personnel
Unified Command	6*
PIO	5
Safety	1
Operations	1
Planning (incl SITL, ENVL & RESL)	5
Logistics	1
Finance	1
Liaisons	0
Agency Representatives/Administrators	2*
Total	22

*Includes 4 non-federal personnel from state, local, and tribal agencies

17.0 Organizations with personnel assigned to the response under the UC include:

- Colorado OEM
- Southern Ute Tribe
- La Plata County
- San Juan County
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- City of Durango
- San Juan Basin Health Dept.
- US Coast Guard

18.0 Weather Forecast:

18.1 DURANGO AREA

- **Tonight 9/2/2015**
 - Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east northeast after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 30%.
- **Thursday 9/3/2015**
 - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest in the morning.
- **Thursday Night 9/3/2015**
 - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

18.2 SILVERTON AREA

- **Tonight 9/2/2015**
 - Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. West wind around 5 mph becoming south southeast in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 50%.
- **Thursday 9/3/2015**
 - Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 63. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.
- **Thursday Night 9/3/2015**
 - A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. South wind around 5 mph.



Exec. Sum/SITREP #22 (2 September 2015)
Gold King Mine Release Incident
Area Command

**ATTACHMENT 3
U.S. EPA REGION 6
SITUATION REPORT**

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 #24
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: 9/2/2015

Reporting Period: 9/1/2015 0700 – 9/1/2015 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

An Animas River Recovery Open House was held in Farmington, NM on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. Areas of interest covered included, “Anticipated Long Term Environmental Monitoring of the River and Sediments”, “Water Quality” and “Economic Impacts: Claims” The Region 6 Incident Commanders attended along with a member of the EPA Region 6 Environmental Unit and discussed data with the residents.

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

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.

Toll-Free Number Activity

	9/1/2015	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	0	190
Calls Concerning R6	0	64
Calls Returned by R6	0	64

TOPIC OF CALL	9/1/2015	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

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

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

Matrix	US EPA Region	Qty. (9/1/2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Surface Water Samples	6	9	229
Sediment Samples	6	9	208

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	\$449,280.00	\$115,150.00	\$12,989.44	\$2,209,000.00	\$2,786,419.44	\$40,730.00

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 Area Command – Durango, CO	3
Region 6 Toxicologist – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	2
Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field	8



Exec. Sum/SITREP #22 (2 September 2015)
Gold King Mine Release Incident
Area Command

**ATTACHMENT 4
U.S. EPA REGION 9
SITUATION REPORT**

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
San Juan River Response - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX

Subject: POLREP #20
San Juan River Response
Shiprock, NM
Latitude: 36.8704828 Longitude: -108.7892506

To: Calanog Steve, EPA

From: Tom Dunkelman, Incident Commander

Date: 9/2/2015

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority:	Response Type:
Response Lead:	Incident Category:
NPL Status:	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date:	Start Date:
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

1.1.2 Site Description

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300' elevation. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic mine drainage that is a significant contributor of manganese, zinc, copper, and cadmium into the Cement Creek drainage of the Animas River watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

EPA Region 9 is focused on a stretch of the San Juan River extending from Farmington, NM to Mexican Hat, UT.

1.1.2.1 Location

San Juan County, NM and Navajo Reservation. The Animas River flows into the San Juan River at Farmington, NM. After the Animas River meets the San Juan River, the San Juan River continues to flow west through parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek gauging station is estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah. The river is also used for recreational purposes,

including fishing and rafting, and is an important cultural resource for the Navajo Nation.

The leading edge of the release reached the New Mexico border on August 8, 2015 where it eventually discharged into the San Juan River.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates that the plume associated with the Gold King Mine release has dissipated downstream. There is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell.

EPA Region 9 is collecting and assessing water quality from the San Juan River from La Plata Highway in New Mexico to Mexican Hat in Utah. Water sampling is occurring, and pH levels and dissolved concentrations of metals are being monitored.

1.2 Incident Objectives

1. Safety

- Provide safe working environment for all response personnel
- Identify safety issues and monitor adherence to Health and Safety Plan
- Maximize protection of public health and welfare

2. Sampling

- Conduct water and sediment sampling from 5 designated locations along the San Juan River
- Conduct water and sediment sampling in Lake Powell
- Synchronize sampling data and information with Area Command

3. Water and Agricultural Needs

- Procure water trucks and establish watering points
- Establish needs and delivery of water and feed for livestock

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Alfalfa shipments are scheduled for Shiprock and Upper Fruitland for today (1 truck - 384 bales, for each Chapter). There are no other pending alfalfa shipments.

EPA has made arrangements for the pick up of the 13 black tanks. EPA is awaiting the go ahead from the EPA R9 EOC prior to removing these tanks.

Liaison Officer Reeves attended a briefing with EPA R6 and R9, BIA and Senator Udall (NM)

River sampling at 5 locations is scheduled for tomorrow September 3.

Farmington ICP is now on a 2-week operational period. The next Incident Action Plan, if needed, will be delivered on Sunday evening 13th of September.

EPA is continuing to assess agreements with BIA and NTUA regarding the delivery of livestock and drinking water.

As of August 31, river sampling has been changed to a twice-weekly schedule with sediment and water samples being collected at 5 sampling locations on Mondays and Thursdays. The Lake Powell sampling survey has concluded as of August 31.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Sampling Branch

EPA Region 9 initiated water and sediment sampling efforts on August 9, 2015, to assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine on the San Juan River. Starting on August 9, samples were gathered daily from the shoreline of the eleven designated locations along the San Juan River. Starting on August 31, the number of sample locations were reduced to the following five locations (sampled twice weekly).

New Mexico

- San Juan River at LaPlata Highway (SJLP)
- San Juan River at Shiprock (SJSR)
- San Juan River at Four Corners (SJ4C)

Utah

San Juan at Montezuma Creek (SJMC)
San Juan River at Mexican Hat (SJMHS)

Sample totals are summarized below:

	U.S. EPA Region	Qty. (8/30/2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Private Drinking Water Well Samples	9	0	0
Surface Water Samples	9	0	181
Sediment Samples	9	0	163

August 8 - 4 water samples (SJLP, SJFP, SJHB & SJSR)

August 9 - 13 water samples (all sites)

August 10 - 12 water samples, 11 sediment samples (all sites)

August 11 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)

August 12 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)

August 13 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)

August 14 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)

August 15 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)

August 16 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)

August 17 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)

August 18 - 10 water samples, 10 sediment samples (did not sample at SJSR or SJDS)

August 19 - 10 water samples, 10 sediment samples (did not sample at SJSR or SJDS)

August 20 - no samples collected

August 21 - no samples collected

August 22 - no samples collected

August 23 - no samples collected

August 24 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples

August 25 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples

August 26 - 11 water samples, 11 sediment samples (did not sample at SJDS)

August 27 - 11 water samples, 11 sediment samples (did not sample at SJDS)

August 28 - 0 water samples, 0 sediment samples

August 29 - 0 water samples, 0 sediment samples

August 30 - 0 water samples, 0 sediment samples

August 31 - 5 water samples, 5 sediment samples

September 1 - no samples collected

September 2 - no samples collected

There have been no requests for well samples and no requests for samples from diversion channels.

Community Relations Branch

All community involvement duties are suspended under the current order.

Water and Feed Delivery Branch

A summary of water and livestock feed deliveries are as follow:

Activity	U.S. EPA Region	8/30/2015			Cumulative		
		Deliveries (each)	Qty. (gal)	Qty. (hay bales)	Deliveries (each)	Qty. (gal)	Qty. (hay bales)
Potable Water Deliveries	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock / Agricultural Water Deliveries	9	0	0	0	13	218,400	0
Agricultural Food Deliveries	9	0	0	0	14	0	5476

Feed delivered for livestock is as follows:

8/14 - 384 bales of alfalfa delivered to Gaadiiahi chapter

8/21 - 384 bales delivered to Gaadiiahi, 384 bales delivered to Nenahnezad, 384 bales delivered to Hogback, 384 bales delivered to Upper Fruitland

8/22 - 384 bales delivered to Beclibito

8/24 - 384 bales delivered to Shiprock, 384 bales delivered to Red Mesa, 384 bales delivered to Aneth

8/27 - 384 bales delivered to Oljeto, 384 bales delivered to Mexican Water

8/28 - no deliveries

8/29 - delivery of 384 bales to Teec Nos Pos, attempted to deliver to Navajo Mountain Chapter, but no one was there to accept delivery.

Will attempt to reach out to them on Monday.

8/30 - no deliveries

8/31 - no deliveries

9/1 - no deliveries

9/2 - delivery of 384 bales to Shiprock Chapter and delivery of 384 bales to Upper Fruitland Chapter

Drinking Water System Impacts

No known water systems in Region 9 have been impacted.

Glen Canyon, Arizona ICP

As of August 31, all current sampling has been completed and all personnel have demobed.

Sampling efforts throughout this expedition are detailed below.

Matrix	U.S. EPA Region	Qty. (8/30/2015)	Qty. (Cumulative)
Private Drinking Water Well Samples	9	0	0
Water Samples (at 4 different depths)	9	0	80
Sediment Samples	9	0	20

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Because Navajo law enforcement representatives are unable to support sampling on a daily basis, sampling have been scaled back to Mondays and Thursdays.

There are no pending alfalfa deliveries.

EPA is prepared to initiate removal of 13 black tanks, pending notification from EPA R9 EOC.

Lake Powell sampling survey has concluded.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

On 17AUG15, at approximately 1130, seven members of the Farmington ICP response team were approached in the farmland area of Shiprock by a member of the Navajo Nation. The individual is in opposition to the response operations of Farmington ICP in regards to water and feed deliveries in the Shiprock Chapter. During the confrontation, the response personnel were threatened by being told their vehicles "would be stoned". They were also intimidated by a second vehicle that showed up in support of the individual. The response personnel listened to what the individual had to say and eventually left.

At approximately 1215, another incident occurred with the same individual at the bridge in Shiprock. There, the individual argued with 2 EPA employees and threatened to break their equipment. The individual left after a few minutes. In both cases the response personnel returned to the Farmington ICP and were unharmed.

An investigation is being conducted by the Navajo Department of Criminal Investigation.

On 19AUG15, a video was posted on social media that showed Navajo Nation President and Attorney General alleging contamination in

one of the water tanks delivered by the EPA.

2.3 Logistics Section

NAPI requires a 3-day advance notice prior to alfalfa deliveries in order to make appropriate accommodations.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

Region	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
9				\$1,041,000 (estimated)	\$1,114,000(estimated)	\$24,000(estimated)

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

With weather being forecasted into the 90s, hydration is of paramount importance. Additionally, much of the terrain surrounding the river is uneven and rocky. Responders should transit these areas with care.

While transiting throughout the region, responders should be mindful of the potential for contact with wildlife. Scorpions, snakes, and other similar animals raise a potential for injury.

Law enforcement presence with sampling team in remote location is paramount given the lack of connectivity in the far reaching sampling sites.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

LNO Officer Linda Reeves is attending briefing on September 2 with EPA R6 and R9, BIA and Senator Udall.

2.5.3. Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Wednesday, September 2

FARMINGTON AREA

Today

A mix of sun and clouds with a high of 85, low of 58 and 20% chance of precipitation. Wind coming out of the west at 10 mph.

Tomorrow

Mostly cloudy with a high of 78, low of 55. 20% chance of precipitation. Wind SW to 15 mph.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Area Command

EPA Region 9 is coordinating with EPA Regions 6 and 8, Navajo Nation, and the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. The EPA Region 9 is working with the Navajo Nation to evaluate possible impacts to the Tribe. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified, and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water is protected. The EPA and New Mexico Environmental Department are providing assistance to community water systems and closely monitoring the situation. EPA Region 9 has contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding potential impacts to the Navajo Nation and is currently working with Navajo liaisons.

3.2 Incident Command and Cooperating Agencies

The Farmington Incident Command includes EPA Region 9 and United States Coast Guard. **Tom Dunkelman has relieved Lieutenant Commander Bill McKinstry as Incident Commander as of 0700 31 August.**

4. Personnel On Site

Region	Agency / Entity	Number of Personnel (8/30/2015)
	U.S. EPA Personnel	0
	U.S. EPA Contractors	1
	USCG	1
	Other Federal, State, Local and Tribal Entities - 2	

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

www.epa.gov/goldkingmine

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.