

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



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #13  
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: 8/20/2015**

**Reporting Period: 8/19/2015 0700 – 8/19/2015 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.

#### Data Posting to the Web

The following data has been posted on the [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine) web site.

- Drinking Water Intake Surface Water Data from August 6 – 12<sup>th</sup>
- Drinking Water Intake Sediment Data from August 10 – 13<sup>th</sup>
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment Data from August 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Community Meeting/VIP

No Community Meetings or VIP visits are scheduled.

#### Toll-Free Number Activity

	8/19/15	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	0	154
Calls Concerning R6	0	57
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.

TOPIC	DATE: 08/19/2015	OVERALL TOTALS
Well Water Test Scheduling	0	18
Water Concerns	0	7
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	0	4
Tourism/Media	0	1

Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	0	14
Contractor/Vendor Support	0	6
<b>Daily Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>

### Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

Ten teams of EPA, NMED and EPA contractors sampled thirty-eight private water wells on August 19, 2015. Ten duplicate samples were sent to the Houston Lab. The overall reaction by the residents was very positive. The sampling effort will continue on August 20, 2015. All additional requests are being reviewed for sampling by EPA or NMED.

EPA is drafting a letter to notify the private well owners about their test results from EPA's private well sampling when those results are available for reporting.

Date	Number of Private Wells Sampled
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114 Distinct Wells</b>

### Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

The Morningstar Water System is receiving water in its storage tank from the Farmington connection. The pump system covers 3 ½ miles and is filling the city's 3 million gallon tank.

### Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	8/19/2015	Total to Date
River Surface Water Samples	9	114
River Sediment Samples	9	91

### Irrigation Ditch Sampling

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	Total to Date
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	59

### Agriculture and Livestock Water

At this time, there are no additional requests for water or hay deliveries. The team spent August 19, 2015, retrieving the remaining tanks from farms.

	<b>8/19/15</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Farmers Served	0	28
Gallons to Farmers	0	1,068,270
Livestock Farms Served	0	31
Gallons to Livestock Farms	0	36,720
Hay/Alfalfa Pickup	0	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>\$241,980</b>	<b>\$64,650</b>	<b>\$11,854.56</b>	<b>\$1,349,954.90</b>	<b>\$1,668,439.46</b>	<b>\$175,290</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	11
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	5
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 DD – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	8
Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field	54