

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



EPA staff meeting with NMED Administrator Flynn

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #6
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: 8/13/2015

Reporting Period: 8/12/2015 0700 – 8/12/2015 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.

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: 844 – 607 – 9700.

2.1 Operations Section

Validated lab data from August 8, 2015, pre and post slug surface water samples has been received. The results indicate the concentration of metals in the river do not appear to cause harm to aquatic life, livestock, crops and people using the river for recreation activities.

The Region 6 IC has requested deployment of an ATSDR representative to assist in answering resident's questions regarding public health. The representative arrives in Farmington, NM on August 13, 2015.

The R6 REOC completed the community outreach package and mailed copies to R6 Incident Command in Farmington for distribution to residences where private wells are sampled, at community meetings and to the County Fair.

On August 12, 2015, the toll-free call-in number received 52 inquiries, of those 12 dealt directly with Region 6. Regions 6, 8 and 9 will coordinate responses to these calls.

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

EPA amended the draft Sampling Plan on August 12, 2015 to incorporate NMED's additional sampling requests and provided a draft copy to NMED.

EPA sampled twenty-two private water wells along the Animas and San Juan Rivers on August 12, 2015. Sampling continues at private water wells within 500 feet of the river and a depth of less than 100 feet.

EPA staff assisted NMED in analyzing the water samples local residents brought to the San Juan County fair. It is estimated that 500 samples have been received by the state mobile lab.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

EPA collected 9 surface water and sediment samples from the public drinking water intake locations on August 12, 2015. EPA added cyanide to the list of analytes for August 12, 2015 only. It is EPA Region 6's understanding that cyanide has not been a contaminant of concern at this site. The State requested that EPA test for cyanide for one day to confirm that cyanide is not an issue.

All the sample locations on August 11, 2015 had pH levels within the pH range specified by the State of New Mexico.

Agriculture and Livestock Water

On August 12, 2015, EPA delivered 178,401 gallons to eight locations for agriculture and livestock needs. We have made 12 water deliveries, totaling 226,071 gallons. The limiting factor is the number of available trucks. We estimate 13 available trucks by the end of the week. San Juan County is coordinating loading points and logistics for staging and scheduling the trucks.

Bids are being received to deliver water from the San Juan River to the north side of the Animas River for agricultural and livestock use. This will serve 25% of the areas irrigation needs.

Drinking Water Systems Update

Based on conversation with the State of New Mexico and drinking water systems on August 12, 2015, the following is the list of affected water systems and their status:

System Name	Population	# Days Water Available
Aztec Domestic Water System	6800	10 days
Farmington Water System	47000	60 days
Lower Valley WUA	8428	6 days
Morningstar Water Supply System	6423	10 days
Northstar WDWCA	4123	30 days
Southside Mutual Domestic	1593	3 - 5 days/get water from Aztec
Upper La Plata WUA	2265	Get water from Aztec and Farmington
Flora Vista	4300	1 day/get water from Aztec
Total Population	80,392	

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report

Funding Source	EPA Expended Payroll	EPA Expended Travel	Contract Costs	TOTAL Expended	Estimated Daily Burn Rate
EPA	\$97,590	\$23,350	\$388,600	\$509,540	\$148,300

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

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	20
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	4
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 RIC – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Logistics – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	4
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	12
Region 6 Contractors in Field	32