



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8OCPI

March 25, 2009

Mr. Dan Corson
Intergovernmental Services Director
Colorado Historical Society – OAHP
1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

Ref: California Gulch Operable Unit 6

Dear Mr. Corson:

It was a pleasure speaking with you this week about the California Gulch Superfund Site located near Leadville, Colorado. As you requested, we are providing a summary of recent actions regarding portions of the Superfund site remedy in Operable Unit 6 (OU6). We can discuss this and how to proceed under the Programmatic Agreement between our agencies when we meet.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) have determined that a portion of the current remedy for OU6 will not work over the long-term and must be changed. The current OU6 remedy collects contaminated surface water (acid rock drainage or ARD) from several waste rock piles and conveys it via underground mine workings and the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel (LMDT) to the United States Bureau of Reclamation treatment plant. EPA and CDPHE are concerned with the present and future condition of the underground mine workings and the LMDT. Studies conducted by EPA since the OU6 remedy decision in 2003 have shown that the underground mine workings and LMDT are in poor condition and cannot be relied upon in implementing the OU6 remedy.

In reviewing potential alternatives to the current OU6 remedy, EPA and CDPHE have concluded that it would be best to prevent or stop the generation of acid rock drainage from developing in the first place. However, depending on the new remedy chosen to address this issue, waste rock piles considered to be historic resources may be impacted.

EPA and CDPHE briefed the Lake County Board of County Commissioners and the Mayor of the City of Leadville regarding the proposed change to the OU6 remedy at a January 15th, 2009 meeting. We briefed Congressional staff members and state legislators in January, and we conducted some informal interviews with key stakeholders to listen to concerns and to get ideas for a public involvement process. A fact sheet outlining the issues in OU6 and proposed solutions will be distributed to community members within the next month.

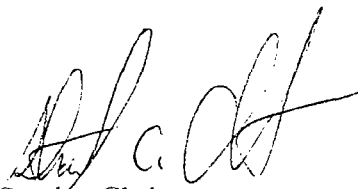
Some elected officials and community members have discussed forming a new community advisory group to directly address this and possibly other Superfund site issues. EPA and CDPHE have agreed to support this collaborative community process. It is our goal to keep this process focused on determining how remedy changes can be designed and constructed to maintain, enhance, or contribute to other historic, environmental or recreational interests in the area.

If you have questions prior to our meeting, please feel free to contact Jennifer Lane at 303-312-6813, or Stanley Christensen, EPA's Remedial Project Manager at 303-312-6694. Otherwise we look forward to meeting with you soon to further discuss this effort.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Lane
Community Involvement
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Stanley Christensen
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- cc: Carol Campbell, EPA Region 8
Richard Sisk, EPA Region 8
Linda Kiefer, EPA Region 8
Bill Murray, EPA Region 8
Sonya Pennock, EPA Region 8
Russell LeClerc, EPA Region 8
Jeff Deckler, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Doug Jamison, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Warren Smith, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone (800) 227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

APR 22 2009

Ref: EPR-SR

Mr. Dan Corson
Intergovernmental Services Director
Colorado Historical Society – OAHP
1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

Re: California Gulch Operable Unit 6

Dear Mr. Corson:

On April 9, 2009, representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and the Colorado State Historical Society (SHPO) met to discuss a potential Superfund action in the Stray Horse Gulch portion of Operable Unit 6 of the California Gulch Superfund site (Site). Specifically, EPA and CDPHE are proposing to amend the OU6 Record of Decision. The agencies' preferred alternative would likely adversely affect waste rock piles at the Adelaide Mine (5LK934), the New and Old Mikado Mines (5LK932), the R.A.M. Mines (5LK1022), the Greenback Mine (5LK927) and potentially the Pyrenees Mine (5LK928). These mines and associated waste rock piles were identified in the past as contributing to the Leadville Historic Mining District. EPA set up the meeting to initiate the consultation process under the Programmatic Agreement between SHPO and EPA.

In attendance representing SPHO were Dan Corson, Shina duVall and Susan Collins. EPA representatives were Carol Campbell, Bill Murray, Richard Sisk, Stan Christensen, Jennifer Lane and Linda Kiefer. Jeff Deckler and Doug Jamison attended for CDPHE.

After introductions, EPA presented a brief history of the Site along with past efforts on historic preservation, and outlined why EPA and CDPHE think the OU6 remedy needs to be amended. Potential remedies and mitigations were discussed. EPA provided an information sheet with the corresponding SHPO Cultural Resource numbers and descriptions for the mines, along with past preservation activities in the affected areas.

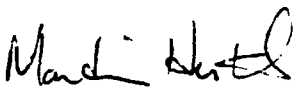
EPA asked SHPO for suggestions of potentially interested parties. SHPO suggested the following parties: the Mining History Association in Sedalia, Mr. Ken Chlouber and Mr. Carl Miller. SHPO noted that EPA and CDPHE should review the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation* when creating the Mitigation Plan.

During the meeting, the following action items were agreed to:

- EPA will resurvey the area of "potential affect" to reevaluate the National Historic Preservation Act eligible properties within that area.
- EPA will keep SHPO advised of the Public Process.
- EPA will notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the initiation of the consultation process.
- EPA will give SHPO a tour of the site in the fall after the resurvey is completed.
- SHPO will provide the EPA a map of the Leadville National Landmark District and the name of a contact at the National Park Service. EPA will contact the National Park Service concerning the remedy change and potential mitigation.
- Both parties will consider rewriting the Programmatic Agreement.

We look forward to working with you on this process. If you have any questions, the most knowledgeable person on my staff is Stan Christensen who can be reached at (303) 312-6694.

Sincerely,


Carol L. Campbell
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystems Protection
and Remediation

cc: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

