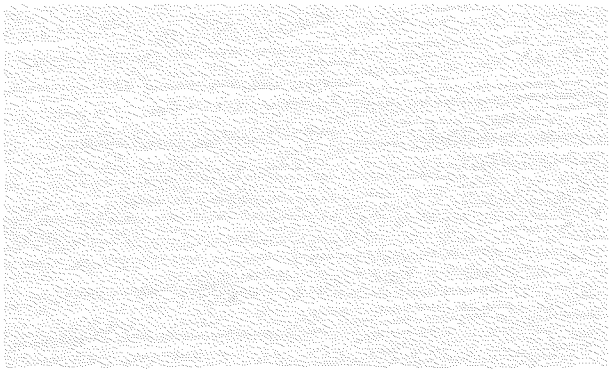
To: R8 GKM Leadership Team[R8_GKM_LeadershipTeam@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Jenkins, Laura Flynn
Sent: Wed 9/7/2016 3:44:48 PM
Subject: Final R8-Specific BPMD Listing Press Release
BPMD_NPL List_R8_07Sep16_FNL.docx



Attached here and embedded below is the final Region 8 Press Release on the BPMD listing.

Rich Mylott will distribute this release, along with the CFAC release, via Vocus immediately following release of the National NPL Press Release (expected at 11:00 am MDT).

Any showstoppers please ***call me at: 303-312-6256.***

Regards,

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

USEPA-Region 8

1595 Wynkoop St.

Mailcode: 8-OC

Denver, CO 80202

Landline: 303-312-6256

Fax: 303-312-6961

*** *Please Note NEW Cell: 720-519-5504* ***

EPA Adds Bonita Peak Mining District Site in San Juan County, CO to Superfund List

Contact: Laura Jenkins, Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov, 303-312-6256

(Denver, CO – September 07, 2016) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will add the Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) site in San Juan County, CO, to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites on September 9, 2016. Superfund is the federal program that investigates and cleans up the most complex, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites to protect public health and the environment.

"Listing the Bonita Peak Mining District on the National Priorities List is an important step that enables EPA to secure the necessary resources to investigate and address contamination concerns of San Juan and La Plata Counties, as well as other downstream communities in New Mexico, Utah, and the Navajo Nation," said Shaun McGrath, EPA's Regional Administrator. "We look forward to continuing our efforts with the State of Colorado, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S Forest Service, Tribal governments, and our community partners community to address the impacts of acid mine drainage on the Animas River."

EPA proposed the BPMD site for addition to the NPL on April 7, 2016, and conducted a 68 day public comment period on the proposal. After reviewing and responding to all comments in a responsiveness summary, EPA has added the site to the NPL. The responsiveness summary can be found here: https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OLEM-2016-01522

The Bonita Peak Mining District site consists of historic and ongoing releases from mining operations in three drainages: Mineral Creek, Cement Creek and Upper Animas; which converge into the Animas River near Silverton, Colorado. Mining began in the area in the 1860s and both large- and small-scale mining operations continued into the 1990s, with the last mine ceasing production in 1991. The site includes 35 mines, seven tunnels, four tailings impoundments, and two study areas where additional information is needed to evaluate environmental concerns.

Water quality in the BPMD has been impaired by acid mine drainage for decades. Since 1998, Colorado has designated portions of the Animas River downstream from Cement Creek as

impaired for heavy metals, including lead, iron and aluminum. EPA has waste quantity data on 32 of Bonita Peak's 48 sources. These 32 sources have waste rock and water discharging out of mining adits at a combined rate of 5.4 million gallons per day. Cadmium, copper, manganese and zinc are the known contaminants associated with these discharges.

"Listing the Bonita Peak Mining District is critical to addressing historic mining impacts in San Juan County and our downstream communities," said Martha Rudolph, director of environmental programs for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "We are committed to working closely with our Federal and state partners to achieve an effective cleanup, while ensuring that all our affected communities have a voice in the process as this moves forward."

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the law establishing the Superfund program, requires EPA to update the NPL at least annually and clean up hazardous waste sites to protect human health with the goal of returning them to productive use. A site's listing neither imposes a financial obligation on EPA nor assigns liability to any party. Updates to the NPL do, however, provide policymakers with a list of high-priority sites, serving to identify the size and nature of the nation's cleanup challenges.

The Superfund program has provided important benefits for people and the environment since Congress established the program in 1980. Those benefits are both direct and indirect, and include reduction of threats to human health and ecological systems in the vicinity of Superfund sites, improvement of the economic conditions and quality of life in communities affected by hazardous waste sites, prevention of future releases of hazardous substances, and advances in science and technology.

For more information on the Bonita Peak Mining District site please visit:
www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak