Region 8 Weekly Report – Addendum – May 26, 2017

Region 8 Emergency Response Program to Assist the State of Colorado in Closing a Leaking Tailings Impoundment at the Pride of the West Mill near Silverton, Colorado

Key Message: Region 8 has agreed to assist Colorado's Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) in the State's emergency action to dewater and close a leaking tailings impoundment at the Pride of the West Mill.

- DRMS recently rescinded the operating permit for the Mill for longstanding failure to comply with permit conditions.
- DRMS has mobilized a contractor to the Site and has asked EPA to assist in treating the water from the impoundment. EPA will purchase treatment materials and provide technical support during the dewatering work. DRMS will conduct the work to set up a series of ponds to treat the water prior to discharging the water into the Animas River. Expected costs for EPA to provide treatment materials is approximately $45,000.
- This emergency action is expected to take 2-4 weeks.
- After the impoundment is closed, EPA and DRMS will follow-up with an investigation of the property.

Recent Sampling Data Show Arsenic and Lead in Benny Goodman Park, Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site

Key Message: EPA is following up on preliminary screening level data collected by Anaconda Deer Lodge County for a public park in Anaconda, Montana, that show levels of lead and arsenic above the residential cleanup standards for the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site.

- The County's data for the sand pit/children's play area within the park show levels of arsenic and lead above the residential cleanup level (250 ppm As, and 400 ppm Pb), but below the recreational cleanup level for arsenic (1,000 ppm As) for the site. EPA's Record of Decision requires cleanup of parks, playgrounds, schools and day cares at the site to meet residential cleanup levels.
- The Atlantic Richfield Company will remove and replace the sand with clean material within the next two weeks.
- EPA, Anaconda Deer Lodge County, and Atlantic Richfield are working together to follow up with more comprehensive sampling of Benny Goodman Park and cleanup if necessary.
- Sampling from 2003 showed the sand pit to have an average arsenic concentration of 70 ppm.
- EPA is following up with the County on their sampling effort, reviewing quality assurance data, and investigating how the park may have become contaminated since the sampling in 2003.