September 17, 2015

(b) (6) [redacted]
Durango, CO, 81301

Dear (b) (6) [redacted]

Thank you for providing us access to your property to collect surface water and sediment samples. The samples from your property were submitted to a private certified laboratory to be analyzed for metals. The analysis will include metals that could potentially be present in sediment deposited as a result of the release from the Gold King Mine incident on August 5, 2015.

In addition to surface water and sediment soil samples, soil samples were taken on September 10, 2015 in the area on your property where EPA temporarily located a diesel generator. These samples were also submitted to a private certified laboratory, to be evaluated for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH).

The data for the surface water sample is enclosed. EPA is awaiting receipt of sample results from the laboratory. We will transmit the information to you after validated results have been received. We thank you for your patience as you await sample results for your property, and we want to assure you that results will be provided as soon as they are available for release.

EPA has worked closely with the San Juan Basin Health Department and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to evaluate the conditions in the Animas River following the incident. Surface water and sediment samples collected throughout the watershed have demonstrated the river has returned to pre-event conditions. Data received from samples collected from other properties in the area have met risk-based screening levels for recreational use.

We also acknowledge your request for information regarding the flocculent used in the treatment ponds at the Gold King Mine Site, and will transmit this information to you also as soon as it is available and approved for release.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Cynthia Peterson, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (303) 312-6879.

Sincerely,

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8