



STANDARD MINE UPDATE FACT SHEET July, 2008



Overview

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) developed this fact sheet to provide the community with an update on the planned cleanup activities taking place at the Standard Mine Superfund site during the Summer 2008 construction season.

Background

Standard Mine site (shown below) is located at 11,000 ft. elevation in a remote and isolated location on the southern flank of Scarp Ridge, above Kebler Pass and Irwin



Township in Gunnison County. Standard Mine was added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) for Superfund in September, 2005.

The Standard Mine is only accessible in the summer by four-wheel drive vehicles via a gated Forest Service road or by foot or bicycle. The primary metals of concern at the Standard Mine site include: arsenic, lead, zinc, cadmium, copper, and chromium.

Anticipated Cleanup Activities for 2008

During the summer of 2008, EPA plans to work on the following cleanup activities at the Standard Mine site:

- ◆ Installation of ground-water wells which will help us to better assess source water controls that would work to reduce water coming from the mine workings.
- ◆ Continued monitoring of the pilot bioreactor passive treatment process that was installed at the mine adit during the 2007 construction season.
- ◆ Continued removal of contaminated soils to the repository site. EPA will use heavy equipment to dig and haul material from levels 1 and 3 of the mine site area to the repository.
- ◆ Remove tree stumps and chip slash that remains from repository construction last season.

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- ◆ Screen for appropriate soils to be used for capping of the repository.
- ◆ Place soil and riprap rocks on the repository to create the cap.
- ◆ Begin restoration of Elk Creek and wetlands restoration.
- ◆ Revegetation of excavated areas. The excavated areas will require stabilization to reduce erosion.
- ◆ Ongoing water quality sampling.

The reclamation plans covering specific designs for restoration of Elk Creek, wetland restoration, and revegetation were shared with the community on May 29, 2008 at a Standard Mine public meeting. Copies of the plan and appendices can be found at the information repository located at the Old Rock Community Library in Crested Butte

Last year cleanup activities at the site began in late June and ended in late September. Due to the significant amount of snow that the site area accumulated this past winter, cleanup activities at the site will not begin until after July 4th. As a result of the shorter construction season, our anticipated work that's described within this fact sheet may carry over into 2009.

The photo in the next column is a picture of the bioreactor system that was installed at the mine adit last summer. The photo insert was taken in March, 2008. Due to the amount of snow at the site only two of the three solar panels installed could be seen at the site and the shed is buried beneath the person providing a glimpse into the amount of snow the site received over the 2007/2008 winter season.



Opportunities For Public Participation

A community advisory group known as the Standard Mine Advisory Group (SMAG) formed in 2005. The SMAG meetings provide a public forum where community members can participate in the Superfund cleanup of the Standard Mine site by discussing their needs and concerns related to the site and the site cleanup process. Public notices are placed in the *Crested Butte News* announcing when the next SMAG meeting will take place.

For additional information about the cleanup of the Standard Mine please visit EPA's Standard Mine Superfund website at: <http://epa.gov/region8/superfund/co/standard/>.

If you are interested in receiving information about the cleanup activities and alerts as to when the next public meeting will be held, please contact Libby Faulk, Community Involvement Coordinator, US EPA, at 1-800-227-8917, ext. 6083 or email: faulk.libby@epa.gov.

Standard Mine Question and Answers

1) Is the water safe to drink in the Town of Crested Butte?

Yes, the water supplied to residents and visitors is safe to drink. The water is routinely monitored to ensure drinking water standards established by the Safe Drinking Water Act are being met.

2) Will Elk Creek be returned to its natural state?

Yes, the re-channeling of Elk Creek and the restoration of the stream banks will begin this summer.

Standard Mine Information Repository Location

Old Rock Community Library
507 Maroon Avenue
Crested Butte, Colorado, 81224
(970) 349-6535

Standard Mine Contacts

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