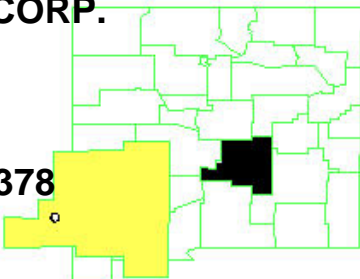


CIMARRON MINING CORP.
(Lincoln County)
New Mexico

EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT 02

EPA ID# NMD980749378
Site ID: 0600897



Contact:
Petra Sanchez 214-665-6686

Updated: December 2009

Current Status

- NMED continues to perform O&M at the site on a quarterly basis. Recently, the state performed an in-depth analysis of the ground water monitoring system and provided EPA a copy of their analysis of their monitoring well static water level data report. The report provides an in-depth analysis of their findings.
- During the week of June 23-26, 2009 NMED performed filling-compaction-regrading of surface depressions to minimize ponding of precipitation and subsequent infiltration. These activities are all part of their O&M and project oversight as well as their efforts towards eventual site deletion.
- EPA signed the Five Year Review on July 30, 2008 and mailed a copy to NMED to the City repository. In the town of Carizozo, the public can review the findings in the Report by contacting the Carizozo Town Clerk, visiting the NMED Santa Fe Office, the EPA Office, or view it on-line. The Report indicates the remedy remains protective and prevents potential exposure to cyanide or lead contamination from on-site contaminants.
- NMED updated their Operation and Management Plan (O&M Plan) and will continue to monitor the site and make its findings available to the public through annual reports.
- Two restrictive covenants were recorded by the City of Carrizozo on Sept. 29th 2006. While the covenant restriction prohibits drilling less than 100 feet below ground surface for obtaining ground water at Operable Unit 1, it does not restrict development of well drilling in general. It only serves to protect the present remedy in place. The restriction at OU-2 also protects the remedy and prohibits drilling near the contaminant cell on or near its perimeter.
- EPA proposed a plan to abandon several wells at OU-1, however, NMED requested additional time to assess the ground water remedy in place before they decide to support a site deletion.
- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is responsible for performing Operation and Maintenance (O&M) at the site.
- The EPA and NMED are reviewing monitoring data to determine if they support a Record of Decision Amendment, and invoking a technical impracticality waiver for Operable Unit 1.

Benefits

- Drinking water for 1,000 residents drawn from public and private wells within three miles of the Site have been protected from Site contaminants.
- The remedy at Operable Unit 2 (Sierra Blanca) was successfully installed and the operable unit was deleted from the NPL on August 31, 2000.
- The sites are available for re-use and redevelopment.

Population Protected and Volume of Contaminated Media

Population in July 2008: 1,047. Population change since 2000: +1.1%

Approximately 1500 people live within a two-mile radius of the Site. A shallow aquifer, with poor water quality, and a deeper aquifer with better quality lie beneath the Site at OU-1. The RI revealed that the shallow ground water, to depths of approximately 55 feet, was contaminated with inorganics, including cyanide.

Inorganics, including cyanide, exist in shallow ground water underlying approximately 2.3 acres of the Site at OU-1. The RI indicated that there is a potential for limited migration of contaminated ground water to the lower aquifer. Therefore, the RI/FS report recommended remedial action for the cyanide contaminated ground water source in order to reduce or eliminate the potential for migration to the deeper aquifer, and to meet the NMWQCCR standard for cyanide in the shallow portion of the aquifer.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

Site Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Score: 38.93

Proposed Date: June 24, 1988

Final Date: October 4, 1989

NPL Update: No. 7

Location: The first OU (OU-1) is on Highway 380 in Carrizozo. The second OU (OU-2) is approximately one mile south of the OU-1.

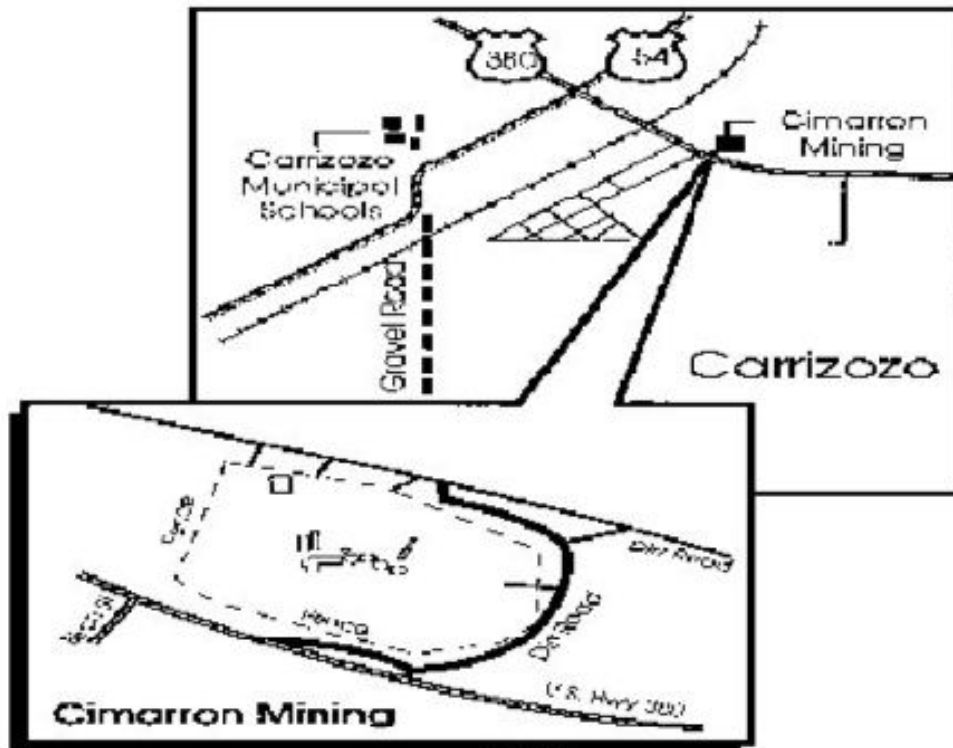
Photos: [Cimarron Mining](#)

Population: Approximately 1,000 people obtain drinking water from 29 municipal wells within three miles of the Site.

OU-1 covers approximately 10 acres and operated as a mill for raw ore. Precious metals were extracted with cyanide.

- Principal Pollutants: Cyanide in ground water up to 4,330 parts per billion (ppb) at OU-1 and lead in soil and sediment up to 18,000 parts per million (ppm) at OU-2.

Site Map



Record of Decision

Signed: September 21, 1990 (OU-1)

Signed: September 6, 1991 (OU-2)

Ground Water (OU-1): The Record of Decision (ROD) for OU-1 required extraction of cyanide from the shallow ground water and discharge to the publicly owned treatment works (POTW).

OU-1 Partial Site Deletion: August 31, 2000
(soil only)

Soil Treatment (OU-2): The ROD for OU-2 required solidification and stabilization of contaminated soil and waste piles exceeding 500 ppm lead, with on-site disposal.

OU-2 Site Deletion: August 31, 2000 Fed. Register/Vol 65, No. 170

Site Contacts

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EPA Toll-Free Telephone No.		1-800-533-3508
State Contact:	Earl Dixon	505.827.0387