



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

California Gulch Superfund Site Operable Unit 12

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 8 • MAY 2009

Site-Wide Surface and Ground Water Proposed Plan

INTRODUCTION:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Colorado will hold a public meeting to explain their proposed plan for addressing environmental contamination of site-wide surface and ground water, also known as Operable Unit 12 (OU 12) of the California Gulch Superfund Site near Leadville, Colorado.

The Proposed Plan summarizes EPA's and the State of Colorado's reasons for recommending the proposed remedy. The Preferred Alternative for site-wide surface and ground water is a No Further Action alternative with institutional controls and long-term monitoring.

This fact sheet briefly describes the Preferred Alternative for the proposed plan at OU 12 of the California Gulch Superfund Site. All of the alternatives that EPA considered for OU 12 are discussed in detail in the Proposed Plan for site-wide surface and ground water. The second page of this fact sheet contains information on how to obtain copies of the Proposed Plan.

BACKGROUND:

Operable Unit No. 12 (OU12) encompasses the entire site and was designated to address site-wide surface and ground-water quality after response actions to clean up the sources of surface and ground-water contamination have been implemented at other operable units (OUs).

OU 12 was created as part of the 1994 consent decree settlement between EPA, the State of Colorado, Resurrection-Newmont, and Asarco. The parties could not agree on final water quality values for the Arkansas River and the settlement was in danger of falling apart. This was a compromise allowing work to progress and

**Mark Your Calendar!
Comment
Opportunity!**



**Public Comment
Meeting:**

**May 20, 2009
6:30 PM**

National Mining Hall of Fame
and Museum
Longyear Auditorium
120 W. 9th
Leadville, CO 80461
(Use 10th Street Entrance)

**Written or oral comments will be
accepted at the meeting.**

**Public Comment Period:
May 7, 2009- June 5, 2009**

Send Written Comments to:

Stan Christensen
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. E.P.A. Region 8
Mail Code 8EPR-SR
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
Email: christensen.stanley@epa.gov

EPA will accept **written comments** during this period. Comment letters must be **postmarked or e-mailed by closing June 5, 2009.**

Requests for extension of the comment period must be made in writing to Stan Christensen and **received by 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2009.**

For additional questions contact:

Peggy Linn, Community Involvement
Coordinator
1-800-227-8917, ext.312-6622
linn.peggy@epa.gov

agencies to evaluate water quality once all source control work was implemented. Although OU12 encompasses the entire NPL site, a geographic limit was placed on OU12 ground water. Site-wide ground water is defined as that water which extends to bedrock or a maximum of 250 feet below ground surface.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:

EPA and the State recommend a No Further Action Alternative, no additional active remediation, for site-wide surface and ground water (OU12). Institutional controls (ICs) will be implemented to prevent unacceptable human exposure to contaminated surface and ground water and to prevent disturbance of the selected remedy. In addition, long-term monitoring will be implemented to evaluate the improvement of surface and ground water. EPA will also issue a Technical Impracticability (TI) waiver for shallow ground water.

This alternative was recommended because response actions have been implemented in each of the operable units of the California Gulch Superfund Site that significantly improved site-wide surface and ground-water quality. Sampling results indicate a decreasing contaminant trend. This trend continued during the years 2006-2008 when snowfall increased. Sample results for these years showed a slight increase in metal loading to the Arkansas River, but overall the increase was small. EPA

and the State expect that contaminant levels in the Arkansas River will continue to trend downward. If future sampling data at the site shows that contaminant levels are not decreasing and, instead, increase significantly, EPA and the State will take additional action to reduce contamination in the river.

SUMMARY:

The public is encouraged to review and comment on all options presented in this Proposed Plan.

Copies of the Proposed Plan are available at :

- the Lake County Library
- the Colorado Mountain College.
- the Lake County Commissioners office
- the EPA/Region 8's California Gulch web page: <http://epa.gov/region8/superfund/co/calgulch/index.html>
- request a copy of the proposed plan or if you have additional questions contact:

Peggy Linn
Community Involvement Coordinator
1-800-227-8917, ext. 312-6622
Email: linn.peggy@epa.gov

For information on how to comment on the Proposed Plan, refer to the box on the first page of this fact sheet.

Information Repositories	
Lake County Library 1115 Harrison Avenue, Ste. 300 Leadville, CO 80461 719-486-569x Hours: Mon.-Sun., Call for Times	Colorado Mountain College Library Timberline Campus Leadville, CO 80461 719-486-2015

[We Value Your Opinions About This Fact Sheet !!!!!](#)

Please take a few moments to either telephone or e-mail your responses to
Peggy Linn, 1-800-227-8917, ext. 312-6622
linn.peggy@epa.gov

- 1. How clear and understandable are our fact sheets and other mailings?**
- 2. Are we providing the information you need and in a timely manner?**
- 3. What other information can we provide to help you?**