

December 2008 Update

## Smuggler Mountain Superfund Site

Pitkin County, Colorado  
(Five-Year Review Date 6/26/07)

### *H*ighlights Since the 2007 Five-Year Review

- **OU1 October 2007 inspection conducted on October 11**
- **Residences of OU1 notified April 2007 of procedures required under ordinances**

**Brief Site History:** The Smuggler Mountain site, located in northeastern Aspen on the flank of Smuggler Mountain, covers 135 acres, 116 of which are residential. The site is developed with condominium units, mobile home parks, a tennis club and single-family homes. Site soil analyses have shown high levels of lead and cadmium. The Roaring Fork River is not contaminated and is not considered a potential health risk to the community. The potential health risks to residents include incidental ingestion of contaminated surface soils or eating vegetables grown in contaminated soils, as well as breathing contaminated soil dust. Lead exposure may cause long-term or permanent nervous-system damage, which may result in learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Even exposure to low lead levels may harm the nervous system of young children. Lead exposure may also cause long-term damage to the cardiovascular system, the reproductive system, kidneys and the liver. The EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1986.

**Cleanup Activities Completed:** The potentially responsible parties have completed the following cleanup activities:

- Blood-lead monitoring studies, reports on lead impacts and concluding that children living on the site are at acceptable risk to exposure of lead in soil.
- Capping contaminated berm with clean soil and plants. Covering and replanting common-use areas of exposed mine waste, plus the Mollie Gibson Park.
- Regrading a parking area and part of the mine to drain back into the mountain.
- Controlling dust emissions from the mine from dirt roads and the parking area by periodic spraying of a dust-suppressant solution.
- Extending the existing fence to restrict entry to the lower portion of the mine.

**Current Status:** The site was removed from the NPL on September 23, 1999. Current groundwater monitoring and maintenance of waste caps is in place throughout the site. The remedies are working as intended.

The third five-year review for Smuggler Mountain was completed June 26, 2007. EPA solicited public comment and notices were placed in the local newspaper notifying the community that the five-year review was in progress.

**Summary of Protectiveness:** The remedy at the Smuggler Mountain Superfund Site is protective of human health and the environment. Institutional controls for OU1 are in full force and effect and in accordance with the OU1 Consent Decree. The mining area is being properly maintained and is in accordance with the OU2 AOC.

**Issues Impacting Protectiveness:** Two issues that do not immediately impact the protectiveness of the remedy were identified and have already been addressed. The following table summarizes the status of the follow-up actions addressing these issues.

**Smuggler Mountain Superfund Site  
Five-Year Review Update Table  
(Review Date 6/26/07)**

| Issues  | Recommendations Follow-up   | Follow-up Actions (Status/Due date)   | Status of Follow-up Actions 12/08   | Responsible Party |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1) During the inspection, it was found that a continued and agreeable protocol was needed for visual inspection of the OU1 residential area for ordinance compliance.                           | On the day of the inspection, Pitkin County agreed to inspect the OU1 residential area for ordinance compliance twice a year: at the beginning (April) and end (October) of the construction season. The letter of agreement received on April 23, 2007.  | Twice yearly April/October            | October inspection conducted on October 11. All activities were in compliance with ordinance. | Pitkin County     |
| 2) During the inspection, it was found that a reoccurring protocol was needed to remind residents in OU1 of the procedures required under the ordinances passed by the Aspen and Pitkin County. | On the day of the inspection, Pitkin County agreed to send notices, detailing ordinance requirements, to residents every five years (in conjunction with five-year reviews). The letter of agreement was received on April 23, 2007. A copy of the notice was received on April 30, 2007. The notices were sent to all residents within OU1 by the end of April of this year. | April 23, 2007 and then every 5 years | Done April 23, 2007.  | Pitkin County     |