

December 2008 Update

**Kennecott South Zone Superfund Site**  
Copperton, Utah  
(Review Date 6/30/2004)

***H***ighlights Since the 2004 Five-Year Review

- **Kennecott South De-Proposal from National Priorities List (NPL) September 3, 2008**
- **Consent Decree completed in May 2008 to, in part, to establish operation, maintenance and replacement activities.**

**Brief Site History:** Kennecott South Superfund Site includes the Bingham Mining district in the Oquirrh Mountains about 25 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. The mountain range represents the west boundary of the Salt Lake Valley. Mining activities at the site began in the 1860s and continue to the present at the large Bingham Canyon open-pit mine. Historic mining operations produced lead, zinc, silver, copper, molybdenum and gold ores. Kennecott Utah Copper Company (Kennecott) and the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) have conducted cleanup activities of mine waste dumps, mill tailing, smelter wastes, groundwater and surface water, including wetlands, with oversight by state and federal agencies. Cleanups began in and along Bingham Creek in 1991 as a Removal Action. Although this site was not listed in the National Priorities List, the concept was that the responses would be equivalent to those of listed sites.

**Cleanup Activities Completed:** Cleanups of the following sites involved digging up near-surface soil wastes with high lead and arsenic levels and removal of the wastes to collection and storage areas:

- Bingham Creek Residential Neighborhoods, Bingham Creek Channel and Large Bingham Reservoir
- Butterfield Mine Waste Rock and other canyon wastes
- Herriman Residential Neighborhoods
- Lark Tailings, Mine Waste Rock and Wetlands
- South Jordan Evaporation Ponds
- Anaconda Tailings

**Current Status:** Notwithstanding the fact that the Kennecott North and South Zone sites are not on the NPL, EPA Region 8, will conduct five-year reviews for this site

in an ongoing commitment to ensure that the remedies remain protective of human health and the environment. Wastes are left in place on OUs 1, 5, 10, 11 and 17. OU 4 is an operational facility which continues to handle hazardous materials. Some changes have been noted to OUs due to changes in land use, weathering and construction activities. To determine if remedies remained effective in protecting human health and the environment each operable unit was visited and appropriate records inspected.

The 1994 proposal to list the Kennecott South Zone on the NPL was withdrawn on September 3, 2008 and published in the Federal Register. The State of Utah, through Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ), concurs with this request. The request for withdrawal was made pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the EPA, UDEQ, and Kennecott signed September 1995.

**Summary of Protectiveness:** The remedy as designed, constructed, implemented and operated is currently protective of human health and the environment. Surface soils with high lead and arsenic levels have been removed and contaminated groundwater is contained and protected by institutional controls.

**Issues Impacting Protectiveness:** A few issues that do not immediately impact the protectiveness of the remedy were noted. The following table summarizes the status of the follow-up actions addressing these issues.

**Kennecott South Zone Superfund Site  
Five-Year Review Update Table  
(Review Date 6/30/04)**

Issue	Recommendations/ Follow-up	Follow-up Actions (Status/ Due Date)	Status of Follow-up Actions 12/08	Resp. Party
1) Historic mining site now has tourist center, historic sites (11), residential housing (10), changes of land use from agricultural to industrial (17)	Continue to monitor changes in land use for OUs 10, 11 and 17	Ongoing	Current protectiveness not affected.	Kennecott, EPA
2) Gully discharges from Trans-Jordan Landfill access and Rt. 111 were eroding gully	Repair erosion in gully at Trans-Jordan Landfill	September 2003	Gully repaired.	Trans-Jordan Landfill, EPA

Issue	Recommendations/ Follow-up	Follow-up Actions (Status/ Due Date)	Status of Follow-up Actions 12/08	Resp. Party
3) Erosion, new construction, flood control construction, could damage cap at OU 1.	Brief new city employees about Bingham Creek	September 2004	Current protectiveness not affected	Salt Lake County Flood Control
4) Erosion could damage cap at OU 5.	Continue to monitor OU 5 ARCO Tailings for erosion, continue open space land use	Ongoing	Current protectiveness not affected.	EPA, ARCO