

Nelson Tunnel / Commodore Waste Rock Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan



May 2009



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund Community Involvement Program is committed to promoting communication between citizens and the different agencies. Active public involvement is crucial to the success of any public project. EPA's community involvement activities at the Nelson Tunnel/Commodore Waste Rock Pile Superfund Site (the Site) are designed to:

- Inform the public of the nature of the environmental issues associated with the site,
- Involve the public in the decision-making process that will affect them,
- Involve the public in evaluating the responses under consideration to remedy these issues, and
- Inform the public of the progress being made to implement the remedy

The purpose of the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is to identify the concerns of the people affected by the Site and develop methods to address those concerns. EPA is required by agency policy to conduct community interviews and, based on these interviews, prepare a CIP that includes a description of the Site background, history of community involvement at the Site (including major community concerns), community relations objectives, and a list of affected and interested groups and individuals. Community interviews form the foundation for developing the appropriate information to be disseminated to the public, and for determining what actions are necessary to address the public's concerns.

B. Overview

The federal and state agencies that share the responsibility for the Site are EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). EPA is the lead agency at this Site. EPA is conducting work at the Site under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA Public Law 96-510) commonly referred to as Superfund. This law addresses actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances or contaminants and whether cleanup is necessary. The investigation and any cleanup actions taken must be based on CERCLA and its implementing regulations found in the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

The Site became an official Superfund Site on September 3, 2008 when the proposed National Priorities Listing (NPL) received final designation. Two cleanup projects are

underway at the Site: a removal action conducted by EPA's Emergency Response group at the Commodore waste rock pile and remedial actions directed at the draining adit of the Nelson Tunnel. Community interviews are required for both. Interviews were conducted September 2008 and February 2009.

The CIP is tailored to the specific needs and concerns of the residents of Creede and Mineral County and identifies the most effective ways to keep the public informed about the work taking place in the area. Active public participation is crucial to the success of any public project. The community involvement activities at the Site are designed to provide two-way communication.

II. SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

A. Site Location

The Nelson Tunnel/Commodore Waste Rock Pile Superfund Site lies about one mile north of the city of Creede in the Willow Creek watershed in Mineral County, Colorado, on the eastern side of the San Juan Mountains.

The abandoned hard rock mine site consists of a draining adit that drains directly into West Willow Creek and a large unstable waste rock pile that is part of the Commodore Mine. West Willow Creek joins East Willow Creek to form Willow Creek which empties into the Rio Grande River approximately four miles downstream of the site. Historically, mining of silver, lead, and zinc provided economic viability to the area in and around the Creede mining district. The mining activity resulted in contaminated water discharging into the Willow Creek drainage and mine waste piles accumulating in the watershed.

Characterization of the watershed identified the Nelson Tunnel adit drainage as the largest source of cadmium, lead, and zinc in the Willow Creek watershed. Immediately upslope and surrounding the Nelson Tunnel is the waste rock pile from the Commodore Mine, which is comprised of waste rock from hard rock mining that accumulated over the years. The waste rock contains elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium, lead, and zinc. In 2005, a less-than-20-year flood event caused catastrophic failure of the waste rock. The Commodore Waste Rock Pile is now highly unstable and partially lies in West Willow Creek and Willow Creek.

B. Site History

In 1889, a party of prospectors including Nicholas C. Creede located the Holy Moses

vein on Campbell Mountain in the East Willow Creek Drainage. The vein was extremely rich in silver. The Solomon and Ridge mines were located on this vein and the area soon became known as the King Solomon District. The discovery of the Holy Moses vein increased prospecting in this area and up West Willow creek. Two claims were staked up West Willow Creek, the Last Chance and the Amethyst mines. These mines were located along the Amethyst vein and would become the richest, most profitable mines in the Creede Mining District.

Discovery of the Holly Moses vein was the beginning of almost 100 years of mining in the Creede district. Creede was one of the last silver boom towns in Colorado. At its peak, there were reportedly 10,000 people residing in the area. The town was incorporated in 1892. Due to plummeting silver prices the boom ended in 1893. In 1894, mining resumed and the Creede Mining District experienced a slight recovery. From 1896 - 1910, production of ore in the Creede Mining District was steady. Mining continued on and off until the late 1950's early 1960's when a final mini-boom occurred. By the 1980's, all mining had finally ended in the Creede Mining District. The last mine closed in 1985.

After 100 years of silver production the Creede mining district is now undergoing environmental cleanup. By the 1970's, when people began taking an interest in outdoor recreation and exploring the past, tourism became the new economic boom for Creede and the upper Rio Grande River area.

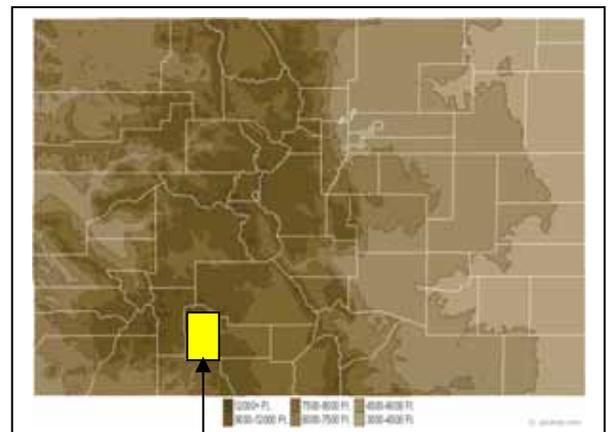
III. COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND CONCERNS

A. Community Profile

Community Setting

Mineral County is located in south central Colorado in the heart of the San Juan Mountains. Mineral County encompasses 876 square miles and is located at an elevation of 8,500 feet. Mineral County is the third least densely populated county in Colorado behind Hinsdale and San Juan Counties.

Approximately 95% of the county consists of federal lands, like the Rio Grande National Forest. The headwaters of the Rio Grande River are located in this area and flow through both the San Juan Mountains and the San Luis Valley. The Continental Divide is located along the northern border and the La



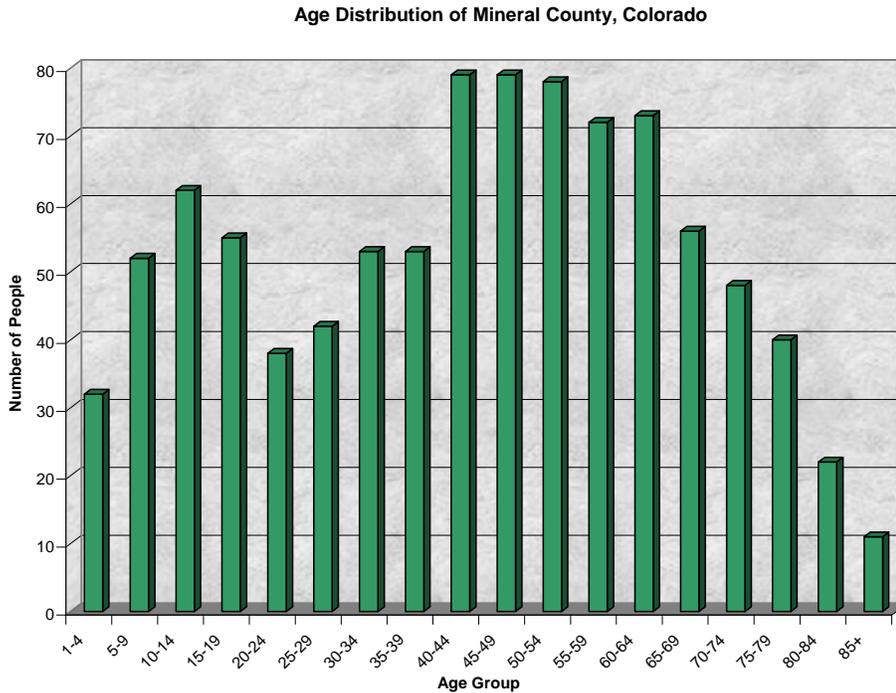
Mineral County

Garita Mountains are located along the eastern border of Mineral County.

Population and Growth

According to the U.S. Census data, Mineral County had a total population of 831 in 2000 and an estimated 929 people in 2006. The population increased by 11.8% over these six years. The median age in Mineral County is 45 years, of which 17.3% of the population is 65 years old and over. The City of Creede had a total population of 377 residents in 2000. Of these residents, 15.9% were older than 65. The 2008 population of Creede is reported as 422, which is an increase of 12% since 2000.

According to CDPHE, for the year 2004, 74.7% of the population of Mineral County was over the age of 25. Children between the ages of 1 and 14 made up 15.5% of the population and individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 made up 9.8% of the population. An age distribution chart is provided below.



The race and ethnic background of the residents of Mineral County is relatively homogenous. The population is comprised of 96.9% White individuals, 2.2% Hispanic and Latino, 0.8% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 0.1% Some Other Race. One hundred percent of the population 5 years and older has the ability to speak English. Two percent of the population can speak additional language(s) beyond English. The gender ratio is 1:1 in the City of Creede, and Mineral County has a population of 50.1% male and 49.9% female.

Education

According to the 2000 Census, 91.6% of the population in Mineral County over the age of 25 graduated from high school. Of this population, 31.2% obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, which is higher than the national average of 24.4%. An additional 32% of the population has taken college level courses but did not obtain a bachelor's degree. The education statistics for the City of Creede are similar to the County's, but are at slightly lower rates. Of the residents 25 years or older in the City of Creede, 87.1% obtained a high school diploma and 23.5% obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

The Creede School District serves a small community and provides an elementary school and a junior/senior high school. The U.S. Census stated that 178 students were enrolled in school in 2000. Thirty-three (33) children attended nursery school/kindergarten, 82 students were enrolled in grades 1-8, and 38 students were enrolled in high school (grades 9-12). The student to teacher ratio was 7.3. Additionally 25 students were attending undergraduate, graduate, or professional school programs.

According to the Colorado Department of Education's School Accountability Reports, Lamb Elementary School (grades 1-6) received a high overall academic performance on state assessments and stable academic growth. Creede Junior High School (grades 7-8) had average overall academic performance and the academic growth was reported as declining. However, Creede Senior High School (grades 9-12) had excellent overall academic performance and had improved academic growth. Due to the silver mining history of the City of Creede, the school mascot is a miner.

No colleges or universities were identified within Mineral County. Therefore, the collegiate level students must either be attending universities located outside of Mineral County or obtaining degrees via online classes. Several colleges are located within the southwestern Colorado region. Adams State College, Trinidad State Junior College and Trinity Lutheran School in Alamosa are located approximately 70 miles east of Creede. Other schools in this area include Western State College in Gunnison and Fort Lewis College in Durango (approximately 100 and 120 miles from Creede, respectively).

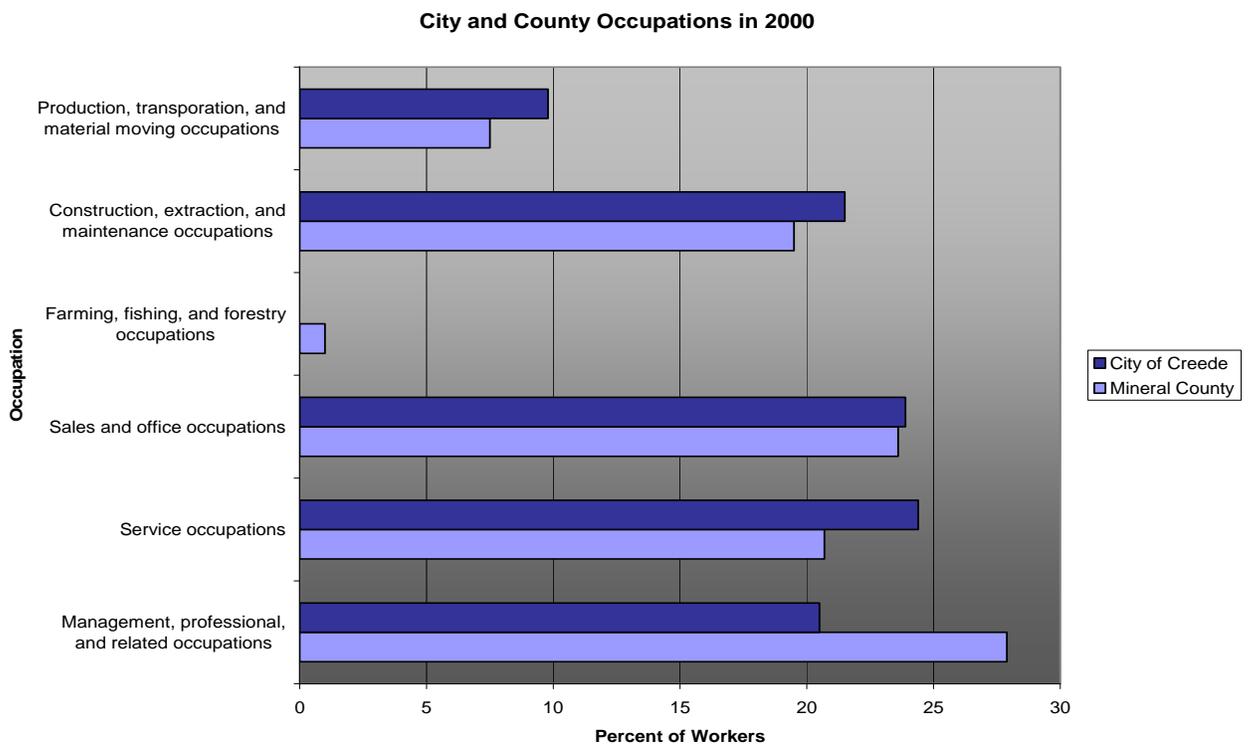
Occupations, Employment and Business

The employment status in both Mineral County and the City of Creede is determined based upon those that are 16 years and over. According to the 2000 U.S. Census data, Mineral County had 62.3% and the City of Creede had 65.9% of its population in the labor force.

On both a County and City level, the percentage of persons employed in particular occupations is relatively similar. However, the greatest difference between occupations in the county and city occurred in the "management, professional, and related occupations" and the "service occupations." Mineral County reported a higher

percentage of workers in management, professional, and related occupations at 27.9% than did the City of Creede at 20.5%. The service industry statistics for the city and county are reversed: 24.4% of the workforce of the City of Creede and 20.7% of the workforce of Mineral County is employed in service occupations.

Both the City of Creede and Mineral County had 24% of the workforce in sales and office occupations and over one-fifth of its workforce is employed by the government (local, state, or federal). The city and county statistics for the remaining occupations were similar. The City typically had slightly higher percentages in occupations of labor, such as 21.5% in construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations and 9.8% in production, transportation, and material moving occupations, as compared to the county at 19.5% and 7.5%, respectively.



Residential Trends and Economic Forecast

Although Mineral County consists of a rural community, significant economic growth occurred between the years of 1997 and 2002. According to the U.S. Census Economic Reports, the reported sales, shipments, receipts, or revenue increased from \$3.7 million in 1997 to \$4.2 million in 2002 for the retail trade. Also, the number of retail trade establishments increased from 10 in 1997 to 14 in 2002. The number of food services

and drinking services doubled over this time period to a total of six establishments. Due to the mountain setting and the appeal to outdoor enthusiasts, the reported sales, shipments, receipts, or revenue from RV parks and recreational camps, and recreational and vacation camps (except campgrounds) increased from \$1.5 million in 1997 to \$2.4 million in 2002, a 60% increase.

Economic development in the City of Creede includes a new residential subdivision, which was annexed into the City in 2006. The subdivision will bring a total of 70 new homes to Creede with eight homes already constructed. Further economic development in the City of Creede and Mineral County is anticipated if Hecla's exploration for silver, iron, and zinc resources proves profitable and feasible. Hecla recently acquired mining claims, including the Bull Dog lodes, located north and northeast of Creede.

Income

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the median family income for the City of Creede was \$30,893 and the Mineral County median family income was \$34,844. Both are less than the median household income for the City and County of Denver, \$39,500, and for the State of Colorado, \$47,203. The average income per household was considerably higher than the median income. The mean income per household in the City of Creede was \$46,816 and the Mineral County mean income was \$53,491.

B. Concerns and Issues

EPA and CDPHE conducted twenty-one interviews with citizens of Creede and Mineral County representing a cross section of elected officials, business people and citizens living near the site. This included people who had lived in the area less than 1 year to people who had lived their entire lives in Creede. Since Creede is the only municipality in Mineral County, people living outside Creede were included in the interview process.

Additionally, concerns and issues expressed at two informal meetings held in Creede prior to the Site being proposed to the National Priorities List and presentations at two Willow Creek Reclamation Committee (WCRC) meetings are included in the Community Involvement Plan. The CIP will be implemented by EPA and CDPH. Interviewees' responses to the questions have been summarized into four main areas as follows:

1. Familiarity with the Commodore Waste Rock Pile and the Nelson Tunnel.
2. Awareness of what work EPA and CDPHE will be doing.
3. Issues and concerns expressed by the community about this site.

4. How to provide for effective communication with the public.

1. Familiarity with the Commodore Waste Rock Pile and the Nelson Tunnel

In general, interviewees were familiar with the location of both the waste pile and tunnel. Some were familiar with the mine workings inside the Nelson Tunnel as well as the names of other mines in the area. More people commented on and understood more about the Commodore Waste Rock Pile than the Nelson Tunnel because of the flood in 2005.

Interviewees knew that the drainage system which had previously been constructed around the pile failed in 2005 during a less than 20 year flood leaving an unstable waste rock pile. They also knew that the potential for a catastrophic flood happening again is very likely. Everyone was in agreement the pile needed to be stabilized. Many felt the Pile needed to be stabilized before the other projects the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee wanted to complete on the flood plain could begin. There was general agreement that the water needs to be cleaned up as well.

Most the people interviewed knew Willow Creek was contaminated. Some were aware that water draining from the Nelson Tunnel was the major contributor of contamination. A few even knew the main contaminant was zinc. People wanted to see the water cleaned up and again felt this should be addressed before work began on the flood plain.

Several were familiar with the work the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee (WCRC) had completed in other areas in the watershed. WCRC has partnered with many agencies using other agencies CERCLA authorities to get the work done. Generally, people seemed to get information about the Willow Creek watershed either by attending WCRC meetings or by word-of-mouth.

Of those living outside of Creede, awareness of the specific problems at the Site varied. Some had just a basic knowledge, while others were well informed usually because they were members of the WCRC.

Most of the interviewees knew that the Nelson Tunnel had been designated as a Superfund Site.

2. Awareness of the work EPA and CDPHE plan to do.

A few interviewees were aware that EPA had been contacted to see what they could do to help stabilize the Commodore Waste Rock Pile. People seemed to know that EPA was doing work at the waste rock pile and some preliminary work had begun in the fall of

2007. Many people had noticed work occurring at the pile during the summer of 2008. This work was noticeable since it included some debris removal and grading some of the lower pile. Fewer were aware of the construction of a temporary diversion channel around the pile and creek. People asked if work would be completed during the summer of 2009.

Generally, people were aware the Nelson Tunnel/Commodore Waste Rock Pile had been designated a Superfund Site, but were not familiar with the Superfund process. Many people felt the Superfund designation was good because there would be money and technical expertise to address the contaminated water. Most of the interviewees felt that the site needed to be cleaned up and stabilized before future work could be planned for the flood plain.

Several others were supportive of the listing, but had concerns about the amount of money that might be spent, the possibility the water might not be cleaned up, the project might drag on too long, and there might be more regulations to deal with. All agreed they want to see the historical buildings remain intact and the natural beauty restored.

The general opinion was that the Waste Rock Pile needed to be stabilized as soon as possible. Everyone agreed the water draining from the Nelson Tunnel needed to be cleaned up, but was not as urgent to complete. Several people had ideas and suggestions about how the water from the Nelson Tunnel could be cleaned up. Some felt a water treatment plan would be the only solution and others hoped that would not be the outcome.

3. Issues and concerns expressed by the community about this site.

People were concerned about getting the Commodore Waste Rock Pile stabilized before there was a catastrophic event that washed more rock through Creede, potentially destroying buildings and perhaps injuring people. There also seemed to be concern for cleaning up the water to a quality that could support fish. Even though people knew the City's drinking water came from deep wells near the Rio Grande River, a few individuals expressed concerns about the quality of the drinking water. Many interviewees mentioned Creede has an existing water right on the water draining out of the Nelson Tunnel which needs to be protected. Protecting this water was a major concern along with keeping the historical structures intact.

4. How to provide for effective communication with the public.

The majority of the respondents preferred using the internet. Many of them use web sites to get information and preferred receiving short e-mails regularly updating them about work at the Site. Most people were willing to review documents and preferred receiving them by e-mail.

Almost as many people get their information from newspapers as they do electronic communications. The most frequently read newspapers were the local *Mineral County Miner* or *Valley Courier*. Other papers mentioned included the “Pueblo Chieftain”, “Denver Post”, and the “New York Times”. In addition, people watched the Denver news stations, FOX News, and CNN News. Two radio stations were mentioned as the ones some people in the valley listened to and include KRZA 109.9 in Alamosa and KRZA 105.9 in Creede.

Some interviewees rely on word-of-mouth to get information or fact sheets and newsletters. Other ideas for getting information to a broader audience included posting a flyer at the Post Office, windows at the Old Miners Inn and Tommy Knockers, and to do a mass mailing to postal patrons at the Creede post office. Many people were comfortable with the idea of keeping the WCRC updated since they get information from members of the committee.

Everybody wanted information as things happened on the Site. Most people also wanted regular updates on a regular basis. For some, quarterly updates were frequent enough and others felt updates needed to be monthly. Most people preferred getting this information through e-mails.

The consensus in the community was to update people about work currently being done, what the costs are, and what is planned for the future. People wanted to know when sampling events would be conducted and to receive information about the sampling results. Other things interviewees wanted to receive information about included technical issues, work schedules of trucks rolling through town, and/or things like traffic being stopped on the loop road.

IV. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Based upon interviews with local community members and other interested parties as well as considering other relevant information, EPA and CDPHE have developed the following list of objectives for community involvement and communication in the Creede, CO area.

A. Develop a proactive approach to sharing information and involving the public in discussions, including an explanation of events and risks.

The community will be given information that is easy to read and understand regarding the background of the Site, status of Site activities, public health and safety issues, as well as opportunities for public participation in Site decisions. The community recommended the following methods be used to keep the public informed and these

included newspapers, formal and informal public meetings, fact sheets, direct mailings and a web page with information on investigations and remedial activities.

It is important that the public not only be kept informed, but also have the opportunity to actively participate in the information/dialogue process with EPA and CDPHE.

B. Clearly define site plans, schedules, responsibilities, costs, and the relationship between these different agencies and communicate this to the public:

In addition to questions about operational, technical and health matters, it is important that a clear explanation be given as to the roles of the various agencies and stakeholders, and how their activities are interrelated.

C. Comply with the requirements under CERCLA/SARA:

In addition to the above activities, others will be added to meet the Community Relations requirements under CERCLA. A detailed description of those activities is found in Section V of this Community Involvement Plan.

V. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

EPA and CDPHE feel the overall goal of the community involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the federal and state agencies. Additionally, it is intended to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement in the process. It also identifies methods for providing timely and appropriate information that responds to residents' questions and concerns. The following plan is based on the results of the community interviews described earlier and addresses the goals and activities of importance to the community.

1. ACTIVITY: Information Repository and Administrative Record	
Objective:	To provide residents with all documents and resources used by EPA/CDPHE in reaching decisions about the site and its cleanup.
Method:	Three information repositories have been established at:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creede Town Hall Meeting Room, 2223 N. Main St., Creede, Colorado. • U.S. EPA, Region 8, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado • Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado.
Timing:	The administrative record was established in 2007 when the site investigation began. It will remain open throughout the remediation process until the final Record of Decision is completed. The information repository was established in March of 2008.
2. ACTIVITY: Prepare and distribute fact sheets, reports, and technical summaries	
Objective:	To provide residents with current, timely, accurate information about Site activities.
Method:	Fact sheets, technical documents, and the CIP will be mailed or emailed to all parties on the mailing list or email list depending on their preference. Copies will be available at other key locations including the information repositories.
Timing:	At a minimum there will be annual update fact sheets. During the summer construction season fact sheets may be issued more frequent as new information is available or as needed.
3. ACTIVITY: Public Comment Periods	
Objective:	To give the community an opportunity to review and comment on various EPA/CDPHE documents, like the proposed plan for remedial action activities. This provides for meaningful involvement in the process and provides EPA/CDPHE with valuable information for use in making decisions.
Method:	The comment period will be announced by EPA/CDPHE. Public notices will announce the availability of the document, duration of the comment period, and how and where to submit comments. Notices will be placed in the local newspaper.
Timing:	Comment periods will be announced as appropriate. The proposed plan has a requirement for a public comment period of at least 30 days and may be extended if requested for an additional 30 days.
4. ACTIVITY: Public Meetings/Site Tours	
Objective:	To update the community on Site developments, address community questions and concerns, and to take formal public comment as required

	by regulations.
Method:	Public meetings will be held at the Creede Community Center upon availability. EPA/CDPHE will schedule and present information for the community and provide at least two weeks notice of the scheduled meeting.
Timing:	Both formal and informal public meetings and open houses/availability sessions will be held as needed. To date, two open houses have been held in August 2007 and February 2008. EPA and CDPHE have met with the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee on several occasions to keep them updated on the progress of work.
5. ACTIVITY: Responsiveness Summary	
Objective:	To summarize comments received during comment periods, to document how the Agencies have considered those comments and to provide responses to major comments.
Methods:	The responsiveness summary will be prepared as part of the Record of Decision (ROD) documenting the selection of the remedial action for the Site.. Typically, the ROD contains an overview, background on community involvement, and summary of comments and responses.
Timing:	The responsiveness summary will be issued as part of the ROD.

6. ACTIVITY: Community Advisory Group	
Objective:	To provide residents potentially affected by the Site a committee where they may discuss their concerns, ask questions, hear about future plans, etc.
Method:	The Willow Creek Reclamation Committee (WCRC) will serve as the Community Advisory Group unless there becomes a need for a separate group or people wish to form a separate group.
Timing:	The WCRC meets every 1st Wed. of the month at 1:00 pm.
7. ACTIVITY: Technical Assistance Grants	
Objective:	To provide resources for community groups to hire technical advisers who can assist in interpreting technical information and provide expert advice.
Method:	EPA has provided information at two open houses and two Willow Creek Reclamation Committee Meetings.
Timing:	On-going.
8. ACTIVITY: Revise Community Involvement Plan	
Objective:	To identify and address community needs, issues or concerns regarding the Site cleanup that are not currently addressed in this CIP.
Method:	The revised CIP will be based on community interviews and other comments received at public meetings.
Timing:	At a minimum, the CIP will be revised after the ROD has been signed and when a 5 Year Review is completed.
9. ACTIVITY: Maintain a Web Site	
Objective:	To provide the community with current, timely, accurate information about Site activities.
Method:	As new information or documents become available, updates will be made to the web site. The web address will be provided on fact sheets, technical reports, and the CIP.
Timing:	On-going. The web site will be updated twice a year or as new documents and information are made available. These will be added to the web site at that time.
10. ACTIVITY: Maintain Open Communication with the Community	

Objective:	To provide two-way communications with community members, the community involvement coordinators will provide their contact information to the community members.
Method:	Contact information will be kept current on all fact sheets, technical documents, web sites and other pertinent locations.
Timing:	On-going. Contact information will be placed on all documents available to the public.
11. ACTIVITY: Maintain mailing and email lists	
Objective:	To provide residents, elected officials, and others affected by the NT/CWR Site current information about the Site will be mailed or e-mailed as it becomes available.
Method:	Using reminders on fact sheets, flyers, or announcing a reminder at meetings, or making phone calls information on these lists will be updated as new information becomes available.
Timing:	These lists will be updated every time something is mailed out or on an annual basis.

ATTACHMENT A CONTACTS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Michael Holmes, Project Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street, 8EPR-SR
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129
1-800-227-8917, ext. 312-6607
holmes.michael@epa.gov

Peggy Linn, Community Involvement Coordinator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street, 8OC
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129
1-800-227-8917, ext. 312-6622
linn.peggy@epa.gov

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Wendy Naugle, State Project Manager

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
HMWMD
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246-1530
303-692-3394
1-888-5691831, ext. 3394
wendy.naugle@state.co.us

Jeannine Natterman, Community Involvement Coordinator

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
HMWMD
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246-1530
303-692-3303
1-888-569-1831, ext. 3303
jeannine.natterman@state.co.us

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Senate

Senator Mark Udall
Democrat - Colorado

B40E Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington Dc 20510
DC Phone: 202-224-5941
E-mail: senator_mark_udall@markudall.senate.gov

Senator Mike Bennett
Democrat – Colorado

702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington Dc 20510
DC Phone: 202-224-5852
E-mail: senator_bennet@bennet.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives

Representative John Salazar
Democrat – Colorado 3rd District

326 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4761
202-226-9669 (fax)

Alamosa, Colorado

609 Main Street, #6
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-587-5105
719-587-5137 (fax)

State Elected Officials

Colorado State Senate

Senator Gail Schwartz
Democrat - District 5

Office Location: 200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203
Capitol Phone: 303-866-4871
E-mail: gail.schwartz.senate@state.co.us

Colorado House of Representatives

Representative Edward Vigil

District 62

Office Location: 200 E. Colfax

Denver, CO 80203

Capitol Phone: 303-866-2916

E-mail: edward.vigil.house@state.co.us

Mineral County Elected Officials

Board of Commissioners

Karl Kolisch

Chuck Fairchild

Jim Adelman

P.O. Box 70

Creede, CO 81130

719-658-2331

Creede City Officials

Rex Sheppard, Mayor

Clyde Dooley, City Manager

P.O. Box 457

Creede, CO 81130

719-658-2276

Other Contacts

Willow Creek Reclamation Committee

Zeke Ward

Kathleen Murphy

P.O. Box 518

Creede, CO 81130

719-658-2017

willowcreekrc@myamigo.net

Newspapers

Mineral County Miner

Valley Publishing
229 Adams St.
Monte Vista, CO 81144-1423
719-852-3531

Pueblo Chieftain

825 West 6th Street
Pueblo, CO 81003
719-544-3520

Alamosa Valley Courier

2205 State Avenue
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-2553

Radio Stations

KRZA RADIO – Creede 105.9 FM

528 9th Street
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-8844
1-800-290-0887

Alternative News Distribution

Post notices:

post office,
the Old Miners Inn,
Tommy Knockers

Mass mailing to the Creede Post Office to Postal Customer

ATTACHMENT B

Locations of Information Repositories

EPA Superfund Records Center
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
(303)312-6473, or 1-800-227-8917

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO

Creede Town Hall, Meeting Room
2223 N. Main Street
Creede, Colorado 81130
719-658-2276

Suggested Meeting Locations

Creede Community Center
#13 Forest Service Road 503
Creede, CO 81130
719-658-0811

ATTACHMENT C

List of Acronyms

CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment
CERCLA	the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, more commonly known as “Superfund”
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FS	Feasibility Study
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan, or more commonly known as the National Contingency Plan
NPL	National Priorities List (list of Superfund Sites)
NT/CWR	Nelson Tunnel/Commodore Waste Rock Superfund Site
PRP	Potentially Responsible Parties
PP	Proposed Cleanup Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
RPM	Remedial Project Manager
RI	Remedial Investigation
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant

ATTACHMENT D

Glossary

Adit: A type of entrance to an underground mine which is horizontal or nearly horizontal. They are usually built into the side of a mountain.

Administrative Record (AR): An official, legal project file which contains all documents and detailed information regarding environmental cleanup activities ongoing at the Intermountain Waste Oil Refinery Site. The AR is available for public review.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: A state agency that regulates and monitors compliance to environmental laws and regulations.

Community Interviews: Informal face-to-face or telephone interviews held with local residents, government officials, community groups, media representative, potentially responsible parties, and other individuals interested in Site activities. Interviewees are asked to identify the concerns and information needs of the community, and the best techniques for keeping the community informed.

Community Involvement: The federal program designed to inform and involve the public and to provide a mechanism for responding to community concerns during the Superfund process.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP): A document that identifies community concerns and specifies community relations activities that occur during the remedial response at a Site. The CIP efforts help to keep the public informed of environmental work at the Site, and establishes a program that enables citizens to review and comment on decisions that may affect the final actions at the Site.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): Commonly referred to as “Superfund,” CERCLA provides funding and enforcement authority for hazardous waste Site cleanup and hazardous waste spills. The release or threat of release into the environment of any defined hazardous substance could result in CERCLA response or liability. Removal and remediation are the primary response actions under CERCLA.

Environment: The sum total of all the external conditions that may act upon an organism or community to influence its development or existence.

Fact Sheet: A brief report summarizing current or proposed activities in the cleanup program.

Feasibility Study (FS): A report on the development, evaluation, and description of remedial action alternatives.

Hazardous Waste: Generally, any waste product of hazardous material. The term may also refer to toxic waste.

Information Repository (IR): A project file or repository that contains all documents and detailed information regarding environmental cleanup activities ongoing at the nearby Site. The IR should contain executive summaries of recent documents used to develop a Record of Decision (ROD) for Remedial Action (RA). The IR is maintained to provide community members with easy access to information about environmental activities at the nearby Site. It also includes a catalog of all documents available in the AR, should more research be required.

National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP): Regulations adopted by the USEPA to implement the CERCLA program. These regulations are found in 40 CFR Part 300.

National Priorities List (NPL): A list of Sites developed by USEPA and designated as needing long-term remedial cleanup. The purpose of the list is to inform the public of the most hazardous waste Sites in the nation. The NPL is also called the Superfund list.

Open House: An informal meeting where people can talk to agency officials one-on-one.

Operable Unit (OU): A term used to describe a certain portion of a CERCLA Site. An operable unit may be established based on a particular type of contamination, contaminated media (such as soils or water), source of contamination and/or geographical location.

Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI): The stage before a full-scale Remedial Investigation. A PA/SI provides information such as Site characteristics, land use practices, knowledge of former employees and provides preliminary sampling data to determine whether a Site requires a full-scale study.

Proposed Plan: A summary of remedial alternatives for a contaminated Site, including a preferred alternative and the reasons for its selection.

Public Comment Period: A period of time after the release of a document pertaining to the Site during which the public has the opportunity to read the document and submit comments. Comment periods can range from 30 to 60 days (See responsiveness summary).

Public Meeting: A meeting open to the public. At typical public meetings, experts are available to present information and answer questions and citizens are encouraged to ask questions and offer comments.

Public Notice: A notice published in major local newspapers, broadcast via local radio stations, and/or sent in individual mailings to announce agency decisions, major project milestones, public meetings, or to solicit public comment on agency actions.

Public Participation: A two-way communication process that provides information in a manner comprehensible to the members of the community. The process ensures the public's comments and concerns are taken into account when final decisions are made.

Record of Decision (ROD): A public document explaining which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at a Site. The ROD is based on information and technical analyses generated during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and on public comments received on the Proposed Plan.

Remedial Action (RA): Action taken to stop or substantially reduce a release, or threat of release, of hazardous substances which are of immediate threat to human health or the environment. If the substances pose an immediate threat, they will be removed in a Removal Action.

Remedial Design (RD): A phase of the remedial action that follows the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and includes the development of engineering drawings and specifications for a Site cleanup.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS): An investigation at a Superfund Site that assesses the nature and extent of the contamination problems (the RI) and the FS, or second phase, which evaluates different methods to remediate or cleanup the contamination problems found during the RI.

Removal Action: An immediate action taken over the short-term to address a release or threatened release of hazardous substances.

Response Action: A CERCLA authorized action at a Superfund site or proposed Superfund site involving either a short-term removal action or a long-term remedial response.

Responsiveness Summary (RS): The section within the ROD that summarizes comments received from the public during the public comment period, and provides USEPA or other lead agency responses to the comments.

Risk Assessment: A study, based on the results of the remedial investigation, which is used to determine the extent to which chemical contaminants found at a Superfund Site pose a risk to public health and the environment.

Source: As applied to hazardous waste, a source is the point of origin of contamination.

Site: Any area (landfills, storage facility, etc.) Where a hazardous substance is present as

result of a release of hazardous material from the facility as defined under CERCLA and as referred to in this and related environmental documents.

Surface Water: Bodies of water that are above ground like rivers, lakes, and streams.

Superfund: the common name used for the trust fund or process established under CERCLA to clean up hazardous waste Sites across the country.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA): A federal law which reauthorized and expanded the jurisdiction of CERCLA.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) Title III: Part of the SARA mandating public disclosure of chemical information and development of emergency response plans in case of a chemical release.

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program: A grant program that provides funds for qualified citizens' groups to hire independent technical assistance for decisions relating to Superfund cleanup actions.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA): A federal agency that regulates and monitors compliance to environmental laws and regulations.