



Shock Hill/Claimjumper Mine Site Removal Action

Breckenridge, Summit County, Colorado

Project Description

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (Forest Service) are planning a joint mine waste cleanup action for the Shock Hill/Claimjumper Mine Site (Site). The removal of the waste action will decrease threats to human health and the environment from high concentrations of lead and arsenic in mining waste rock piles located at the Site.

The mine waste will be moved from the approximate 35-acre Shock Hill/Claimjumper area on Airport Road in northwestern Breckenridge to the Forest Service's two-acre Wellington-Oro public land parcel on French Gulch Road, which already holds mine waste. The Claimjumper parcel consists of Forest Service public land and private property (including Claimjumper Condominium Association property). The Wellington-Oro federal land parcel is surrounded by property owned by Breckenridge and Summit County.

Moving the waste will accomplish the following:

- Cleanup of six priority waste rock piles containing high levels of hazardous substances will make the Claimjumper area safer for residents and people recreating in the area.
- Material from the Claim Jumper waste rock piles will be transported to the Wellington-Oro federal parcel where waste will be added to ex-

isting waste rock from the Wellington-Oro mine.

- The Wellington-Oro parcel already contains the same metals and mine waste that are being removed from the Claimjumper location. Consolidating and capping the waste at the Wellington-Oro site will improve both locations.
- The consolidation of the mine waste at the Wellington-Oro site will enhance control and monitoring of mine waste. This will reduce potential risks to human health over the long term.
- The Wellington-Oro site is located upstream of a planned Breckenridge and Summit County water treatment plant making the site an ideal location for managing mine waste with respect to water quality.

Potential construction activities include:

- Routes for new access to waste piles at the Claimjumper will be cleared of trees and undergrowth.
- Site waste will be removed and loaded by conventional excavation equipment and transported by truck to the Wellington-Oro repository.
- Dust control measures will be applied at both the Claimjumper and Wellington-Oro parcels and for the hauling operations. Waste material and gravel roads will be watered, and truck loads will be covered as necessary to prevent dust.
- Waste rock hauling from the Claimjumper parcel to the Wellington-Oro consolidation will require about 600 to 700 truck loads and last ap-

proximately two to three weeks. Truck traffic will be controlled for safety, using as needed flaggers, lower speeds, and convoying.

- Excavation depth will generally be to natural grade or approximately one foot below grade.
- Disturbed areas at the Claimjumper within the construction boundary will be regraded and revegetated. Cover soil in contaminated areas will be approximately one foot deep to prevent human exposure and contaminant migration. Revegetation will consist of organic matter, seeding, fertilizer, mulch and erosion control.
- The Wellington-Oro repository construction will involve design, grading, waste placement, capping, and drainage control for precipitation. The cap will meet mine waste capping standards for a multi-layer soil and vegetative cover.

The Forest Service will evaluate satellite waste piles on public land in the Claimjumper area and potential response actions, if needed.

The Site is not a National Priorities List (Superfund) site nor is it proposed to be on the list.

The project is scheduled to begin in June; completion is expected in September 2007.

Background

The Claimjumper parcels contain approximately 10,000 cubic yards of waste rock in 18 piles from historical excavations and adits. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Forest Service identified the problem and requested EPA assistance in May 2006.

In June and July of 2006, EPA performed additional sampling and found lead concentrations near 52,000 mg/kg and arsenic near 420 mg/kg in those piles closest to the residential buildings.

The Claimjumper parcels are on heavily forested land with two-thirds on very steep terrain. The waste rock piles vary in size from less than 10 to approximately 2,000 cubic yards. The waste piles are devoid of vegetation and exhibit erosion from recreational use and precipitation. Several of the larger piles with the highest lead and arsenic levels

are adjacent to residential buildings. Other waste rock piles are remote from residences and more difficult to access. Surface water is not present in the immediate vicinity.

The Wellington-Oro Mine property is largely covered in waste rock. One parcel is on public land that is part of the larger Wellington-Oro mine complex. The 2006 sampling showed lead levels ranging from 4,900 to 55,000 mg/kg, which is similar to the Claimjumper area contamination. Breckenridge and Summit County control the majority of the land and future land use around the proposed repository.

For further information on the Shock Hill/Claimjumper removal action, please contact:

USEPA Region 8:

Steven Way
On-Scene Coordinator
(303) 312-6723
way.steven@epa.gov

Rob Henneke
Community Involvement Coordinator
(303) 312-6734
henneke.rob@epa.gov

USDA Forest Service:

Olivia Garcia
On-Scene Coordinator
(970) 945-3220
ogarcia@fs.fed.us

Information Repositories:

South Branch, Summit County Library
504 Airport Road
Breckenridge, CO 80424
(970) 453-6098
M-Th 9:00 AM-7:00 PM
F-Sat 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

USEPA Superfund Records Center
1595 Wynkoop Street Denver, CO 80202
(303) 312-6487
M-F 8:00 AM-4:00 PM