



ANACONDA/YERINGTON MINE

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • September 2006

Yerington, Nevada

SITE UPDATE COMMUNITY MEETING SEPTEMBER 19

Welcome to the latest fact sheet on the Anaconda Mine site. In it you will find information on new activities as well as the continuing efforts to control and better understand the impacts from the mine. Additionally, we invite you to a community meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at 7:00 pm. at the Yerington Elementary School.

Removal Action to Improve Heap Leach Fluids Management System

EPA is currently engaged in Removal activities to prevent contaminants from migrating off site (see map next page). The potential for this to occur is due to the deteriorated condition of the Arimetco Heap Leach Fluid Management System. Several of the ponds that collect drainage from the heap leach pads, the Slot Ponds and Megapond, suffered severe damage to the high density polyethylene liners earlier this year. Because of this damage, if fluid levels get too high they could get into the soil below the ponds and ultimately into the groundwater. Constituents in this drainage include elevated levels of uranium, radium and heavy metals such as arsenic, copper and zinc. In addition, the Fluids Management System lacks sufficient capacity to store all the fluids generated by the heap leach pads. Actions to fix these problems consist of:

- Modifying the drainage flow so that fluids no longer flow into Slot Pond #1 or the Megapond;
- Relining and improving Slot Pond #2;
- Constructing a new evaporation pond southeast of the Vat Leach Tailings Heap;
- Constructing a new interceptor ditch near the Megapond; and
- Disposing of removed liners in the construction debris landfill on site.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Yerington Elementary School

112 N. California Street

EPA will host a community meeting to give an update on current and future site activities and to hear directly from residents. We look forward to seeing you there and welcome your participation at this meeting.

This removal work began at the end of August and should take approximately eight weeks to complete.

Site Security

As reported in April, EPA reached an agreement with the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) on how to improve site security at the mine. The beginning of this work was delayed because of access issues, but these are being resolved. A site walk with potential contractors was scheduled for August 31. Work is expected to begin in October and take several months to complete, depending on the weather. Below is a recap of what will be done:

- Install a new secondary fence (a second line of fencing set back from existing fencing)

along a 3.5-mile section of the north end of the site. This secondary fence will be a six-foot no-climb fence consisting of five feet of 2" x 4" wire mesh topped with one foot of three-strand barbed wire;

- Install new signage on both the site perimeter as well as within the site around areas containing chemical hazards;
- Renovate and repair existing fence; and
- Weld shut unused gates that could allow pedestrian access.

Technical Investigations in Progress

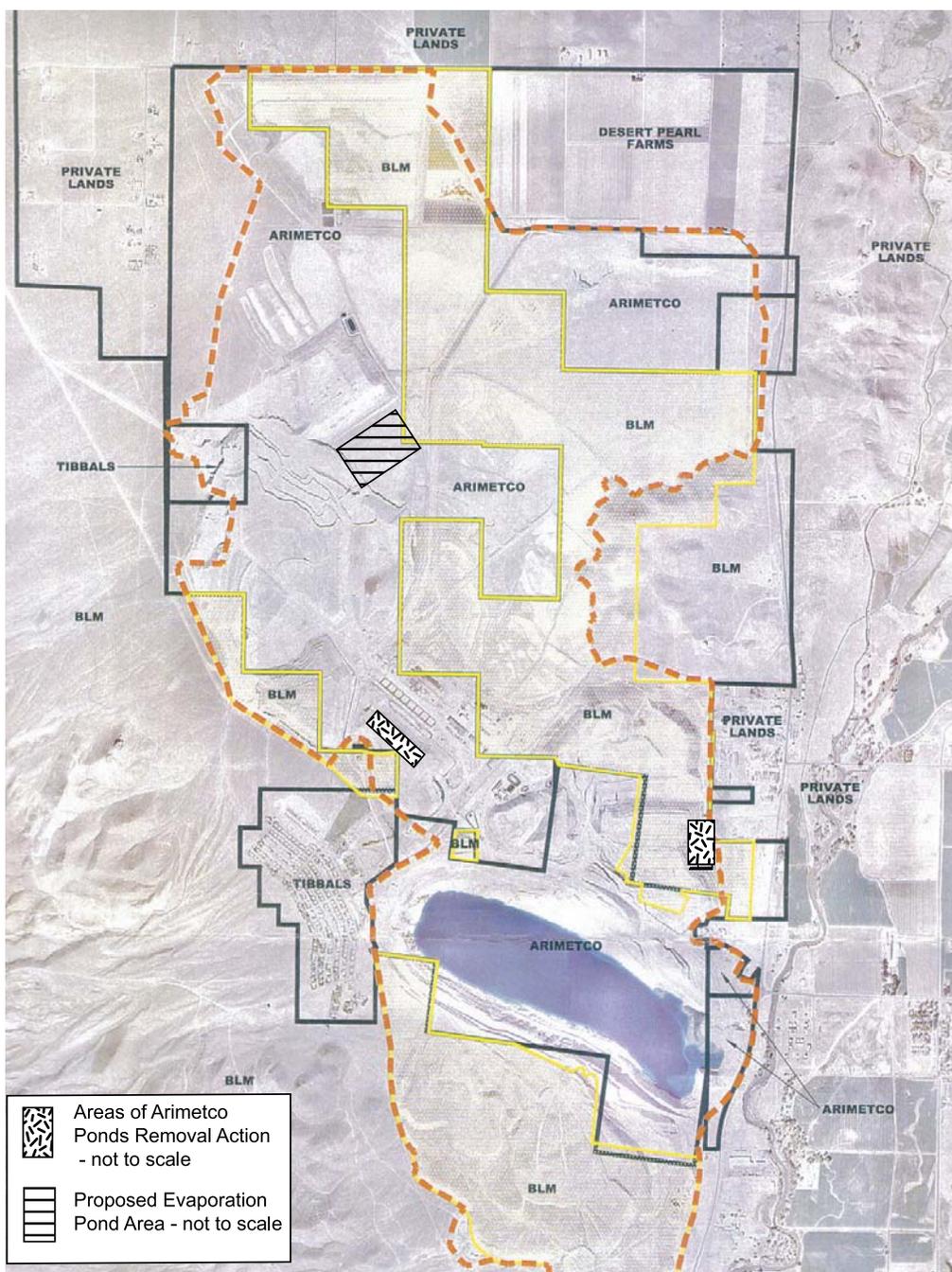
Air Monitoring

The 4th quarter 2005 air monitoring data, including a summary of the 2005 sampling, was submitted in April along with a proposal from ARC to modify the air monitoring approach based on their analysis of the year's data. Since that time, EPA and ARC have exchanged comments on the data and the proposal with no final determination having been made at the time this fact sheet went to press. As it stands

now, EPA and ARC have substantial differences regarding the appropriate technical approach and are continuing to discuss the issues.

Hydrogeologic Framework Assessment

ARC submitted the interim data summary report in June which documents work that has been done and what additional work is being proposed. ARC drilled 16 boreholes north and south of the mine site at depths ranging from 58 to 342-feet deep. Following this, 15 monitoring wells were installed and groundwater sampling begun (one location was dry). The wells were screened at sampling depths ranging from 47 to 336-feet deep. The report presents the initial December 2005 sampling data and proposes installing 24 additional monitoring wells at varying depths along with nine more well locations in a later phase. Also proposed is the geophysical



Heap Leach Fluids Management System - Removal Action Locations.

logging of seven of the recently installed wells, eliminating some water quality testing parameters, eliminating the sampling of the 23 domestic wells that have been tested annually since 2003 and evaluating the aquifer testing of one of the irrigation wells near the site. EPA is reviewing the document and expects to provide comments this month and then discuss the approach at a technical meeting in October.

Ambient Levels Study

The project team is moving ahead to determine ambient (a type of background) levels for both metals and radiological constituents at the site using current EPA guidance and an earlier work plan proposed in 2004 by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. ARC's work plan for looking at levels that would be used in the Process Areas was submitted earlier this year, followed by comments from EPA and additional discussions. The goal is to resolve current issues to be able to integrate this effort with the ongoing work in the Process Areas and current groundwater monitoring activities. ARC submitted a revised work plan in early August that was approved, and the sampling is expected to take place later this year.

Surface Fluids Sampling Results

In April, a dead bird was reported near some standing fluid on the sulfide tailings during a natural resource damage assessment. Since this may have resulted from the bird ingesting fluids from past mining activities, EPA analyzed standing fluid samples from five areas on the north end of the

site, including the pumpback collection ponds. The sampling indicates very low pH fluids containing elevated uranium and metals in each of the areas sampled. Fluids with such low pH and elevated metals potentially pose acute toxicity to wildlife. On August 4, EPA sent a letter to ARC directing them to address this potential exposure to wildlife from the surface ponds. ARC agrees to prepare a work plan to sample and evaluate removing potentially harmful material from these ponds along with possible mitigation measures for the pumpback collection ponds. The schedule and approach for the work is currently under discussion.

Process Areas Data Reports and Radiological Data Compilation Report

EPA is preparing review comments on Process Areas soils and groundwater data and the radiological data compilation report. These comments were not completed sooner due to focusing on air quality monitoring, the hydrogeologic framework assessment, background soils levels and surface fluids sampling investigations.

Future Investigations

EPA has prepared the scope of work that will accompany the proposed site-wide Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) which has been provided to ARC for negotiation. The scope of work divides the site into six areas to be investigated for contamination, potential risks and possible remedies. A schedule for negotiating the scope of work is still being determined.

Information Repository

Site reports and other information on the Anaconda / Yerington Mine site can be found at:

Lyon County Library

20 Nevin Way
Yerington, NV 89447
(775) 577-5042

Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri—9 am to 6 pm
Tues, Thurs—9 am to 8 pm
Saturday—9 am to 4 pm



SITE UPDATE COMMUNITY MEETING SEPTEMBER 19

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Anaconda/Yerington Mine, please contact any of the following people:

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EPA website: www.epa.gov/region/09/waste.sfund

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