



Anaconda Mine

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • October 2012

Yerington, Nevada

EPA Oversees Additional Site Work

EPA invites the public to a community update meeting to learn about cleanup activities at the Anaconda Mine, including recent site work. The meeting will be held on November 14, 2012, at the Yerington High School Multi-purpose Room, from 6:30.m. to 8:30p.m.

Vat Leach Tailings Pond Improvements Complete

EPA has completed improvements to the fluid management system (FMS). These upgrades to the FMS included repairing ditches and relining the Vat Leach Tailings Pond. EPA considered the upgrades time critical and necessary to provide sufficient capacity within the system through the upcoming winter months.

The work was made possible by an agreement between EPA and Singatse Peak Services (SPS) known as a Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action by Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser (EPA Docket No. 09-2012-0007).

Under the terms of the agreement, SPS, the current property owner, funded 50% of the construction cost of the improvements. Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) has separately volunteered to fund the other 50% of construction costs. These voluntary commitments by SPS and ARC will improve environmental conditions at the site.

Repairing ditches and relining the Vat Leach Tailings Pond will provide adequate FMS capacity for the immediate future by containing fluids that drain down from the former Arimetco heap leach pads while mineral exploration activities proceed at the site.



New Vat Leach Tailings Pond Cover



Community Meeting

November 14, 2012
6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m

Yerington High School
Multi-purpose Room
114 Pearl Street Yerington, NV

Under the agreement, SPS will also conduct a study to provide additional FMS capacity. The goal of the study is to recommend appropriate activities and operations to provide sufficient capacity in the FMS for a five year period of time. EPA believes the information to be collected by SPS under the study is consistent with and supplements EPA's Draft Final Feasibility Study (FS), which was released earlier this year.

Since the agreement essentially covers what are considered removal response actions to address near-term risks or site conditions, these actions do not relieve EPA from the obligation under CERCLA to continue with the longer term site evaluation and remedy selection process.

Groundwater Investigation Update

The Remedial Investigation workplan to finish characterization of the site-related groundwater contamination, and permit analysis of remedial alternatives, is scheduled to be submitted by ARC in November.

The workplan will build on and incorporate recent groundwater investigative documents, including the Technical Memorandum – Public Information for the Northern Portion of the Background Groundwater Study Area, the Aquifer Test Data Summary Report, the Background Groundwater Quality Assessment framework, the procedures

for Aquifer Solids Testing, the plan for Bedrock Characterization Activities, and the agreed-upon Groundwater Modeling Objectives.

The workplan will be available for stakeholder review, with a technical meeting to discuss comments anticipated in early 2013. Stakeholders will be notified of the meeting once it is set.

The current groundwater monitoring network includes 309 wells and is providing important information on the nature and extent of contamination. Seven monitoring wells of the Yerington Paiute Tribe are now being sampled quarterly as part of the network.

The Anaconda Mine investigation and cleanup has been divided into a number of smaller portions, which EPA calls Operable Units or OUs (see below).

Anaconda Mine Operable Unit Names

OU1	Site-wide Groundwater
OU2	Pit Lake
OU3	Mine Process Areas
OU4	Evaporation Ponds/Sulfide Tailings
OU5	Waste Rock Area
OU6	Oxide Tailings
OU7	Wabuska Drain
OU8	Arimetco Operations

Site Background

The Anaconda Copper Mine Site is a former open-pit, low-grade copper mine that covers more than 3,400 acres in the Mason Valley and is located about one-mile west of the city of Yerington, Nevada. The Anaconda Mining Company operated the mine from 1952 through 1978.

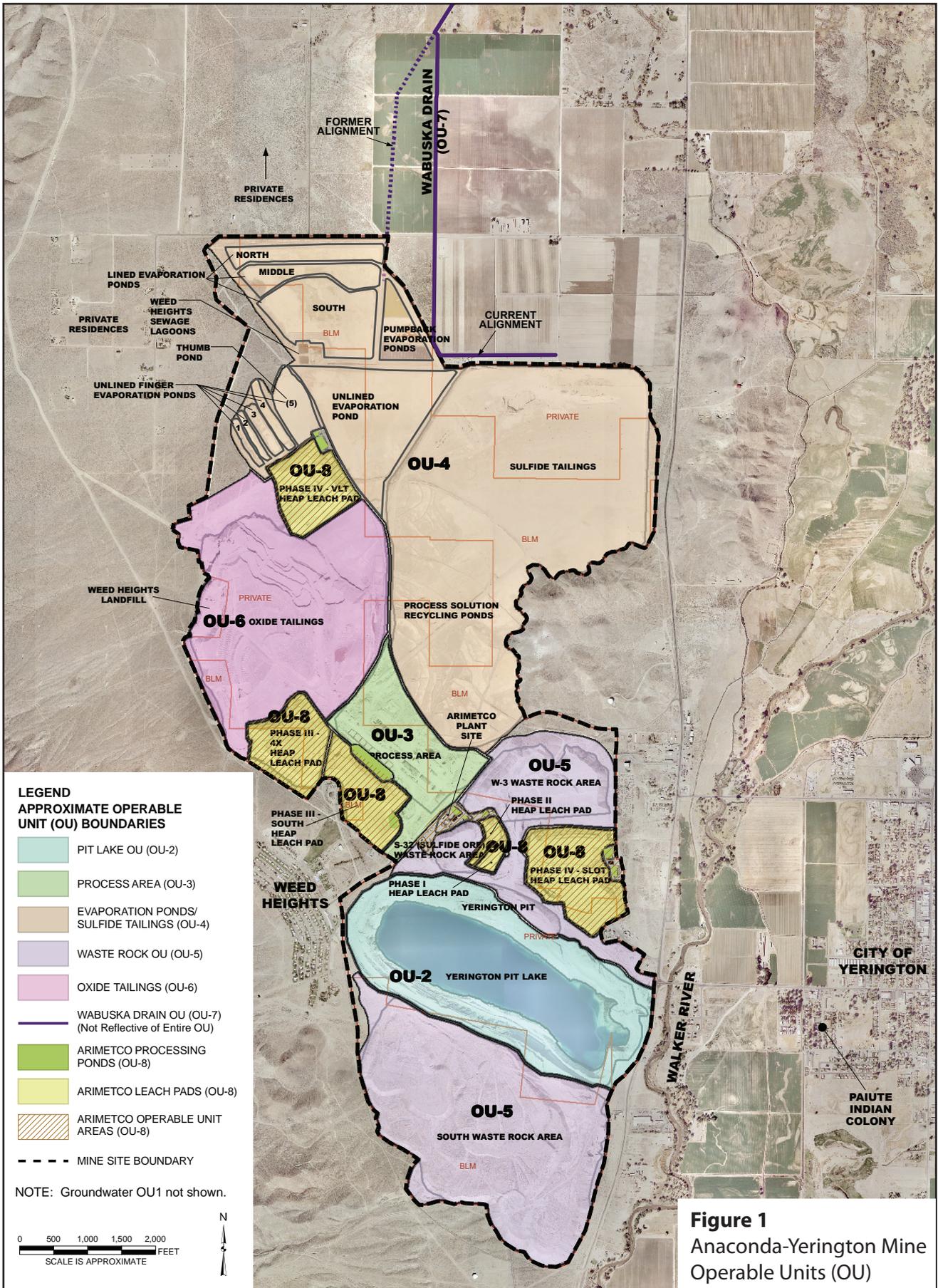
Anaconda processed oxide and sulfide ores extracted from an open pit on the site, which resulted in liquid and solid wastes, including tailings piles, evaporation ponds, and waste rock piles. The Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) bought the Anaconda Mining Company, including the Site, in 1977, and is therefore responsible for cleaning up the contamination from former Anaconda mining activities at the Site.

ARC sold the Site to Mr. Don Tibbals in 1982. Mr. Tibbals conducted some operations and leased portions of the Site to companies that extracted copper from the tailings and waste rock piles and conducted metal salvage and transformer recycling. Mr. Tibbals sold the property to Arizona Metals Company (Arimetco) in 1989.

Arimetco constructed an electrowinning plant and five heap leach pads to extract residual copper from tailings material and from new ore. The heap leach pads cover approximately 250 acres and produce acidic heap leach solutions that are collected in ponds. Arimetco filed for bankruptcy in 1997 and ceased operations at the Site in 2000.

In April 2011, Singatse Peak Services completed its purchase of the former Arimetco property for the purpose of conducting mineral exploration on site. EPA is working with Singatse to ensure these efforts do not conflict with cleanup activities at the site.

After Arimetco abandoned the site in 2000, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) stepped in to control the acidic waste solution in the heap leach pads and to stabilize the site. EPA assumed the regulatory lead for the Site in 2004. EPA and ARC have conducted several removal actions to address immediate concerns. EPA, in coordination with NDEP, continues to move forward with investigations to determine the extent of contamination and identify cleanup options for the Site.



Anaconda Mine

— Community Meeting on November 14, 2012 —

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Information Repository

For site documents, please visit the
Information Repository at:

Lyon County Library

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

Anaconda Mine Web Site:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/anaconda>

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