



IRON MOUNTAIN MINE SUPERFUND SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ San Francisco, CA \$ February 2008

U.S. EPA Conducting Five-Year Review of Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is conducting a Five-Year Review of the cleanup remedy at the Iron Mountain Mine Superfund site, which is located about nine miles northwest of the City of Redding. This review is conducted every five years to evaluate whether the remedial action remains protective of human health and the environment. The U.S. EPA invites the community to learn more about this review process and we welcome your concerns or questions regarding the Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site.

Five-Year Review

Superfund law requires that if a cleanup or remedial action leaves contaminants at a Superfund site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted access, the remedial action must be reviewed every five years. The purpose of the review is to make sure that remedial action continues to protect human health and the environment. During the review, the U.S. EPA studies information about the site, conducts a site inspection and documents the results in the Five-Year Review report. The report will include site background and history, an explanation of the remedial action in place, a discussion of relevant documents and laws, and a description of how the community will be notified about the review.

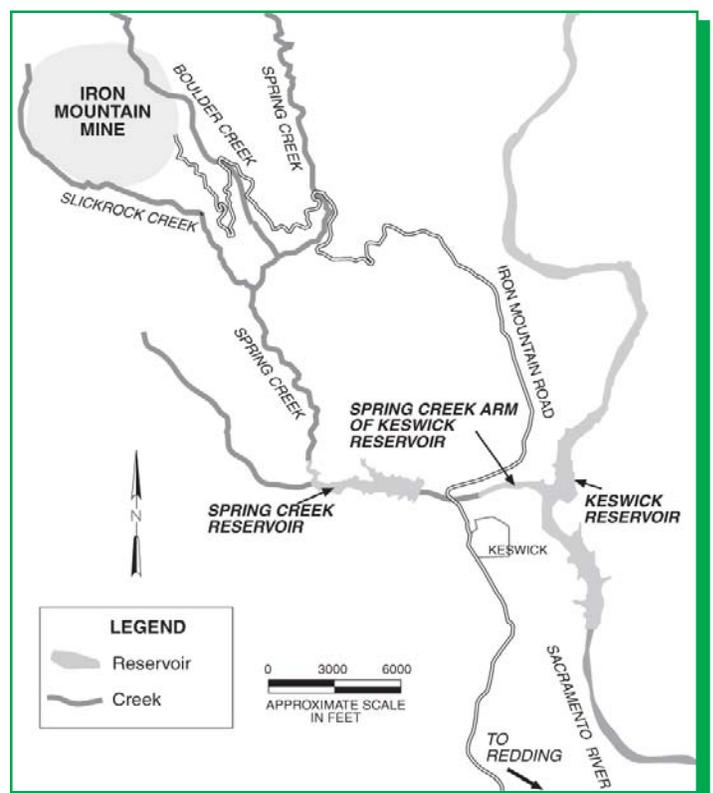
Most importantly, a statement of protectiveness is issued. This statement explains whether the remedial action continues to be protective of human health and the environment and can recommend improvements to ensure that the remedial action continues to be effective.

How you can become involved

The public is invited to contribute its knowledge and observations of the performance of the remedial action or any issues and concerns about the Iron Mountain Mine Superfund site. To do so, please contact the EPA personnel listed at the end of this factsheet. Upon completion of the review in June 2008, the five-year review report will be available for public review at the site's information repositories and the U.S. EPA will publish a notice in the local newspaper, the Redding Record Searchlight.

Site Background

The Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site is an inactive mine near Redding in Shasta County, California. The 4,400 acre mine operated for about a century (1860-1962) and was mined for iron, silver, gold, copper, zinc and pyrite. Historic mining activities fractured the mountain exposing the mine to rain, surface water and oxygen. For much of the century, the annual rains have



Location of Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site

transported the acid mine drainage (AMD) containing toxic levels of copper, cadmium and zinc from the mine into the Sacramento River.

Prior to EPA's Superfund actions, Iron Mountain Mine discharged more than a ton per day of toxic metals into the Sacramento River and was the largest discharger of heavy metals to surface water in the nation. The copper, zinc, and AMD discharged into creeks and streams adversely impacted water quality – killing fish, ruining important salmon spawning habitat, and limiting water for distribution through the State.

The site was listed as one of the nation's most hazardous waste sites, known as the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1983. Since then, the EPA has studied the sources of the AMD and carried out several emergency response and long-term cleanup actions to reduce the AMD discharging from the site into the Sacramento River ecosystem.

Update on Cleanup Activities

The 2003 Five-Year Review concluded that the remedial work that had been performed to date was effective in controlling 90 percent of historic copper, and 95 percent of the historic cadmium, and zinc discharges. While this level of control provided significant protection to the Sacramento River fishery, it was not fully protective of the environment.

EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the site in September 1997 that selected additional water management and treatment actions, including the construction of a small dam in Slickrock Creek to collect contaminated surface water runoff, conveyance pipelines, and upgraded water treatment systems. EPA completed these remedial actions in 2004. Data indicate that EPA's remedy now controls 95 percent of the historic copper discharges and 98 percent of the historic cadmium and zinc discharges.

In 2002 EPA issued its fifth ROD for the site to clean up contaminated sediments that are located in Keswick Reservoir. Past discharges of acid mine drainage from the site have contaminated these sediments. In 2008, the U.S. EPA plans to begin removing approximately 200,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the Spring Creek Arm of Keswick Reservoir for disposal in an engineered disposal cell. The U.S. EPA plans to use a hydraulic dredge to fully remove contaminated sediments located in two areas that have high erosion potential and partially remove sediments located in a deep water area of the Spring Creek Arm. The EPA is working very closely with California agencies to ensure that the contaminated sediments will be contained during dredging operations. You can learn more about the upcoming work at the EPA's website for this site:

www.epa.gov/region09/ironmountainmine

Let us know what you think

If you have questions or concerns about the Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site, please contact either of the people listed below:

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EPA's toll free number is
1-800-231-3075

For more information



Visit EPA's website for this site:
www.epa.gov/region09/ironmountainmine

You can also learn more about the site at the information repositories located at:

Redding Library

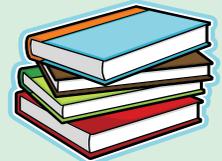
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