



ANACONDA / YERINGTON MINE

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

Yerington, Nevada

Site Security to be Improved

This fact sheet on the Anaconda/Yerington Mine site will focus on an issue that has been of utmost concern to the community, site security. We will also give an update on recent and current removal actions and additional upcoming improvements to the site.

Site Security

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reached an agreement with the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) on how to improve site security at the mine. The actions will be comprised of:

- Installing a new secondary fence (a second line of fencing set back from the existing fencing) along a 3.5 mile section of the north end of the site (see map). It will start at the Weed Heights dump, go north to Luzier Lane, east along Luzier Lane, and southeast along the Wabuska Drain to the pumpback well system. 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.
- Installing new signage on both the site perimeter as well as within the site around areas containing chemical hazards.
- Renovating and repairing existing fencing.
- Welding shut unused gates that could allow pedestrian access.

The planning process for these activities has begun. Fence maintenance activities are expected to start in mid-May, and work on the secondary fence will begin by mid-June. Installing the new fencing should take five to six weeks and be completed in August.

Removal Activities

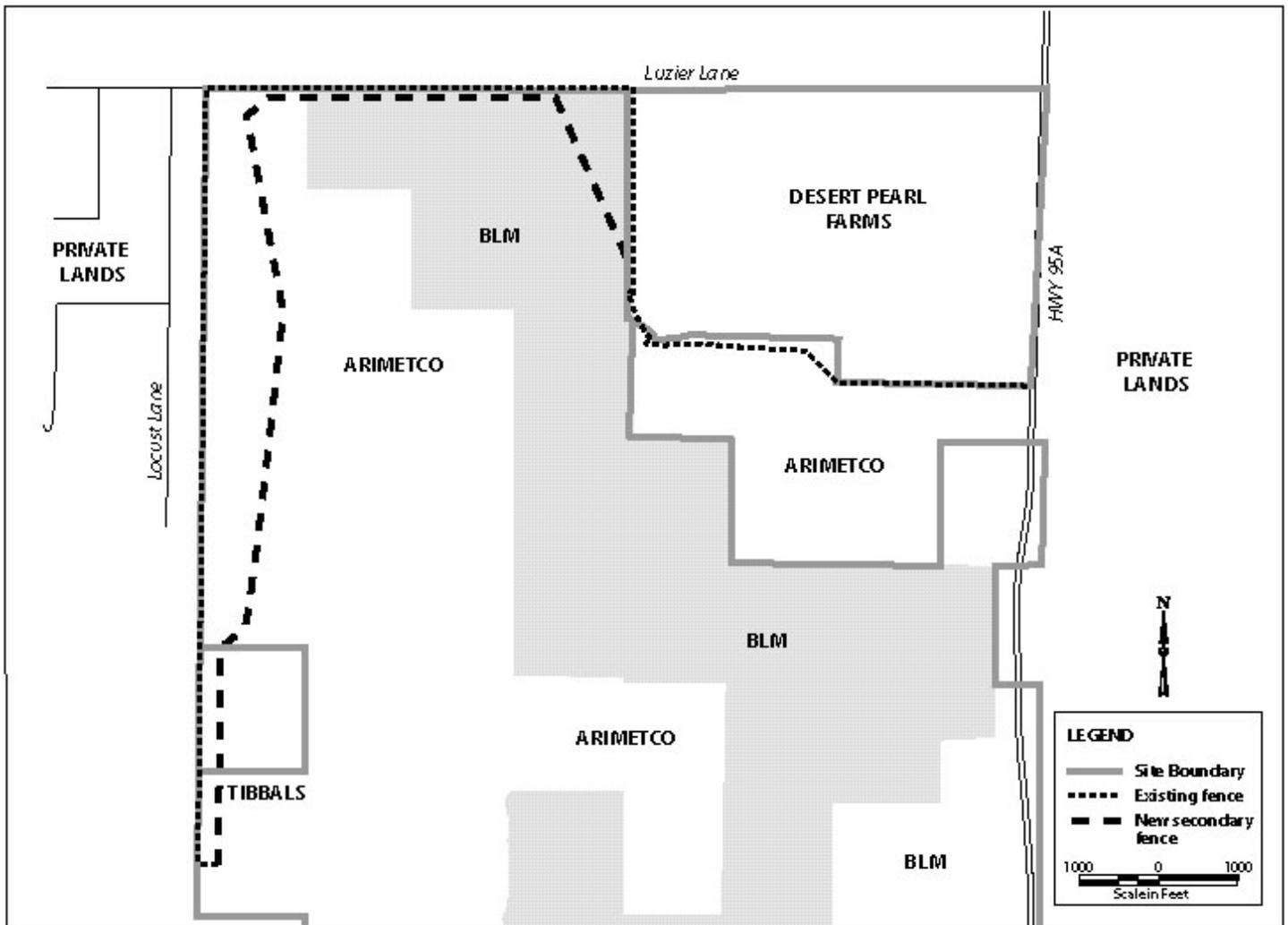
As reported in our February fact sheet, EPA conducted a removal action to rid the site of dangerous polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). By the first week in March, all PCB-containing transformers and switches (119 total) and eight drums containing PCB fluids at levels above EPA criteria were shipped off site for disposal at a facility in Kansas. Three of the 119 transformers were in use to power the ongoing fluid management system. These three were exchanged with other site transformers that contained allowable levels of PCBs to enable the fluid management and pumpback system to continue to function.

The second removal action to control dust began on April 5. EPA is utilizing both capping and soil sealant processes to address potentially hazardous dust sources. Beginning with the sulfide tailings, EPA is using gravel to cap this area. Following this (and as soon as the weather improves), the evaporation ponds will have soil sealant applied to them. All these activities should take at least eight weeks to complete. Air monitoring will be conducted during the removal and will continue in an ongoing fashion afterwards to ensure the effectiveness of these temporary remedies.

Improvement of Arimetco Heap Leach Fluids Management System

Two of the ponds which collect drainage from the unclosed Arimetco Heap Leach pad, the Slot Pond and the Megapond, suffered wind damage to the high density polyethylene (HDPE) liners earlier this year. Because of the damage to the liners, if fluid levels get too high they could get into the soil below the ponds and ultimately into the groundwater. EPA and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) have been closely monitoring fluid

levels in these storage ponds during this wet winter and will make sure the fluids are pumped out to avoid an overflow problem. EPA is investigating options for repairing and upgrading the fluids management system. Our intent is to get this accomplished this summer. These actions should keep the system effective for the next few years while we address the closing of the Arimetco Heap Leach Pads.



Existing and new fence, Anaconda / Yerington Mine

Information Repository

Site reports and other information 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

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Vicki Rosen, Community Involvement Coordinator
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You may also provide the above information via e-mail to: rosen.vicki@epa.gov

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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 toll-free number: (800) 231-3075. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

EPA website: www.epa.gov/region09/waste.sfund

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