



Anaconda Mine Superfund Site

Yerington, NV

Community Involvement Plan



March 2011

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes that Americans have the right to be involved in the government decisions that affect their lives. EPA's experience has been that when the public is involved in EPA's work, the cleanup process results in a better outcome and a more robust remedy.

At the Anaconda Mine site, EPA's Community Involvement Program helps citizens participate throughout the cleanup process, including the investigation phase and the remedy selection phase.

The goals of EPA's Community Involvement Program are to:

1. Provide opportunities for the public to become actively involved
2. Meet the community's information needs
3. Incorporate issues and concerns into cleanup decisions
4. Give feedback to the public on how their issues and concerns were incorporated into the cleanup work

EPA will achieve these goals through various means, including published documents, public meetings, and community interviews. These activities will be based on the community's needs, as informed by information the EPA gathers from local groups and individuals.

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) organizes EPA's public participation efforts to actively involve the public in the cleanup decision-making process. It is based on a series of community interviews conducted with the residents of Yerington, elected officials and other stakeholders, combined with EPA's cleanup guidance.

CIP Organization

The purpose of the CIP is not to provide technical answers to the community's questions, but to show how, when and where EPA will provide information to the public explaining EPA's work, and to show how the stakeholders can be actively involved in the cleanup process.

Chapter One of the CIP begins by identifying the issues and concerns raised by community members and stakeholders during the community interviews. Some of the reported issues and concerns include a brief notation in parentheses (Item Number, Page) regarding specific involvement and education activities that might be appropriate for addressing that issue/concern. The reader can use the notations to guide them directly to specific activities in Chapter Two's Action Plan, if so desired.

Chapter Two formally presents EPA's Action Plan for addressing the issues and concerns through various activities. The Plan relies on the tools and techniques that EPA has developed over the years, but has the flexibility to add site-specific activities as circumstances dictate. EPA's official guidance for Community Involvement is available on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/pdfs/ci_handbook.pdf.

Chapter Three charts EPA's preliminary schedules for the investigation and cleanup activities. It should be noted that site schedules may change depending on new information or issues that may arise. Where appropriate, it lists possible or required community involvement activities.

The CIP concludes with a series of appendixes that provide additional information, such as a detailed site history, a community profile, an overview of the federal Superfund cleanup program, information on contamination and prior cleanup activities, a list of earlier community involvement activities, a list of acronyms, information on site reuse/redevelopment, a glossary, prior EPA fact sheets, and key contacts.

The CIP is a "living document," meaning that it will be modified as new information and issues develop over the course of the investigation and cleanup of the Site.

CHAPTER 1

Community Issues and Concerns

In order to better understand the Yerington community, EPA conducted a number of stakeholder interviews. EPA interviewed local residents, property and business owners, activists, and local and Tribal government officials. Each interview consisted of approximately 20 questions and covered many different topics. The responses showed a wide range of knowledge about the site's history, and about EPA's current and future activities. In addition, residents and other stakeholders expressed a wide range of issues and concerns. The interviews revealed a number of common concerns, which are grouped into seven categories below (although many responses cross category boundaries):

1. Environmental Concerns
2. Human Health Concerns
3. Economic Concerns
4. Superfund Listing and Cleanup Activity Concerns
5. Cleanup Cost and Financial Impacts Concerns
6. Communications and Public Education Concerns
7. Future Site Use Concerns

Environmental Concerns

The interviewees have significant concerns about the mine area (tailings piles, evaporation ponds) and the groundwater contamination from the mine. Most environmental concerns are about the groundwater plume that has been found north of the site. The uranium contamination in the plume has been connected to the site. The groundwater also contains arsenic contamination, but the contribution of the site to naturally occurring arsenic has not been fully defined. Ongoing groundwater investigations will help determine the site's influence on arsenic concentrations.

Generally speaking, individuals are concerned about the migration of contaminants from all sources that may impact soil, surface water, groundwater, the city, the school, and downstream/downwind landowners. These topics will be covered in detail in the Remedial Investigation Report (RI Report) (discussed in "Technical Documents," which is Item XX, Page XX) and in the fact sheet (Item XX, Page XX) for the RI Report.

Many individuals stressed the importance of protecting the groundwater and ensuring the contamination from the mine site does not migrate further. They also talked about ensuring that contamination does not leach from the tailings piles into the groundwater. A thorough analysis of a range of cleanup options will be located in the Feasibility Study Report (FS) (Item XX, Page XX) and in the Proposed Plan Fact Sheet (Item XX, Page XX)

Many individuals are concerned about blowing dust. A Baseline HHRA for the Inhalation Pathway was completed by ARC. Although this document demonstrates that dust from the site (in total) does not pose a significant health concern, it does not preclude further air monitoring for specific OUs. Risk assessments will be completed for each OU as part of the RI EPA's cleanup work results in a number of technical documents. Historically, communities where EPA works have asked for assistance in understanding the documents so that they can better frame their issues and concerns, and formal comments to EPA's cleanup proposals. EPA has selected the Yerington Community Action Group (YCAG) to receive Technical Assistance Plan funding (Item XX, Page XX). The funding will be provided by Atlantic Richfield Company, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), and allow the YCAG to hire an independent environmental professional to assist them in interpreting these technical documents.

Chapter 1



Contaminants Found at Anaconda Mine Superfund Site

Elevated levels of the following chemicals are present in wastes, soil, sediments, and surface water at the Site. All chemicals are defined in Appendix 9, Glossary.

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Human Health Concerns

Many issues and concerns are centered on potential short-term and long-term human health impacts from the site. Questions and concerns about uranium and arsenic exposure and toxicity were most frequently noted, including questions about arsenic in drinking water and in dust. The Human Health Risk Assessment or HHRA (Item XX, Page XX) will address those questions.

A number of interviewees are concerned about dust impacting residents downwind of the site. People would like to know about the local air quality and to what extent the tailings may be causing an air quality problem. People would like to know what is in the dust and if they should be concerned about breathing the dust. At least one person is not concerned about dust from the site due to the distance he/she lives from the site. The technical documents in Item XX, such as the RI, will provide this information in great detail, but EPA also plans a specific fact sheet (Item XX, Page XX) on dust issues.

A number of those interviewed have health problems and are curious if the site caused or contributed to their compromised health. The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) is the federal public health agency whose mission is to prevent adverse human health effects that result from hazardous waste exposure. ATSDR produces toxicological profiles on a wide range of contaminants. The toxicological profiles for the contaminants of concern at this site are available at the Information Repository (Item XX, Page XX).

ATSDR completed a Health Consultation for the Anaconda site in 2006. The Consultation is available on the EPA Anaconda website. If you think you have been exposed to contamination from this Site, please see Appendix XX, Page XX, for information on how to follow up with ATSDR and your health care provider.

Many people are concerned about water quality in private wells used for drinking water. Some people asked EPA to sample their drinking water wells. Interested residents can contact EPA to be added to the Domestic Well Monitoring Program. The results of the well sampling and overall water quality will be discussed in later EPA cleanup documents (Item XX, Page XX). EPA may also produce a fact sheet or handout (Action Item XX, Page XX) about drinking water (municipal water vs. private wells, water standards in comparison to local water data, etc.).

Some individuals are concerned about impacts on animals from the uranium in groundwater. This may be addressed through one of EPA's fact sheets.

Superfund Listing and Cleanup Activity Concerns

A minority of those interviewed questioned the Superfund listing. These people cited incomplete environmental testing, the unavailability of mortality/morbidity rates for the area to prove the site was causing harm, and the belief that contaminants are not present at toxic levels thus rendering cleanup unnecessary. Several people had concerns with EPA's role in the cleanup and would prefer for the cleanup to occur at the State level versus through the federal government. Many people want a thorough investigation that evaluates all environmental media including: water, airborne particulates, and soils. The Remedial Investigation will include these topics and will be available on the Web and in the Information Repository.

The cleanup timeframe is important to many people. A general project schedule is located In Chapter 3, Page XX of this CIP. Most respondents were concerned about the pace of the cleanup and felt that it is not moving quickly enough.

Many people want the cleanup to be permanent, cost-effective, and be based on science.

Some people are concerned about disturbance to the community due to construction noise, dust, and equipment during cleanup. EPA issues flyers (Item XX, Page XX) when EPA expects there to be major community disturbances, such as during construction.

In general, people would like to provide input into EPA's cleanup decisions. For each operable unit of the site, a range of cleanup options will be evaluated in a technical document called the Feasibility Study (FS) (Item XX, Page XX). The public will be able to review this document and provide comments.

Notification of the comment period, as with other EPA meetings, will be made to those on EPA's postal mailing list and e-mail list (Items XX and XX, Pages XX), and through public notices (Item XX, Page XX) and articles in the Mason Valley News through press releases (Item XX, Page XX).

Most interviewees want EPA to employ local people in the cleanup process.

Cleanup Cost and Financial Impacts Concerns

A number of people expressed concerns that Superfund listing will negatively affect the city, citing the so-called stigma of Superfund listing. This concern relates chiefly to the devaluing of real estate property (at least five comments), but it also includes concerns that the Superfund site will have a general negative financial impact on Lyon County. One person is concerned about impacts on real estate values from now until the site is cleaned up.

Communications and Public Education Concerns

EPA understands that transparency in its cleanup process builds public confidence and encourages public participation. Many people requested that EPA provide frequent and informative communication and public education throughout the cleanup process. They said that this communication should involve elected officials and community groups.

Public education can be enhanced by the use of an independent technical advisor through the site's Technical Assistance Plan, which was awarded to the Yerington Community Action Group. (Item XX, Page XX). Elected Offices currently receive periodic briefings at Joint City-County meetings (Item XX, Page XX).

Chapter 1

Stakeholder groups EPA has worked with at the site thus far include:

- Local government
- Tribal Government
- Property owners
- Business Owners
- Residents
- Community Groups

Several individuals are concerned about the way EPA will communicate the risks to residents. EPA will quantify and explain risk in its fact sheets, public meetings, its web site, and in its direct conversations with the public.

Some people are concerned that most people do not understand the EPA's cleanup process. Some feel that EPA's presence at the site gives the impression that the entire city is contaminated. EPA will write documents and give presentations being mindful of the need to distinguish what parts of Yerington are impacted by site contaminants and what parts are not.

Future Site Use Concerns

By far, most comments about future site use/reuse involved either re-mining the site or installing alternative energy generation equipment.

Many see the cleanup as an opportunity for community revitalization and redevelopment.

CHAPTER 2

Community Involvement Action Plan

This section describes the specific activities and resources that EPA will use to help the community be actively involved in the cleanup process. Whenever EPA begins work on a site, it identifies at least one point of contact for community questions, issues or concerns. The following is a list of the members of EPA's Anaconda Mine site team.

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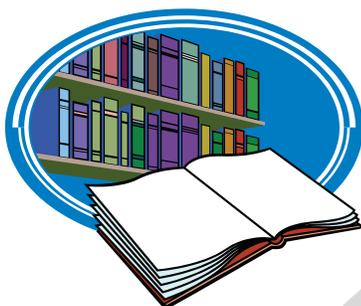
These contact people can also be reached through EPA's toll-free message line at 800-231-3075. EPA routes all 800-line messages to the appropriate EPA staff person, typically the Project Manager or Community Involvement Coordinator.

Chapter 2



Information Repository

Lyon County Library
20 Nevin Way
Yerington, NV 89447



In addition to providing an EPA representative to answer questions, EPA employs many tools and techniques to support the community's involvement in EPA's work.

1. Fact Sheets and hand-outs

Fact Sheets are EPA's principal method of providing site-related information to the community. They are short (2-4 pages) documents, written in non-technical language, that are mailed directly to the site's mailing list. They often summarize larger, technical documents or announce community meetings. They include EPA contact information and refer people to the internet and library for more technical information. EPA will create fact sheets as events dictate or in response to community requests for specific kinds of information. Appendix XX lists EPA's Anaconda Mine fact sheets.

2. Community Meetings

EPA holds public meetings at various milestones and at the request of the community. The public meetings are organized to convey Site information via presentations and discussions, and to answer questions from community members. Each meeting is structured to fit its purpose by using different formats (e.g., town hall meetings, open houses, etc.).

EPA will conduct at least three meetings in Yerington per year for stakeholders and other members of the public, alternating between day meetings and evening meetings. The meeting locations are listed in Appendix XX.

3. Joint City Council – County Commissioners Updates

EPA staff regularly update elected officials and their staffs at the Joint City Council – County Commissioners meetings. These updates will continue as requested.

4. Web Site

EPA has created a website specifically for this Site. The website includes electronic copies of EPA's investigation documents and will be one location for viewing the proposed cleanup plans as they are developed. EPA will update the webpage on a regular basis. Please visit the website at:

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

5. Information Repository and Administrative Record

EPA maintains a local public site file, which is called the "Information Repository." The Information Repository contains hardcopies of major site documents, fact sheets and other relevant items. Electronic copies on compact disk are available for some documents as well. To browse or check-out site documents, please visit the Information Repository at the Lyon County Library (see Page XX for details).

When EPA is ready to formally propose a cleanup action, it must collect every document that was used to develop and analyze the proposed action. This collection of technical documents is called the Administrative Record, and it will be located in the Information Repository. There is a specific Administrative Record for every proposed cleanup action.

6. Mailing List

EPA maintains a mailing list for distribution of fact sheets and meeting notices. To be added or deleted from the mailing list, contact David Cooper (see contact information above).

7. E-mail Group

EPA maintains an e-mail list for electronic distribution of fact sheets, meeting notes, and periodic site updates. To be added or deleted from the mailing list, contact David Cooper (see above).

8. Informal Comment Periods

EPA holds public comment periods for certain documents, for instance this draft Community Involvement Plan. These comments periods may be announced in several ways, including a notice in a fact sheet, an announcement at a public meeting or through the email list.

9. Public Notices

For those who are not on the site's mailing list, EPA will announce community meetings and formal comment periods in a display advertisement in the main section of the Mason Valley News.

10. Press Releases/Media contacts

EPA will provide press releases and develop media contacts with the following newspapers: Mason Valley News and the Caron City Associated Press.

11. Technical Documents

Most of the people EPA interviewed had environmental and health concerns. They wanted to know if the air, soil, surface water and/or groundwater were contaminated, and how EPA planned to address those areas through some cleanup effort. The answers to those many of those questions will be in the technical documents that EPA will produce as part of its investigation and cleanup process.

12. Presentations to Groups/Small meetings

EPA staff will be available to make presentations at meetings for local community groups and institutions.

13. Language Translation

When a need arises, EPA provides an interpreter at its community meetings and translates its fact sheets. Currently, no populations of monolingual non-English speakers have been identified.

14. Local Contractor Resources

The investigation and cleanup work requires a range of skill, expertise, and man-power. EPA utilizes many different types of businesses to accomplish this work. EPA receives a fair amount of interest from local business that may be able to provide assistance with the project. EPA has hired local contractors to the extent practicable and keeps a running list of these businesses. If you would like to add a business to this list, please contact David Cooper (see contact info above).

Chapter 2

15. Site Tours

EPA will offer a limited number of site tours, upon request. Interested groups should contact David Cooper (see above).

16. Tribal Consultation

A unique and important aspect of the Anaconda Mine cleanup is EPA's relationship with the Yerington Paiute Tribe and the Walker River Paiute Tribe. In this Government-to-Government relationship, EPA keeps the Tribes informed of its actions and solicits review and comment on proposed cleanup plans. EPA meets with the Tribes when requested and will request access to Tribal communications channels to help inform members of the Tribes about EPA activities.

17. Community Advisory Groups

EPA guidance encourages the development of Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) to help increase public participation. EPA can provide non-monetary support to these groups. At the Anaconda Mine site, the Yerington Community Action Group (YCAG) is a conduit for cleanup information, and provides issues and concerns to EPA.

18. Technical Assistance Plan

Under the terms of the current cleanup order, the Yerington Community is able to receive independent technical support to understand the cleanup documents through a Technical Assistance Plan paid for by ARC. The Yerington Community Action Group (YCAG) has been selected to receive these services in the name of the Yerington community. The YCAG will identify the Technical Advisor (an independent environmental firm) and manage the scope of work. The TA will review cleanup documents, make comments and explain the technical information in non-technical language. The TA can help the community prepare any formal public comments that may be requested.

19. Community Involvement During Superfund (National Priorities List) Listing

EPA is currently overseeing a significant amount of work at the Anaconda Mine under its Emergency Removal Authority. In addition, EPA is considering proposing the Anaconda Mine for inclusion on the Superfund List, or more formally the National Priorities List. Should EPA move to that step, a formal public comment period of at least 30 days would begin. An announcement would be placed in the Mason Valley News and a short fact sheet would be sent to EPA's site mailing list.

If the site is placed on the Superfund list, the full suite of community involvement activities, many already reflected in this draft Community Involvement Plan, would be initiated to involve the public in EPA's decision-making process.

CHAPTER 3

In order to manage the multi-year investigation and cleanup project, EPA creates a schedule which includes the investigative effort, delivery of technical documents, cleanup decision-making, design of the remedy, construction, and eventually review and evaluation of the results. Throughout this process there are opportunities for community involvement.

The schedule below was developed during the early part of 2011.

Investigation and cleanup work is influenced by many factors, including new discoveries following sampling events, modification of scopes of work, negotiations with responsible parties, and potential complications at the job-site during construction. Therefore, the schedule is subject to revision.

The value to the public in offering the schedule is that people can decide for themselves the point(s) at which they want to learn more, attend meetings, or offer their comments and concerns.

The Anaconda Mine site is divided into eight parts, called Operable Units (OU). The schedule below helps the public understand EPA's work at the site, where the activities vary depending on the OU. Investigation and cleanup activities extend for many years, so the schedule below identifies the possible community involvement activities in the table's boxes by individual OU and by year.

Not every OU will have an activity listed on the schedule for every year. That is because EPA is phasing the work to address the most important OUs first and because the groundwater investigation, OU1, encompasses the groundwater components for OUs 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. So while groundwater investigation is going on for those OUs, only OU1 is listed on the schedule.

Many public participation processes will be on-going, that is, they won't be tied to a specific OU or year. These will include community update meetings at least three times per year, updates to elected officials at joint City-County meetings, providing information to the press, and supporting the use of the Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) and the Yerington Community Action Group (YCAB).

Throughout the process and at every step, consistent with EPA's government-to-government relationship with the Paiute Tribes, EPA will keep Tribal government and staff apprised of work plans and all work.

Chapter 3

Anticipated Schedule of Investigation and Cleanup Activities

2011

Operable Unit & Name	Activity	Community Involvement
OU 1 Site Wide Groundwater (Incorporates groundwater components of OU2, OU4, OU5, OU6, OU7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Final RI Workplan for groundwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft and final Workplan in IR and website for review and comment
OU 2 Pit Lake		
OU 3 Process Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of RI Workplan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft and final Workplan in IR and website for review and comment
OU 4 Evaporation Ponds/Sulfide Tailings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Removal Action Plan Implementation of Removal Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site
OU 5 Waste Rock		
OU 6 Oxide Tailings		
OU 7 Wabuska Drain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Plan for non-ground-water elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft and final Workplan in IR and website for review and comment
OU 8 Arimetco Source Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FS Complete ROD Prepared (if Proposed for NPL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site 45 day comment period on FS Proposed Plan, (if Proposed for NPL), 30-day comment period, public comment period, Responsiveness Summary
OU 8 Arimetco Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of RI Workplan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft and final Workplan in IR and website for review and comment

2012

Operable Unit & Name	Activity	Community Involvement
OU 1 Site Wide Groundwater (Incorporates groundwater components of OU2, OU4, OU5, OU6, OU7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Data Gaps Filled 	
OU 2 Pit Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Plan for non-groundwater elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft and final Workplan in IR and website for review and comment
OU 3 Process Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of RI Work Plan Remaining Data Gaps Filled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site Fact sheet for Results Potential public meeting
OU 4 Evaporation Ponds/Sulfide Tailings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Removal Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site
OU 5 Waste Rock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Plan for non-groundwater elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft and final Workplan in IR and website for review and comment
OU 6 Oxide Tailings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Plan for non-groundwater elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft and final Workplan in IR and website for review and comment
OU 7 Wabuska Drain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of non-groundwater RI work plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site Fact sheet on Results Potential public meeting
OU 8 Arimetco Source Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remedial Design started 	
OU 8 Arimetco Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Gaps Filled/Draft RI Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 day comment period on Draft RI

Chapter 3

2013

Operable Unit & Name	Activity	Community Involvement
OU 1 Site Wide Groundwater (Incorporates groundwater components of OU2, OU4, OU5, OU6, OU7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final RI Report Feasibility Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site 45 day comment period on Draft RI Fact sheet on results Public meeting on results
OU 2 Pit Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-groundwater RI Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site 45 day comment period on Draft RI Fact sheet on results Public meeting on results
OU 3 Process Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site Fact sheet on results Public meeting on results
OU 4 Evaporation Ponds/Sulfide Tailings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final RI Report for non-groundwater elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site 45 day comment period on Draft RI Fact sheet on results Public meeting on results
OU 5 Waste Rock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-groundwater RI Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site 45 day comment period on Draft RI Fact sheet on results Public meeting on results
OU 6 Oxide Tailings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-groundwater RI Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site 45 day comment period on Draft RI Fact sheet on results Public meeting on results
OU 7 Wabuska Drain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-groundwater Feasibility Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site Fact sheet on FS Report or Proposed Plan meeting and public comment period
OU 8 Arimetco Source Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remedial Action started 	
OU 8 Arimetco Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final RI Report Feasibility Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in IR and web site 45 day comment period on Draft RI Fact sheet on RI Report Fact sheet on FS Report or Proposed Plan meeting and public comment period

APPENDIX 1

Site History

Copper was first discovered in the Yerington area 1865, but operations at the Anaconda site didn't occur until 1918, when the Empire Nevada Mine and Smelting Company began production. Anaconda Mining Corp entered a lease agreement with an option on the property in 1941, and conducted an extensive exploration program from 1942 to 1945 (CH2M Hill, 2010). Anaconda bought the property in 1951, and from approximately 1953 to 1977 conducted mining and milling operations at the open-pit, low-grade copper mine.

Categories of material removed from the pit included oxide ore, sulfide ore, low-grade dump-leach oxide ore, low-grade sulfide ore, and waste-rock overburden. By 1972, approximately 70,000 tons of ore were mined per day, including 28,000 tons of oxide and sulfide ore, 28,000 tons of low-grade dump-leach ore, and 14,000 tons of overburden and waste rock (CH2M Hill, 2010).

Mining and processing the oxide and sulfide ore created large quantities of solid and liquid wastes, including approximately 360 million tons of ore and debris from the open pit, 15 million tons of overburden resulting in 400 acres of waste rock, 900 acres of contaminated tailings, and 1,377 acres of disposal ponds. The wastes contain elevated levels of heavy metals, including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, and iron, and radionuclides, including uranium, thorium, and radium.

In 1977, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) bought Anaconda. A decrease in copper prices, lower priced foreign imports, and declining grade and amount of ore available forced the closure of Anaconda's copper mining operations in 1978, and all activities were shut down in 1982. When Anaconda operations ceased, groundwater pumping stopped, and the 800 foot deep ore pit began to fill with

water. The resulting Pit Lake is now about one mile long, 500 feet deep, and contains around 40,000 acre-feet of water. The depth of the Lake increases at an average rate of 10 feet/year.

In 1982, the property was sold to Don Tibbals, who also purchased the mining community of Weed Heights. Mr. Tibbals conducted some reprocessing operations using heap leaching and solvent extraction/electrowinning to extract copper from Anaconda oxide ore vat leach tailings and low-grade ore. Mr. Tibbals also leased a portion of the site to a company that salvaged drained electrical transformers.

In 1989, Mr. Tibbals sold his reprocessing operation to Arimetco. Arimetco pursued leaching operations on the site, eventually building a new electrowinning plant and five heap leach pads to produce copper. Arimetco used tailings material left by Anaconda and added some new ore, resulting in 250 acres of heap leach piles and 12 acres of heap leach solution collection ponds. Arimetco filed for bankruptcy in 1997 and abandoned the site in 2000, leaving an estimated 90 million gallons of highly acidic solution in the heap leach piles..

National Priorities Listing

EPA is using its authority under the Superfund law, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to address the Anaconda site, but the site is not listed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). Under CERCLA, EPA can conduct investigations, take removal actions, and compel responsible parties like ARC to conduct investigations and cleanups. But EPA can only spend federal money to implement long-term cleanup if a site is listed on the NPL. While CERCLA enforcement authorities can be used to address ARC's contributions to the Anaconda site's

Appendix

contamination, Arimetco is bankrupt, and EPA needs to add the Anaconda site to the NPL to secure federal funding for cleanup of the Arimetco portion of the site.

In 2001, EPA proposed placing Anaconda Copper Mine on the NPL, but the State of Nevada objected because it was working with ARC to address the site. EPA agreed to defer the process for listing the site at that time to allow the State to continue that approach while reserving the right to reconsider proposed listing on the NPL if that approach did not prove effective.

EPA negotiated a scope of work (SOW) and memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to cover further site investigations and cleanup activities. In this agreement, NDEP retained lead responsibility and EPA provided oversight. In late 2004, NDEP requested that EPA take the regulatory lead at the site due to the increased complexity of contaminants at the site.

Remedial Investigation

EPA has divided the site into eight Operable Units (OUs) to facilitate investigation and cleanup: Site-wide Groundwater (OU1), Pit Lake (OU2), Process Areas (OU3), Evaporation Ponds/Sulfide Tailings (OU4), Waste Rock Areas (OU5), Oxide Tailings (OU6), Wabuska Drain (OU7), and Arimetco (OU8). Each of these OUs will have their own investigation and cleanup plans, but activities will be coordinated between the OUs. The cleanup approaches for the various hazards at the site will be determined after these investigations have been completed and potential risks have been evaluated. In the interim, EPA will determine whether emergency removals or other interim actions are warranted to mitigate immediate hazards.

Initial Actions (*Prior to 2000*)

Since 1978, evidence has shown that the groundwater beneath the site has been impacted by mining activities. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, initial studies by NDEP found that tailing streams contained arsenic, mercury, lead, copper, zinc, and

chromium. The studies also discovered that contamination from the mining, milling, and metal salvaging operations had migrated into the groundwater forming a contaminant plume.

NDEP issued a Finding of Violation to ARC for the groundwater pollution in 1982. A second Violation was issued in 1985 and required the installation and monitoring of an interception “pumpback” system designed to contain the groundwater contamination plume. ARC initially installed five pumpback wells on the northern end of the site from 1985 to 1986. An additional six pumpback wells were installed in 1998. The eleven wells pump contaminated water from the plume into three lined evaporation ponds on-site. The purpose of this system is to prevent shallow groundwater from contaminating private and municipal drinking water wells in Yerington and the local community. The system also stops contamination from reaching the Walker River via the Wabuska Drain.

In the late 1990s, the local residents, including the Yerington Paiute Tribe, collected water samples from domestic and tribal wells located away from the site. In two of the locations, they found arsenic at levels higher than the acceptable drinking water standard. The discovery of elevated arsenic levels led NDEP and EPA to conduct an Expanded Site Investigation, which was completed in October 2000. Based on the results of that investigation, EPA and NDEP determined that the extent of contamination and the potential human health risks at the site warranted a more comprehensive investigation and cleanup.

2000-2005

NDEP performed emergency removals from the site starting in 2001 until 2003 and assumed maintenance of the site in 2000.

EPA considered proposing the site for placement on the NPL in 2001; however, the State of Nevada objected since the State was working on the site under a voluntary agreement with ARC. EPA agreed to defer the process for listing the site at that time to allow the State to continue that approach while reserving the right to reconsider proposed listing on the NPL if that approach did not prove effective.

EPA negotiated the SOW and MOU with the NDEP and BLM to cover further site investigations and cleanup activities. In this agreement, NDEP retained lead responsibility and EPA provided oversight. In late 2004, NDEP requested that EPA take the regulatory lead at the site due to the increased complexity of contaminants at the site, such as radioactive contamination (Nov 2010).

2005-Present

EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) for Initial Response Actions to ARC in March 2005. The Order required ARC to: improve site security, update the health and safety plan for on-site workers, implement air monitoring, conduct a radiation survey on and off the site, continue operating the groundwater pumpback system and Arimetco heap leach fluids management system, prepare Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plans, continue ongoing investigations of the Process Areas, sample domestic wells for contaminants, supply bottled water to residents, and implement a groundwater study.

In 2005, ARC completed initial soil and groundwater sampling in the Process Areas, and installed new monitoring wells at 15 locations. ARC also completed an initial radiation survey focusing on on-site worker exposure limited to work areas in 2004 and 2005. EPA conducted additional radiation survey of the process areas in the summer of 2007. ARC also conducted air quality monitoring from January 2005 to April 2008, and has submitted an Air Quality Monitoring Program Data Summary Report (May 2008) and a Baseline Human Health Assessment Work Plan for the Inhalation Pathway (June 2008). In early 2007, ARC modified the ambient air monitoring equipment, and also completed installation of approximately 3.5 miles of new fencing, new gates, and new signage, repairs of 10.7 miles of existing fencing, to prevent unauthorized access to the site.

In summer 2007, ARC collected soil samples off-site to establish background levels of contamination in the area soils and completed a Background Soils Data Summary Report (March 2009). ARC also initiated well installations at an additional 14 groundwater monitoring well locations, and

completed the installations in early 2008. In addition to this work, ARC continued to conduct quarterly and annual groundwater monitoring of monitoring wells, quarterly and annual domestic well sampling for radionuclides and metals, and provided bottled water to residents with well water exceeding 25 micrograms per liter of uranium.

In January 2007, EPA issued a second Order to ARC requiring remedial investigations and feasibility studies of the Anaconda portions of the site. EPA has divided up the site into manageable operable units (OUs) that will each require their own investigation and cleanup strategy: Site-Wide Groundwater (OU1), Pit Lake (OU2), Process Areas (OU3), Evaporation Ponds/Sulfide Tailings (OU4), Waste Rock Areas (OU5), Oxide Tailings (OU6), and Wabuska Drain (OU7). EPA will concurrently conduct a “fund-lead” (i.e., paid from federal cleanup funds) remedial investigation and feasibility study for the Arimetco operated portions of the site, designated as OU8.

Under the 2007 EPA Order, ARC submitted a *Draft Site-Wide Quality Assurance Project Plan* covering the general sampling and analytical procedures to be used during the investigations, a *Draft Site-Wide Health and Safety Plan* addressing the health and safety procedures for on-site workers, a *Draft Site-Wide Data Management Plan*, a *Draft Site-Wide Conceptual Site Model*, a *Draft Site-Wide Groundwater Work Plan* (OU1), a *Draft Process Areas Work Plan* (OU3) and a *Draft Pit Lake*(OU2) Work Plan. The *Health and Safety* and *Data Management Plans* have been finalized. The other Plans have been revised and updated and are in various stages of implementation.

Portions of the Site-wide Groundwater Work Plan (OU1) were implemented via two more focused work plans: the Agricultural Fields Characterization Workplan (July 2010) and the Groundwater Monitor Well Workplan (July 2010). Pursuant to the two plans, a total of 94 additional wells were installed north of the site boundary. The wells were sampled for the first time during the February 2011 quarterly sampling effort and will provide data to assist in the development of the final OU1 investigation workplan.

Appendix

EPA also requested that ARC conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the 11 pumpback wells which were installed along the northern boundary of the site in 1985 and 1998. The wells were turned off in 2009 to permit groundwater to assume the natural gradient, and then were turned back on one at a time in 2010 to evaluate effectiveness and area of influence. The report on the results of the testing was submitted to EPA in December 2010.

In November 2010, EPA assumed the lead for development of the OU3 Vadose Zone and Groundwater Characterization Work Plan (Work Plan). Once completed, the Work Plan will be implemented by ARC.

In March 2011, ARC submitted a Data Summary Report for the Characterization of Potential Cover Materials, which will be used by EPA to choose an appropriate cover material for the lined and unlined evaporation ponds of OU 4 located at the northern portion of the site. A removal action to cover these two large ponds will be implemented in 2011. A draft RI work plan for OU4 will be also released for public comment in 2011.

These plans can be found in the Administrative Record and Information Repository for Anaconda Mine which is discussed on page XX of the Community Involvement Plan.

Removal Actions

In 2006, EPA performed emergency removals to mitigate dust from blowing off the site, remove polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) containing transformers, and repair and upgrade a couple of the leaking Arimetco fluid collection ponds. EPA conducted another removal action at the site in October 2007. This removal action addressed the Bathtub Pond of the fluids management system. The liner for this pond had been torn badly by windstorms during the spring and summer of 2007, and heap leach fluids were being released directly to the subsurface. EPA removed the sediments and liner from the pond, backfilled and compacted the pond area, and installed a french drain to collect the heap leach fluids draining down from the adjacent heap.

In August 2007, EPA also conducted two separate removal assessments. One was a radiological assessment of the Process Area and one was a subsurface assessment of the heap leach ponds.

EPA completed a fourth removal action at the site in September 2008. The goal of this removal action was to complete stabilization of the Arimetco heap leach fluids management system. This project included closure of the following heap leach ponds: South Slot Pond, Plant Feed Pond, Old Raffinate Pond, New Raffinate Pond and the Megapond. Pond closure consists of removing sediment from the pond, removing the liner, and in some cases backfilling the pond. In the case of the Old Raffinate Pond, kerosene contaminated soils exist beneath the pond to a depth of more than 20 feet. These contaminated soils will be excavated and bioremediated onsite. Bioremediation of these kerosene contaminated soils was completed in June 2010. EPA also relined the Phase I/II Pond and repaired the VLT Pond, as both of these ponds were still needed to capture heap leach draindown fluids. EPA also implemented measures to reduce bird mortalities associated with these ponds, including installation of propane bird-scare cannons.

During the summer of 2010, EPA conducted removal work which included:

1. Removal of asbestos from the Anaconda Mine office and off-site disposal of the asbestos containing material
2. Demolition of the mine office and on-site landfilling of the demolition debris
3. Removal, radiological screening and off-site disposal of more than 300 large truck tires
4. Repair of the heap leach fluids management system
5. Performance of an evaporation pond pilot test
6. Removal of small containers of hazardous waste left on-site

In December 2010, under an Administrative Order with EPA, ARC completed three cleanup actions. The first was implementation of the Action Plan for the Process Areas (OU3) Radiological Removal (October 2010). The purpose of the action was to remove soils in the Process Areas that contained radiological contamination above the level that EPA deemed safe for on-site workers. The action was designed using radiological data EPA collected from the Process Areas during the summer of 2007. The 6,097 tons of soil removed by ARC was shipped to landfill in Idaho that is permitted to accept radiological waste. A completion report for the Removal was submitted in March 2011.

The second action was the removal of 27,000 feet of pipe contaminated with asbestos and radioactive materials.

The third action placed interim covers over the 26.5 acres of the Thumb Pond and a portion of the Sulfide Tailings Area, known as Sub-Area A, of OU4. The cover is designed to prevent water ponding that is attractive to migrating bird species and other wildlife, and to minimize the migration of dust that contains hazardous substances.

The ARC removal work was completed a month ahead of the original schedule. About one third of the work crew consisted of local labor hired through ARC's contractor. The contaminated soil was transported via 274 truck loads to the U.S. Ecology facility in Grand View, Idaho, which is permitted to accept radiological waste. The majority of the transite pipe, which was only contaminated with asbestos, was safely landfilled on-site. Transite pipe additionally contaminated with radioactive material was also sent to the U.S. Ecology facility for proper disposal.

Arimetco (OU8)

EPA completed the Public Review Draft of the Arimetco Remedial Investigation Report in July 2008 and released the draft for public input. In 2009, EPA conducted supplemental investigations to evaluate groundwater, soils and processing facilities at Arimetco. The report for the Supplemental Remedial Arimetco Remedial Investigation was released in November 2010. EPA will be releasing the Feasibility Study of remedial options for closure of the Arimetco Heap Leach Pads in April 2011.

Appendix

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APPENDIX 2

Community Profile

Yerington Mine spans 3,400 acres in the Mason valley, 1 mile west of Yerington, in Lyon County, Nevada, approximately 65 miles southeast of Reno. Portions of the site are owned by Arimetco and other portions are BLM managed public lands. According to the 2000 Census, the total population of Yerington is 2,883, and in 2009 it was 3,843. The 2000 Census reports that 75% of the population is over 18 years old. Among the population over 25 years old, 73.8% are high school graduates, and 14.8% have a Bachelor's degree or higher (US Census 2000).

Minorities account for a small percentage of the total population in Yerington. Among the population, 5 were listed as Black or African-American; 180 were American Indian and Alaska Native; 11 were Asian; 167 identified themselves as some other race; 83 were listed as two or more races; and 445 were listed as Hispanic or Latino (of any race). 15.5% of the population indicated that they speak a language other than English at home (US Census 2000).

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the median family income in 1999 is \$39,038, which is below the U.S. median family income of \$50,046 for the entire country. According to the 1999 income data, 90 families in Yerington were living under the poverty level (US Census 2000).

References

- 2000 U.S. Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/>.
- 2010, October *Historical Summary Report Anaconda-Yerington Mine Site Yerington, Nevada*, CH2M Hill, Inc.
2010. Nov. Site Overview: Anaconda Mine <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/View-ByEPAID/NVD083917252?OpenDocument#adlink>

Appendix

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APPENDIX 3

Fact Sheets

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Appendix

Anaconda Mine

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9



October 1999

Yerington, NV

WATER SAMPLING TO TAKE PLACE NEAR OLD COPPER MINE

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), under oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will conduct water sampling in the Yerington area to determine if contamination from the old Anaconda Copper Mine has migrated to domestic and municipal wells off site. A community meeting to discuss the sampling will be held on October 20, 1999 (see box below).

Site History

The Anaconda Copper Company (purchased by ARCO in 1977) ran a mining and milling operation near Yerington, NV from 1953 to 1978. Following the closure of the mine, the land was bought by a private entrepreneur who later leased a portion of the property to a company called Unison (a subsidiary of Union Carbide). Unison salvaged drained electrical transformers for metals such as copper and brass. Another portion of the property was leased to the Arizona Metals Company, which operated a closed-system copper extraction process from the tailings piles that were left behind. In 1988, the property was sold to Arimetco, Inc., headquartered in Arizona. The approximately 3,500 acres of property have remained essentially the same throughout the changes of ownership. Most of the facilities associated with Anaconda's operation are still on the site including the open-pit mine, mill buildings, tailings piles, waste fluid ponds and the town of Weed Heights.

During Anaconda's 25-year mining operation, 189,000 tons of tailings were generated, with much of it disposed of in both lined and unlined ponds. The tailings streams, which contained arsenic, mercury, lead, copper, zinc and chromium, have contaminated the shallow groundwater on site. Tailings from the mining and milling operations remain on the mine site.

What Has Been Done to Contain the Waste?

NDEP has been the lead regulatory agency since 1982 and has overseen ARCO's remediation of the groundwater plume. The original remediation system had five pump-back wells that pump out groundwater. This has recently been upgraded to a total of nine wells located along the northern end of the site. The purpose of the pump-back system is to prevent further migration of contamination from the site. In addition, the system prevents shallow groundwater from reaching the Wabuska Drain. The pumped out groundwater is then discharged into three lined evaporation ponds on site. The upcoming sampling should reveal how well the older pump-back system has worked.

Reasons For Water Sampling

In response to concerns from nearby residents including the Yerington Paiute Tribe, the Walker River Paiute Tribe and residents of the Sunset Hills subdivision, both NDEP and EPA decided further investigation of the groundwater was warranted to determine if contaminants had migrated off site. The closeness of communities to the mine has sparked this concern, as a number of private residences are located within one mile of the site, and the Yerington Tribe's reservation lies approximately 2.5 miles downgradient from the site. The Walker River Tribe is concerned that contamination may migrate via the Wabuska Drain to the Walker River.

Community Meeting To Discuss Water Sampling

Wednesday,
October 20, 1999
7:00 pm

Yerington Paiute Tribe
Administration Building
Yerington, Nevada

The Yerington Tribe and other residents recently collected water samples from domestic and tribal wells. At two locations, arsenic was detected at levels higher than drinking water standards (maximum contaminant levels, or MCLs). The sampling that NDEP will conduct is designed to determine, under strict quality control, whether contaminants attributable to the site have impacted domestic or tribal wells. Additionally, the Wabuska Drain will be sampled to determine potential impact to the Walker River.

How the Sampling Will Be Done

The current schedule for NDEP's sampling of water and sediment will be October 25 through November 5, 1999. Under EPA sampling procedures, NDEP will sample groundwater from three types of wells: pump-

back wells, monitoring wells and drinking water wells. The pump-back and monitoring wells are located in ARCO's remediation area immediately north of the tailings and evaporation ponds. Drinking water wells will be sampled in each subdivision where residents are on individual wells and from each tribal/municipal well. For domestic wells, the samples will be collected from the spigot closest to the well. A total of 40-50 wells will be sampled for a wide-range of constituents and all metals including sulfate, iron, arsenic and copper, as well as pH level. For comparison, background groundwater samples will be obtained from residential wells west of the mine's northernmost tailings pond. Results of this sampling effort will be provided to the communities in several months after all validation has occurred.

NDEP is asking for volunteers from the communities who will allow their domestic wells to be sampled. If you would like to offer your well for sampling, please contact Mary Kay Riedl at NDEP (see contact info below). You may also volunteer your well at the community meeting on October 20.

In addition to the upcoming NDEP sampling, ARCO recently took groundwater samples north of their current containment system. When results of this latest sampling by ARCO are in, they should prove helpful in determining if off-site migration of mine contaminants has occurred.

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding the upcoming water sampling for the Anaconda Mine site, please do not hesitate to contact any of the people below:

Mary Kay Riedl
Project Manager, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
333 W. Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89706
(775) 687-4670, ext. 3023

Vicki Rosen
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 744-2187 or (800) 231-3075

Meg Jensen
Assistant Field Manager, Non-Renewable Resources
Bureau of Land Management
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 885-6115

Stephen Snyder
Lyon County Manager
31 S. Main St.
Yerington, NV 89447
(775) 463-6531

Misty Wilson
Environmental Coordinator
Yerington Paiute Tribe
171 Campbell Lane
Yerington, NV 89447
(775) 883-6848

Morgan Bradley
Environmental Protection Specialist
Walker River Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 220
Schurz, NV 89427
(775) 773-2306

Appendix

**Community Relations Plan
for the
Yerington Mine Site
Lyon County, Nevada**

October 10, 2002

PREPARED FOR:

Atlantic Richfield Company
307 EAST PARK STREET, SUITE 400
ANACONDA, MONTANA 59711

PREPARED BY:

**BROWN AND
CALDWELL**
Carson City, Nevada

**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS LETTER
ON THE
DRAFT FINAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
OCTOBER 10, 2002**

DRAFT

Appendix

Atlantic Richfield Company

307 East Park Street
Suite 400
Anaconda, Montana 59711
Phone: (406) 563-5211
Fax: (406) 563-8269

October 10, 2002

Mr. Arthur G. Gravenstein, P.E.
Staff Engineer
Bureau of Corrective Actions -- Remediation Branch
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
333 W. Nye Lane
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Subject: Submittal of the final Community Relations Plan for the Yerington Mine Site and Response to Comments on the Draft Final Community Relations Plan dated August 26, 2002

Atlantic Richfield Company has prepared the final Community Relations Plan (CRP) for the Yerington Mine Site dated October 10, 2002. The attached CRP reflects the final set of comments provided by the regulatory agencies on September 26, 2002 for the subject document. These comments and Atlantic Richfield's responses are provided below.

Specific Comments

1) Page 1, Introduction; Discuss what the CRP is before going into details regarding the Technical Workgroup.

The revised text reflects this comment.

2) Page 1, Summary and Description; define or delete the following terms: beneficiation operations, precipitation plant, heap leach pads and beneficiation circuits. In the second paragraph, change "approximate" to "approximately 3,000 acres." In this same sentence, delete the commas after solutions and activities.

The revised text reflects this comment.

3) Page 1, Summary and Description; Sentence starting, "The YTWG has developed a Closure Scope of Work to achieve..." change the tenses as follows so that they match the remainder of the sentence: contain and manage existing and potential future impacts..., assess and, if required, contain fugitive dust.

Mr. Arthur G. Gravenstein
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
October 10, 2002
Page 2

The revised text is consistent with respect to past, present and future tense.

4) Page 2, Contact Information; add Vicki Rosen's title—Community Relations Specialist.

The revised text contains Vicki Rosen's proper title—Community Relations Specialist

5) Page 3, Community Relations Activities.; Delete the word involvement.

The revised text does not include the word 'involvement'.

6) Page 4, Public Meetings; Delete the "to" before "answer" and "respond" in the first sentence of this section.

The revised text incorporates this edit.

7) Page 5; add EPA and BLM as locations for folks to review files.

The revised text will include EPA and BLM as locations for file reviews.

If you have any questions regarding the revised document or the responses to comments, please contact me at 1-406-563-5211 ext. 430.

Sincerely,

Dave McCarthy
Project Manager

cc: Bonnie Arthur, SFD-8-1, USEPA Region 9
Robin Bullock, Atlantic Richfield Company
Tad Williams, Walker River Paiute Tribe
Elwood Emm, Yerington Paiute Tribe
John Krause, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Stan Wiemeyer, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Services
Vicki Roberts/Johanna Emm, Yerington Paiute Tribe

Appendix

Mr. Arthur G. Gravenstein
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
October 10, 2002
Page 3

Paul Thomsen, Office of Senator Harry Reid
Phyllis Hunewill, Lyon County Board of County Commissioners
Joe Sawyer, SRK Consulting
Dietrick McGinnis, McGinnis and Associates, LLC
Kris Doebbler, Bureau of Land Management

DRAFT

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN FOR THE
YERINGTON MINE SITE, LYON COUNTY, NEVADA
OCTOBER 10, 2002**

DRAFT

Appendix**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN for the
YERINGTON MINE SITE, LYON COUNTY, NEVADA****October 10, 2002****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) for the Yerington Mine Site has been prepared pursuant to the Closure Scope of Work to provide for successful information exchange between the public, stakeholders and members of the Yerington Technical Work Group (YTWG). The YTWG and the Yerington Stakeholders Group consists of the Atlantic Richfield Company, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Yerington Paiute Indian Tribe, the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe, Lyon County, the City of Yerington, and the office of U.S. Senator Harry Reid. Additional members of the local communities around the Yerington Mine site, and the public-at-large may also participate in the Yerington Stakeholders Group. The YTWG has prepared this CRP in support of achieving closure of the Yerington Mine Site per applicable State and Federal regulations. This CRP describes the purpose, objectives and activities proposed to keep the public informed of the various project components and to communicate the progress at the site. This plan is consistent with EPA guidelines on public participation.

1.1 Summary and Description

The Yerington Mine site is located approximately one mile west of the town of Yerington in Lyon County, Nevada. Copper mining and ore processing operations were conducted between 1953 and 1978 for oxide and sulfide ores. Waste rock was deposited south and north of the open pit. Oxide and sulfide tailings were deposited north of the process areas. Evaporation ponds and solution collection ditches were also constructed at the site to manage process solutions. In 1989, Arimetco International acquired the site, and continued to mine and process copper ores. Arimetco has declared bankruptcy and abandoned the site in 2000.

The approximately 3,000-acre mine site is now inactive with the exception of fluid management of heap solutions and general care and maintenance activities being conducted by the NDEP. Atlantic Richfield is currently operating a groundwater pumpback and evaporation system. The YTWG has developed a Closure Scope of Work to achieve the following objectives: contain and manage existing and potential future impacts to groundwater; assess and, if required, contain fugitive dust; demonstrate the physical and chemical stability of all surface mine materials; demonstrate that mine closure units and potentially affected off-site areas following closure and reclamation activities will not adversely affect human health or the environment; and establish a compatible post-closure land use and related monitoring and maintenance plan.

1.2 Purpose of this Plan

This CRP will serve as the framework to ensure a successful information exchange with the public during site investigation and mine closure activities. It describes planned public involvement activities for the site, and it assigns responsibilities for implementing the communications strategy. The CRP identifies community relations tools (e.g., web site, newsletter, public meetings, interviews) that will encourage meaningful two-way dialogue between the YTWG, community stakeholders and the public-at-large.

Community Relations Plan for the Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada

1.3 Agencies with Oversight Responsibilities

The YTWG currently reviews all site investigation and mine closure activities at the mine site. An existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated March 28, 2002, between the NDEP, BLM and EPA describes the review and approval procedures by these regulatory agencies for site investigation and mine closure activities at the mine site.

1.4 Contact Information

The points-of-contact responsible for the public participation process during the site investigation and mine closure activities at the site is:

Primary point-of-contact

Art Gravenstein, Staff Engineer
Bureau of Corrective Actions
NDEP
333 West Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89706
Phone: 775-687-9376
Fax: 775-687-6396
E-mail: agravenstein@ndep.state.nv.us

Secondary points-of-contact

Vicki Rosen, Community Relations Specialist
EPA
Phone: 415-972-3244

Chuck Pope, Assistant Field Manager (Non-renewable Resources)
BLM
Phone: 775-885-6000

1.5 Community Input into Plan

The CRP is based on input from the YTWG, the Yerington Stakeholder Group, community leaders, elected officials, and local landowners. Additionally, public meetings have previously been held to discuss site conditions and activities, and to receive input from the community. This plan will be updated, as needed, to reflect evolving community relations needs.

1.6 Organization of the Community Relations Plan

This plan consists of four sections.

- Section 1.0, Introduction - Provides an introduction and summary of the CRP.
- Section 2.0, Objectives - Describes the specific objectives of the CRP.
- Section 3.0, Public Involvement Activities - Describes the activities designed to promote public involvement throughout the site investigation and mine closure periods.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

This section lists the following specific objectives of the CRP:

Appendix

Community Relations Plan for the Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada

- Maintain open communication between the YTWG, Yerington Stakeholders Group, the communities located near the mine site, and other interested individuals and groups.
- Establish a CRP with the flexibility to continually identify community concerns and to respond appropriately. As needed, the plan will be updated to ensure effective communication with the community.
- Encourage meaningful community involvement and two-way dialogue by providing regulatory agencies, community leaders, elected officials, local landowners, and tribal members with accurate, timely information about site investigation and mine closure activities, as well as other important technical and administrative matters.
- Inform the public of the conditions at the site and ongoing activities. This will be accomplished by distributing newsletters and fact sheets, conducting public meetings, and establishing information repositories.
- Encourage dialogue with, and input from, the public by promoting easily accessible points-of-contact for questions and comments.
- Monitor community concerns to ensure that communications meet the needs of the public.

3.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

This section describes community relations activities that are intended to meet the objectives described in Section 2.0. Activities include ongoing communication with community leaders, elected officials, government agencies, Tribes, and local landowners.

3.1 Newsletters

A periodic newsletter will be prepared and distributed to interested parties via insertion into the Mason Valley News. The newsletter is anticipated to be prepared on a semi-annual basis, typically before and after the field season. This proposed schedule may be modified as needed. The newsletter will contain the following types of information:

- Descriptions of progress at the site;
- Descriptions of completed and upcoming technical activities;
- The status of any ongoing agency interactions;
- A section that addresses issues raised by the community; and,
- The schedule for upcoming YTWG and Stakeholder meetings.

Approximately 14 days are designated as the review period for regulatory agencies, and members of the Yerington Stakeholders Group and YTWG, to provide comments to the proposed contents of each newsletter. The audience for this publication will be the general public, so technical terminology will be explained in readily understandable terms. These newsletters will be distributed primarily through a mailing list described further in Section 3.4, but will also be available at various locations throughout the community as well as at the public meetings.

Community Relations Plan for the Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada

3.2 WebSite

NDEP has established a web site at <http://ndep.state.nv.us/yerington/minesite.htm> to provide current information about the technical work group, site closure and related activities. The web page currently contains meeting agendas and minutes, closure-related work products and regulatory comments, other formal correspondence, a 2001 aerial photograph and a brief history of the mine site. As more information becomes available, additional topics will be presented.

3.3 Fact Sheets

To answer specific questions and to support the sharing of information, fact sheets will be prepared to inform and update the public about site investigation and mine closure remediation activities. These brief, one-page publications will explain technical information to the general public in easy-to-read terminology to facilitate understanding by non-technical readers. These fact sheets will be available at the public meetings.

3.4 Public Meetings

The NDEP will host public meetings to make available current information about site activities, answer questions, and respond to specific community concerns, issues, or events. Public meetings will be held on an annual basis, but also may be required when activities necessitate further public involvement. Public meetings will be announced in the newsletters and through published notices in local newspapers. Possible locations identified for public meetings include the Lyon County building in Yerington, and at the Yerington Paiute Indian Tribe gymnasium.

The designated point-of-contact will be responsible for obtaining answers to questions and following through on commitments made to the community during the meetings. At the meetings, fact sheets and copies of newsletters will be available for distribution. A sign-up list will be included to identify attendees (and particularly attendees who want to be added to the mailing list). The proposed meeting location will be in the City of Yerington. The first meeting is planned sometime between November 2002 and March 2003.

3.5 Mailing List

A mailing list of interested local residents, members of the Tribe and tribal representatives, state and federal regulatory agencies, government officials, and news media will be compiled. The list will be updated, as needed, to ensure that interested parties are receiving the newsletter and notices of public meetings (as announced in the newsletter).

3.6 Interviews

If deemed necessary, interviews may be conducted with citizens and community leaders to gain insight into the public's perception of site conditions and site closure activities. Interviews may be held in conjunction with stakeholders' or public meetings, or may be arranged on an individual basis.

3.7 Information Repositories

Information repositories have been established to provide public access to the technical reports and other information about the site investigation and remediation. Most or all site information will be available at the

Appendix**Community Relations Plan for the
Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada**

NDEP web site <http://ndep.state.nv.us/yerington/minesite.htm>. Hard copies of all documents will be available at the following locations:

Carson City, NV
NDEP
333 West Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, NV 89706
Phone: 775-687-9376
Fax: 775-687-6396

Yerington, NV
Lyon County Library
20 Nevin Way
Yerington, NV 89447
Phone: 775-463-6645
Fax: 775-463-6646

File reviews can also be conducted at the EPA and BLM offices by contacting the appropriate secondary point-of-contact.



YERINGTON MINE



Yerington, NV

February 2003

COMMUNITY MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003 7:00 P.M. WEED HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER YERINGTON, NEVADA

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are sponsoring a public meeting to update residents on activities and progress at the Yerington Mine in Yerington, Nevada. NDEP will present information on investigation and cleanup activities at the site. Representatives from other involved agencies and tribal governments will also be on hand to discuss site-related issues.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns you may have about the mine and the efforts being made to ensure the protection of neighbors and the environment.

Please join us at this informative meeting!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact either person below if you have questions about the Feb. 27th meeting or activities at Yerington Mine:

Art Gravenstein
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
333 W. Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89706
(775) 687-9376
agravens@ndep.state.nv.us

Vicki Rosen
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 972-3244 or
(800) 231-3075 (leave a message and your call will be returned)
rosen.vicki@epa.gov

Appendix

YERINGTON MINE

COMMUNITY MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003

7:00 P.M.

WEED HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER

YERINGTON, NEVADA



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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Vicki Rosen

*Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300*

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YERINGTON MINE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • OCTOBER 2004

Yerington, Nevada

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT YERINGTON MINE SITE

This fact sheet, prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), is being sent to the Yerington community and other interested parties to update you on what has occurred at the Yerington Mine site since our last public meeting on August 25, 2004. We will discuss continuing activities as well as those we are working toward for the near future. The agencies hope to make this fact sheet the first of regular written updates to better inform the community regarding ongoing investigations and activities at the site. Fact sheets such as this are meant to supplement, not take the place of, public meetings. The agencies welcome suggestions on how to improve our communication with the public. To provide comments or suggestions, please see the list of contacts at the end of this fact sheet. The agencies thank the EPA for printing and distributing this document.

Sampling by BLM

BLM gave a report at the last public meeting on sampling conducted on the mine site to make sure their Health & Safety Plan for workers would be adequate to protect them from potential hazards. This sampling effort showed levels of radiation in soil in parts of the Process Area (see site map) that could be of risk to workers on the site.

Since that time, BLM has conducted additional sampling both inside and outside the Process Area, including the evaporation and sulfide tailings ponds. The results are similar to what they found previously—radiological hazards that warrant protection for workers in certain areas of the site. Results also indicate a need for further investigation to more fully characterize, or assess, the site for these hazards and better determine the levels and types of radiation on the site. Additionally, the results reinforce the need to monitor the air on and around the site as well as conduct an aerial radiological survey to determine where radiation may be both on and offsite.

Appendix

Action Plan

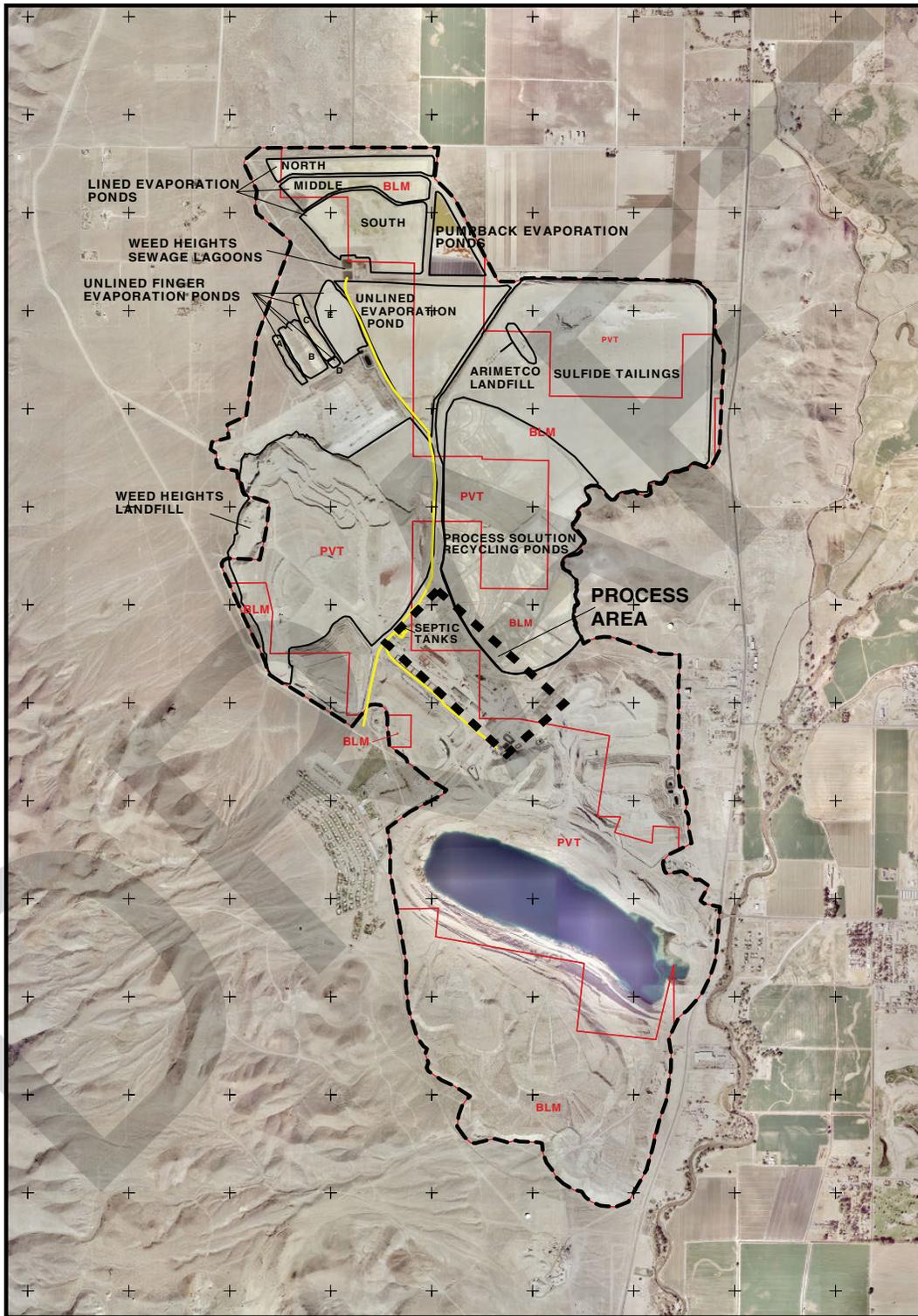
Several actions for moving forward with specific site activities and public notification were discussed by NDEP at the August 25 public meeting. Below are the activities we are currently concentrating on and where we are in implementation:

- **Air Monitoring:** The agencies are working with the Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARC) to determine the specific areas where air-monitoring stations should be located, both on and offsite. EPA has provided details of interim work plans for this purpose, and ARC is currently assessing these work plans. A site walkthrough is scheduled for mid-October to determine the locations for air-monitoring stations. One unresolved issue is whether temporary or permanent air monitoring stations should be installed. Temporary stations can be put into place quickly, while permanent stations would take several months longer. ARC will send details of the air-monitoring work plan to NDEP, BLM and EPA for review and approval.
- **Aerial Survey for Radiation:** The agencies are working toward developing a plan for an aerial radiological survey. Areas that would be surveyed for radiation by a low-flying helicopter would include much of Mason Valley. The community will be notified before such activities take place.
- **Site Security:** Because of potential hazards on the mine site, improved security is needed to keep unauthorized people out of the area. Plans for a near-term solution, including patrols during the day, seven days a week and fencing in specific areas, should be finalized soon.
- **Dust Mitigation:** Keeping potentially hazardous dust from blowing around and off the site is a priority. The agencies' long-term goal is to investigate the locations with elevated concentrations and then determine the best technical method for cleanup. As part of the mid-October site walkthrough, we will be assessing priority locations for these actions.
- **Process Area Sampling:** ARC is currently sampling both soil and groundwater in the Process Area. Results of this sampling will help guide the agencies in some of the above activities.
- **Domestic Well Sampling:** ARC continues to monitor private wells on a quarterly basis. A proposal has been made to install monitoring wells between the mine and Sunset Hills to better determine if contaminants from the mine are moving north in the groundwater. Following the mid-October site walkthrough activities, recommendations for monitoring well locations will be discussed at the Yerington Technical Work Group meeting. It is important to determine whether uranium in the groundwater is naturally occurring or from activities at the mine site.

Update on Oversight Status for Yerington Mine Site

There have been no changes to date on the oversight status for the site. However, the City of Yerington, the Yerington Paiute Tribe and Lyon County are in favor of EPA taking the lead on enforcement and project management. Governor Guinn and the three agencies will take this request under consideration.

The recent announcement by BLM regarding the transfer of project management responsibility from the Carson City Field Office to the Nevada State Office indicates BLM's understanding of the complexities of this project. EPA, BLM and NDEP are still sharing roles according to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). If there is any change in this arrangement, we will advise the community.



Yerington Mine Site

Appendix

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT YERINGTON MINE SITE**For More Information**

Please feel free to contact any of the agency personnel below if you have questions or concerns regarding the Yerington Mine site:

EPA: Jim Sickles

Remedial Project Manager (SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3265
sickles.james@epa.gov

Vicki Rosen

Community Involvement Coordinator (SFD-3)
(415) 972-3244
rosen.vicki@epa.gov

75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Toll-free: **(800) 231-3075** (Please leave a message and your call will be returned)

BLM: Craig Smith

Project Manager
(775) 861-6453
Craig.Smith@nv.blm.gov

Jo Simpson

Chief, Communications
(775) 861-6629
jsimpson@nv.blm.gov

P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

NDEP: Art Gravenstein

Project Manager
(775) 687-9376
agravens@ndep.state.nv.us

Cindy Petterson

Public Information Officer
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333 W. Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89706

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Attn: Vicki Rosen (Yer Mine 10/04)

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ANACONDA / YERINGTON MINE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • JANUARY 2005

Yerington, Nevada

SITE OVERVIEW AND UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

Hello and Happy New Year to Yerington residents and others interested in the Anaconda/Yerington Mine site. This fact sheet has been written by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update the community on recent changes in oversight of the project and provide an overview of the history of the mine and current status of investigation and cleanup activities. We value your participation in our efforts to better understand the situation both on and off the mine site. It is through collaboration with the community, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) that we will be able to clean up the site and protect the affected communities. Your comments on this fact sheet or general concerns about the site are welcomed and encouraged. Please see the end of this newsletter for contact information.

EPA Assumes Lead Agency Role at Yerington Mine Site

Many of you have probably heard that EPA is assuming the lead agency role at the site and will make it a "106 site" or issue a "106 Order." This section will explain how that came about and what it means. Based on a request from NDEP, EPA has agreed to become the regulatory lead agency for investigation and cleanup at the Anaconda/Yerington Mine site due to the complexity of the project. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that EPA, BLM and NDEP had been using will no longer apply. Under the original MOU, all three agencies had to agree on what actions the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) needed to do. Due to the cumbersome nature of the MOU and the lack of enforcement authority for EPA, progress on the site has not been what the agencies would have liked. With this change, the final decision maker on most issues (after consulting with NDEP, BLM and various stakeholders) will be EPA. EPA will still collaborate with BLM and NDEP on the project, however EPA now has the authority to move forward with site activities more directly than in the past. This authority comes from Section 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund). It enables EPA to order responsible parties, if necessary, to conduct

work at the site. This change should speed up activities at the mine and ensure that investigation and cleanup is consistent with best practices such as those used at other sites nationally. At this time, EPA is not proceeding to list the site on the National Priorities List (NPL or Superfund list). However, this would be an option if "potentially responsible parties" (PRPs) are unwilling to proceed.

Overview and History of Anaconda Copper Mine (Yerington Mine)

Covering more than 3,400 acres in Lyon County, Nevada, the old Anaconda Copper Mine, also known as the Yerington Mine, consists of tailings piles, mill buildings, waste rock and evaporation ponds (see map, page 3). From 1918 until 1978, the site was a low-grade copper mine and milling operation that generated approximately 360 million tons of ore and debris. Toward the end of this period, the mining company also evaluated the economics of producing uranium from the copper mining process. Following the mine closure by Anaconda, later operators used portions of the site to further extract copper from the tailings piles and as a metal salvage facility.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, NDEP began its investigation and attempts to control impacts from the mine on the environment. Studies found that the tailing

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streams contained arsenic, mercury, lead, copper, zinc and chromium and that contamination had migrated into the groundwater. This led to NDEP directing ARC, who purchased the mine in 1977, to install “pump-back” wells at the northern end of the site to control the contaminated groundwater. These wells pump water from the contaminated plume into three lined evaporation ponds on site and prevent at least some of that water from reaching the Walker River via the Wabuska Drain.

In 1988, the Yerington Mine property was sold to Arimetco, Inc. Arimetco built five lined leach pads where acid and other solutions were used to extract copper from copper oxide ore and tailings followed by the production of purified copper using electricity (electroplating). Filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 1997, Arimetco continued its copper recovery operations until late 1999 and then abandoned the site in January 2000 through bankruptcy.

The Atlantic Richfield Company, as a previous owner of the Anaconda Copper Mine, remains the PRP for investigation of the site. Additionally, BLM is the manager of the public lands portion of the property.

Actions Taken to Determine Impacts from Mine

Local residents collected water samples from domestic and tribal wells in 1999 and found elevated levels of contamination. In response to concerns from local residents including the Yerington Paiute Tribe, the Walker River Paiute Tribe and neighbors in the Sunset Hills subdivision, NDEP and EPA decided that further investigation of groundwater was warranted to determine if contamination from the mine had migrated to offsite wells. Results of the expanded investigation indicated that the mine site could indeed be impacting groundwater off site.

For the past four years (and under the MOU between the three agencies), site investigations continued including the monitoring of private wells. There has been much uncertainty as to what extent off-site migration of contaminants might be affecting these wells. The situation became more complicated with the discovery that uranium extraction had been evaluated during mining operations. This concern over potential radiological contamination led to further on-site sampling for uranium and other radioisotopes as well as more domestic well sampling. In 2004, BLM conducted a radiological screening on a portion of the site

which lies on public land (including the Process Area) and found levels of radiation in some areas that could be harmful to on-site workers without appropriate protective equipment. Upon this discovery, BLM expanded their sampling to include the evaporation and sulfide tailings ponds and got similar results (see photo on back).

As you know from the October 2004 fact sheet, ARC is currently sampling soil and groundwater in the Process Area (see photo on back). The information gathered in this effort will give EPA a “first look” at the types of contamination that might be in that part of the site. After getting a more complete understanding of the nature and extent of the contamination, we can better determine the best ways to clean it up and reduce the risk to human health and the environment.

Increased sampling of domestic wells continued through 2004, indicating some levels of radiation higher than acceptable by government standards. As a precaution, some residents were given the option of receiving bottled water provided by ARC. As of now, EPA does not feel enough is known about the types of radiation that may be in these wells to understand what threat, if any, it might pose.

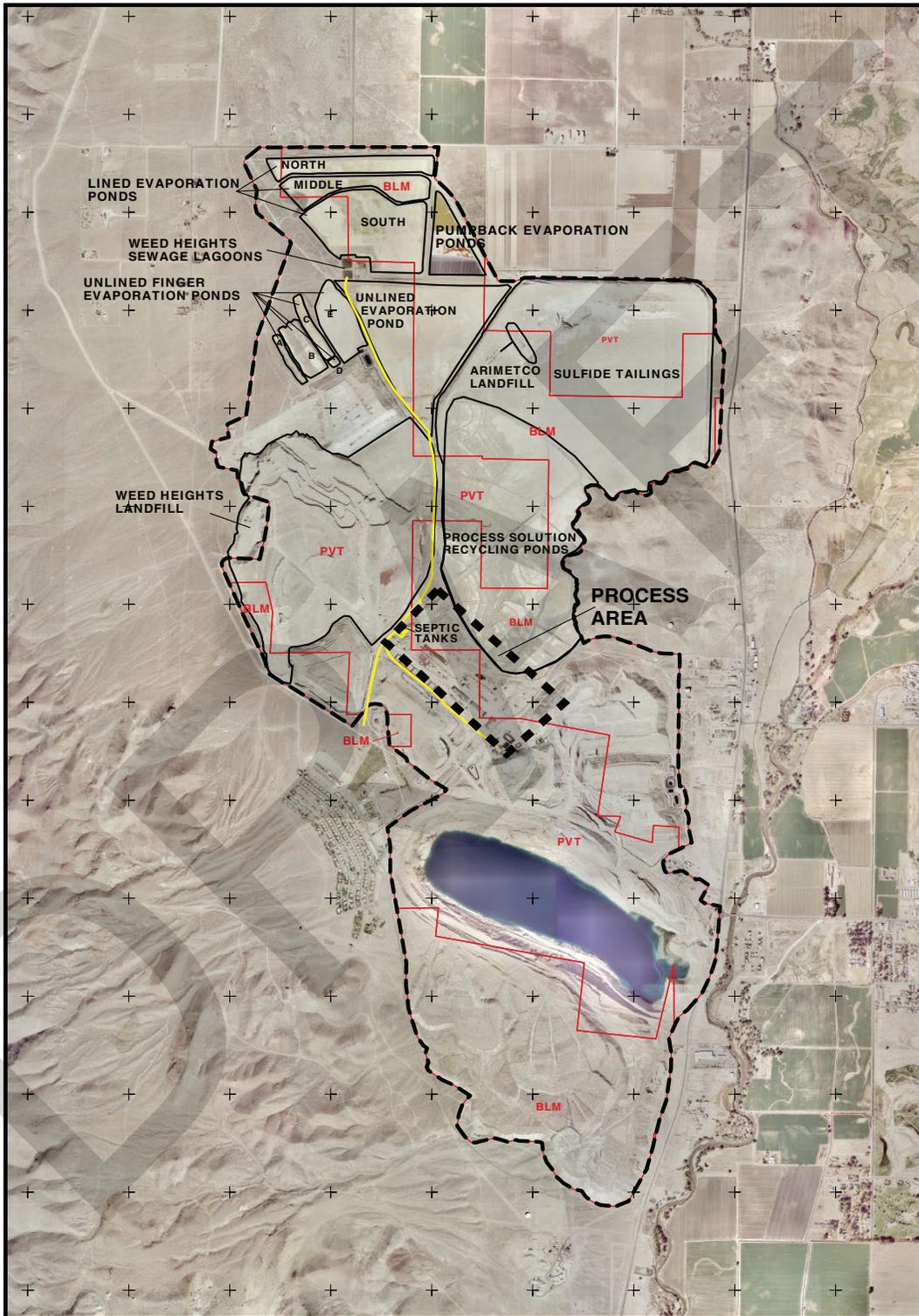
Current and Future Actions

Since our last fact sheet in October 2004, progress has been made on some of the most important areas of the mine. Below are the priority action items and where we stand with implementing them. With EPA now as the lead agency, we anticipate meeting our goals, and those of the community, more quickly in the coming months.

Domestic Well Sampling

ARC continues to monitor wells on a quarterly basis. The domestic well sampling that has already occurred requires additional analysis, meaning we need to collect more data. The existing data does not provide enough information to better understand the type of risk, if any, posed by drinking the water. Future sampling will be more informative to residents because we will better understand what type of radiation is present and at what levels.

Groundwater monitoring wells will be installed between the mine and residences to the north to determine if contamination from the mine is moving toward this area. This will help us determine if constituents in drinking water are coming from the mine or are naturally occurring. We are hoping to begin installing these



Anaconda / Yerington Mine Site

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monitoring wells by the middle of 2005 and should have some preliminary sense for where the uranium is coming from by the end of the year. The monitoring wells cannot be installed sooner because the work plan for this activity is not due until the end of January and then it must be reviewed and finalized, which can take several weeks. Additionally, both the drill rig and driller that are appropriate for this activity are currently working in the Process Area and need to finish there before starting on the off-site wells.

Dust Mitigation

Keeping potentially hazardous dust from blowing around and off the site is a priority. Permanent air monitoring stations are being installed in six locations: two on the west side of the mine, three along the north boundary and one on the east side. We are hoping to begin the sampling in January or February. In addition, capping of on-site problem areas is being considered to see if we can control some of the potential sources of dust that could be blowing off the site, though we still need to agree on where and how to do this.

Aerial Survey for Radiation

EPA believes an aerial survey of the mine site and nearby communities would provide valuable information on the general extent of contamination on and off site. This technique, which EPA has used at other mining sites, involves a low-flying helicopter with equipment that measures radiation while flying in a back and forth grid pattern. EPA expects this work to be conducted over the next six to nine months.

Site Security

Due to potential hazards on the mine property, including radiation danger, better fencing and warnings are necessary. Signs warning of Radiation Danger were installed by BLM last month and portions of the fencing

repaired. BLM rangers will be checking the fencing and security on a regular basis, and it is possible that daytime security seven days a week may be instituted. In addition, BLM law enforcement will coordinate with local law enforcement to increase patrols and improve communication concerning site security.

Health Issues

EPA understands the public's concern over potential health impacts from contamination at the mine. At this point, we cannot say what, if any, health impacts from the site currently exist. Additionally, it is impossible to determine what exposures, if any, nearby residents may have already had. However, our investigation plans are designed to get the answers we need to protect the public and the environment. One way we can do that is through a comprehensive study of the ways people might be in contact with contaminants and how likely human health effects might occur in the future because of those contaminants. This "Risk Assessment" is a tool to determine what cleanup actions are appropriate to protect your health. In addition, we rely on our relationships with health professionals to work with communities to get the information they need. One of those resources is a branch of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) known as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). ATSDR assists EPA by identifying current risk on sites being addressed under Superfund. They have a Regional Representative in San Francisco and a team of scientists in Atlanta who are currently reviewing available environmental data on the mine site. The representative listed in the contacts below has communicated with some Yerington residents, both tribal and non-tribal, during the past year. Please feel free to write, call or email her with concerns you may have about possible site-related health problems.

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Some reports and data on the Anaconda/Yerington Mine site are currently available at the library listed below. We will be adding new information as it becomes available.

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

Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tues, Thurs—9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Below is a list of personnel from the agencies involved with the Anaconda/Yerington Mine site. Please feel free to contact any of them with questions or concerns.

EPA: Jim Sickles

Remedial Project Manager (SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3265
sickles.james@epa.gov

Vicki Rosen

Community Involvement Coordinator (SFD-3)
(415) 972-3244
rosen.vicki@epa.gov

75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

You may also reach Jim or Vicki by leaving a message on EPA's toll-free line: **(800) 231-3075**.
You will receive a return call as quickly as possible.

ATSDR: Libby Vianu

Regional Representative
(415) 947-4319
vianu.libby@epa.gov

75 Hawthorne St., Suite 100
San Francisco, CA 94105

BLM: Craig Smith

Project Manager
(775) 861-6453
Craig.Smith@nv.blm.gov

P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

MAILING LIST COUPON

If you are not already on our Anaconda/Yerington Mine site mailing list and would like to receive fact sheets, meeting announcements, etc. on the project, please fill in the coupon below and mail to: Vicki Rosen, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3), San Francisco, CA 94105

Or, you may call or email Vicki with your mailing information: (415) 972-3244 or (800) 231-3075, rosen.vicki@epa.gov

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone (optional): _____ E-Mail (optional): _____

Representing (optional): _____

Appendix

ANACONDA / YERINGTON MINE UPDATE



BLM sampling for radiation, Dec. 2004



ARC sampling Process Area, Dec. 2004

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 San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
 Attn: Vicki Rosen (Ana/Yer Mine 1/05)

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EPA

ANACONDA / YERINGTON MINE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • APRIL 2005

Yerington, Nevada

EPA “Scanner Van” to Look for Radiation in Yerington Area

Residents of Yerington will see a rather unusual and official-looking vehicle driving on and around the Anaconda/Yerington Mine site and throughout the Yerington area the last two weeks in April. This radiological “Scanner Van” belongs to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory in Las Vegas. This vehicle is used to find buildings and structures contaminated with gamma radiation as well as locate gamma radiation in open areas. Beginning April 18, use of the Scanner Van will mark the start of efforts to determine where radiological contamination may be located beyond on-site areas already identified. As a screening device, the van can provide much information but it does not take the place of an aerial survey, which EPA believes may still be necessary.

How Does the Scanner Van Work?

With the ability to scan for radiation much faster than field teams on the ground, the vehicle is equipped with a sodium iodide detector which can find gamma radiation at very low levels. The operator of the system coordinates with the driver as the vehicle is driven by areas of interest. Radiation irregularities are identified and recorded on a computer. From this data, other staff with hand-held radiation detectors can investigate these areas further to determine the types of materials producing the radioactivity.

Inside the Scanner Van, a large collimated (produces beams of parallel rays of light) lead shield holds a 4x4x16-inch sodium iodide detector. The shield is cut in such a way that the detector “looks” out the right side of the vehicle in a 55-degree arc. The right side of the vehicle is made of thin aluminum. The shield/detector system is positioned for optimal viewing. The driver has to coordinate movement of the vehicle with the equipment operator, who sits at a console in the middle of the van. As the vehicle travels at 5-10 mph, the operator watches the scanning on a computer screen and makes decisions about what appears to be

irregularities. The data is collected along with any comments or explanations from the operator, as well as with information from the Global Positioning System which pinpoints exactly where the measurement occurred. The Scanner Van is typically driven both ways on a road since it only scans from the right side of the vehicle.

Results of Survey to Community

What is learned from the Scanner Van survey will be reported to the Yerington community as soon as EPA has collected, analyzed and, if necessary, completed any follow-up surveys.

Come See the Scanner Van!

You are welcome to visit the Scanner Van to get an orientation from our laboratory experts and see how it works. Although we have not, at this time, set a date and location for the open house, the van and staff will be available to all community members at some point during the visit to Yerington. Watch your local newspaper for specifics on the show-and-tell activities.

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Some reports and data on the Anaconda/Yerington Mine site are currently available at the library listed at right. We will be adding new information as it becomes available.



Lyon County Library

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

Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tues, Thurs	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sat	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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For Further Information

If you have questions about the Scanner Van survey or anything connected to the Anaconda/Yerington Mine site, or if you would like to be added to the site mailing list, please contact the EPA staff listed below.

Jim Sickles
Remedial Project Manager (SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3265
sickles.james@epa.gov

Vicki Rosen
Community Involvement Coordinator (SFD-3)
(415) 972-3244
rosen.vicki@epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Toll-free number for both Jim and Vicki: (800) 231-3075.
Please leave a message and your call will be returned.




EPA
**ANACONDA /
YERINGTON MINE**

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • JULY 2005

Yerington, Nevada

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES PUBLIC MEETING AUGUST 3

Greetings from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This fact sheet is an update on the Anaconda/Yerington Mine investigation and cleanup. It summarizes actions that have occurred since our last comprehensive mailing earlier this year and announces a public meeting set for Wednesday, August 3 (see details below). If you have questions or comments on this fact sheet or site work in general, please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff listed at the end of this newsletter.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, August 3, 2005
7:00 p.m.
**Weed Heights Community Center
Yerington, Nevada**

EPA will host a public meeting to update the community 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.

Valley View Estates; Weed Heights and access roads; locations in Mason Valley; Yerington and adjacent roadways; and Schurz and roadways to the southeast.

Results of the survey showed significantly higher gamma radiation in certain areas of the mine site itself (portions of the milling and ore processing area and evaporation ponds), but no unusual high readings in any of the surrounding areas. The only readings higher than background were associated with the presence of naturally occurring radioactive material in rock outcrops or roadcuts.

Although this scan was not meant to be a comprehensive radiological survey, it did provide valuable screening information which will be helpful in any further investigation. Copies of the Scanner Van Survey work plan and final report are available for review in the Lyon County Library.

Results of "Scanner Van" Survey

EPA's radiological "scanner van" from our laboratory in Las Vegas surveyed the mine site, nearby areas and the City of Yerington this past April. Its purpose was to detect gamma radiation, specifically "abnormally" high amounts that might be associated with mine materials. A "background" level of radiation was established against which to compare the areas surveyed. The following areas were surveyed: the mine site; MacArthur Pit and Haul Road; the Wabuska rail spur; the Yerington Paiute reservation; Mesa and Sunset Hills Dr. area; Luzier Lane and

Site Security

With help from members of the community concerned about gaps in security at the site, new and upgraded fencing is on the way. The result will be a completely enclosed mine site. The Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) has begun adding fencing to the perimeters as well as upgrading existing fencing for both safety and security reasons. ARC

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will add fencing to the southern boundary at the base of the waste rock piles along Boatwright Lane. In the center portion of the site, ARC is evaluating moving the existing recessed fencing closer to the roadway in the processing area along Burch Drive. New signs advising of on-site hazards and telling people to keep out have been installed. Through BLM's process for the closure of public lands within the property boundary, trespassers may be fined \$1,000.00. In addition, EPA has directed ARC to improve fencing around areas with known physical and/or chemical hazards and to provide on-site security staff seven days a week during daylight hours. EPA is awaiting ARC's response in the near future.

Air Monitoring

Monitoring the air on site and at the site perimeter for total particulate matter and lead has begun. Monitoring for metals and radiological contaminants is under discussion between EPA and ARC. EPA has directed ARC to add metals and radiological contaminants to the sampling and is awaiting ARC's response in the near future.

Groundwater Monitoring

Monitoring of the groundwater both on site and to the north of the site boundary will be increased. The purpose of this monitoring is to track whether contamination from the mine has migrated off site. ARC has begun installing monitoring wells at 16 locations primarily north of the mine site with a few at the sound end. Installation is expected to be completed by fall with the first results due by the end of the year. These new wells will be added to those already being monitored to obtain a more complete picture of the groundwater in the area.

Domestic Well Sampling

ARC is continuing to sample domestic wells for radiation at residents' request. The quarterly sampling will be maintained for those well owners who have uranium exceedences above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) or drinking water standard. Those residents also have the option of receiving bottled water from ARC.

Reevaluating Existing Systems

It is important to prevent as much contamination as possible from possibly moving off the mine site in the short term while we determine what will need to be done for the long term. As part of that site control, EPA must make sure the current control systems are working as intended. The pumpback and fluid management systems designed to control groundwater and surface liquids from the site are being reevaluated and upgraded as necessary. ARC has provided EPA with a draft work plan describing how they would operate and maintain the existing system. They have proposed maintaining the current pumpback system and associated groundwater monitoring as was done previously. Regarding the Arimetco fluids management system, they have proposed operating it similar to the way the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection did but would not use evaporative sprayers to reduce fluid volume. Instead, they would "store" the collected fluids in one additional heap leach pad (a pile of rocks leached by acid solutions that sits on a pad with a protective liner beneath) if the volume increases due to rain or snow. Currently, one heap leach pad is being used to contain the fluids. This method would be used until a more permanent solution is developed. EPA will provide comments on ARC's draft work plan within the next few weeks.

Processing Area

A large amount of information on groundwater and soil was collected this past winter. The first of several data summaries will be provided to the regulatory agencies for screening to determine what types of maps and presentation format would work best for handling this data. After evaluating the analytical results, maps will be prepared to show three-dimensional distribution of the contaminants so as to better understand the nature and extent of the contamination. The summaries and maps will be presented in a data report later this year.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to Visit Yerington

Representatives from ATSDR's Atlanta headquarters will be in Yerington the week of the August 3 public meeting. Two availability sessions to meet the ATSDR team and let them hear your health concerns which might be related to the mine site will be held on: Tuesday, August 2, 2-8 p.m., Yerington Paiute Tribal Offices, 171 Campbell Lane and Thursday, August 4, 2-8 p.m., Lyon County Library, 20 Nevin Way in Yerington. For further information on ATSDR's visit, please contact: Libby Vianu, ATSDR, 75 Hawthorne St., Suite 100, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 947-4319, vianu.libby@epa.gov

Information Repository

Site reports and other information continue to be added to the site repository at the following location:

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



Hours:
 Mon, Wed, Fri—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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You may also provide the above information via e-mail to: rosen.vicki@epa.gov

Appendix

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT ANACONDA YERINGTON MINE • PUBLIC MEETING AUGUST 3 •

For Further Information

If you have questions or concerns about the Anaconda/Yerington Mine, please feel free to contact any of the following people:

U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Jim Sickles
Remedial Project Manager (SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3265
sickles.james@epa.gov

Vicki Rosen
Community Involvement Coordinator
(SFD-3)
(415) 972-3244
rosen.vicki@epa.gov

BLM
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

Craig Smith
Project Manager
(775) 861-6453
Craig_Smith@nv.blm.gov

You may also reach Jim or Vicki by leaving a message
on EPA's toll-free line: (800) 231-3075.
You will receive a return call as soon as possible.
EPA website: www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund

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75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
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ANACONDA / YERINGTON MINE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • FEBRUARY 2006

Yerington, Nevada

EPA To Conduct Removal Action to Address Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and Fugitive Dust

This month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin what is called a "Removal Action" at the Anaconda/Yerington Mine to rid the site of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and control dust. A Removal Action involves activities taken quickly to control hazardous conditions that could potentially cause "imminent and substantial" harm to human health and the environment. This Removal at the mine is part of the larger evaluation and cleanup that remains ongoing at the site. The lead project manager for the Removal will be an EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) who is based in Nevada.

Why We're Doing This Removal

EPA recognized that certain conditions at the mine site should and could be addressed quickly, thereby minimizing the potential for contaminants from the mine harming people and the environment. In October 2005, EPA personnel conducted a removal assessment to determine what issues should be dealt with in the short term. EPA determined that two activities should happen as soon as possible: ridding the site of PCBs (PCBs are very dangerous to human health); and controlling dust contaminated with mine waste from blowing off site. EPA asked the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) to undertake these actions, but they declined. Therefore, EPA will conduct the removal and seek reimbursement from ARC.

What Will Be Done

There are approximately 170 transformers, switches and containers at the site which potentially contain unacceptable levels of PCBs, many located in two storage buildings, others scattered across the property. Some are leaking and all are vulnerable to weather and vandalism. EPA will remove and prop-

erly dispose of all PCBs and related equipment that are not needed to operate site facilities.

Tailings piles and other areas contain heavy metals and radionuclides that can blow off site. Using the vat leach tailings material from the site, EPA will cap the part of the sulfides tailings area that was not already capped along with an area adjacent to it (approximately 100 acres total). Additional dust control will be put in place at the Acid Brine Evaporation Pond Area by applying a soil sealant to those areas with the potential to generate dust. EPA will also apply soil sealant to any other areas on the site that are determined to be contributing to fugitive dust emissions. Soil sealant is not a permanent remedy. However, it will reduce the dust for one to two years until a long-term solution is established for those areas.

Timing of Removal

The PCB removal action will begin later this month (February 2006) and take about three weeks to complete. The dust mitigation activities will most likely begin in early April and will take about two months to complete.

Appendix

OTHER SITE ACTIVITIES

Site Security

EPA has actively been working toward addressing a major community concern regarding the ability of trespassers to access the mine site. This past December, site team members and ARC reviewed the existing fencing along the entire site perimeter (14.2 miles). Following this assessment, EPA asked ARC to use the following factors to determine what needs to be done:

- Site fencing should provide the same level of security as a six-foot-high fence (combination of wire mesh and barbed wire).
- Consider proximity of hazardous materials to local residents and receptors.
- Consider barriers to access such as steep embankments or tailings piles.
- Take into account the condition of existing fencing which must meet site security goals.

Although EPA believes we are close to reaching an agreement with ARC as to how to accomplish the above goals, no final decision was made by the time this fact sheet went to press. We do, however, expect to have this issue settled satisfactorily within a very short period of time.

Air Monitoring

ARC has submitted the first three quarters of 2005 air monitoring data for review and it is currently being evaluated. Preliminary results do not show exceedances of national air quality standards for fugitive dust. However, we will continue to collect and evaluate air data. A full year's worth of sampling is needed to adequately assess this. We expect to have the full evaluation available later this summer.

Additional Technical Evaluations

EPA is continuing technical evaluations at the site in the following areas:

- Soil and groundwater contamination at the Process Areas—This evaluation will be supplemented by a work plan to determine background levels in soil; the preparation of this work plan is currently underway.

- Radiological data—Assessing all the information we have and determining what else needs to be done to better understand the nature, extent and potential risk.
- Site-wide hydrogeologic framework assessment—Involves drilling and sampling at 15 locations on and off site, both north and south of the mine, installing monitoring wells and monitoring the groundwater. The results of this study will help us determine whether contamination from under the mine is migrating off site and whether the uranium seen in wells north of the mine is related or naturally occurring. The first report from this study is expected by mid-year.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Community meeting to discuss public health consultation for Anaconda/Yerington Mine

Wednesday,
February 22, 2006
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Yerington Paiute Tribe Gymnasium

171 Campbell Lane
Yerington

For more information, contact:

Libby Vianu

ATSDR Regional Representative

(415) 947-4319

libby.vianu@epa.gov

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Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

Patrick Plumb
Environmental Engineer
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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.

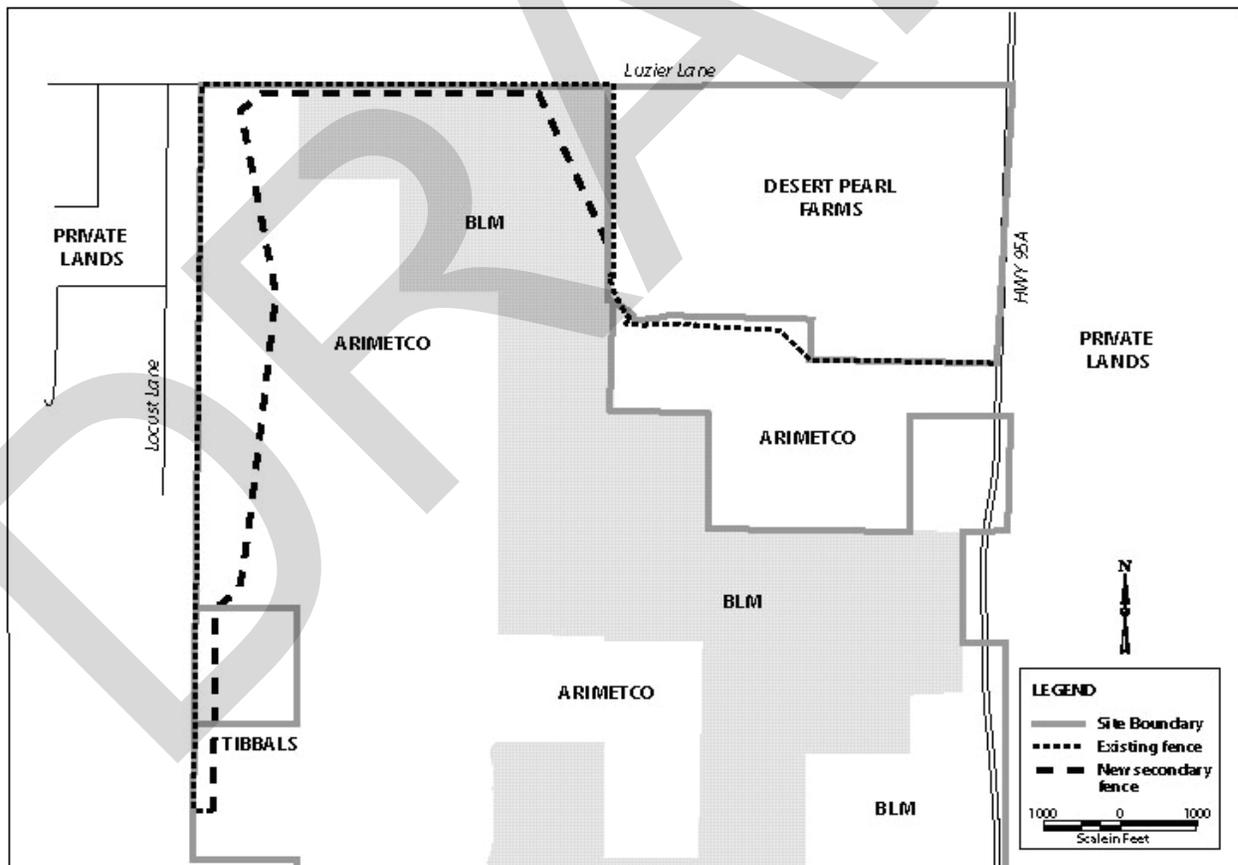
The second removal action to control dust began on April 5. EPA is utilizing both capping and soil sealant processes to address potentially hazardous dust sources. Beginning with the sulfide tailings, EPA is using gravel to cap this area. Following this (and as soon as the weather improves), the evaporation 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.

Appendix

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

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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Remedial Project Manager (SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3265

sickles.james@epa.gov

Vicki Rosen

Community Involvement Coordinator (SFD-3)
(415) 972-3244

rosen.vicki@epa.gov

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

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Bureau of Land Management

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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)

Appendix

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

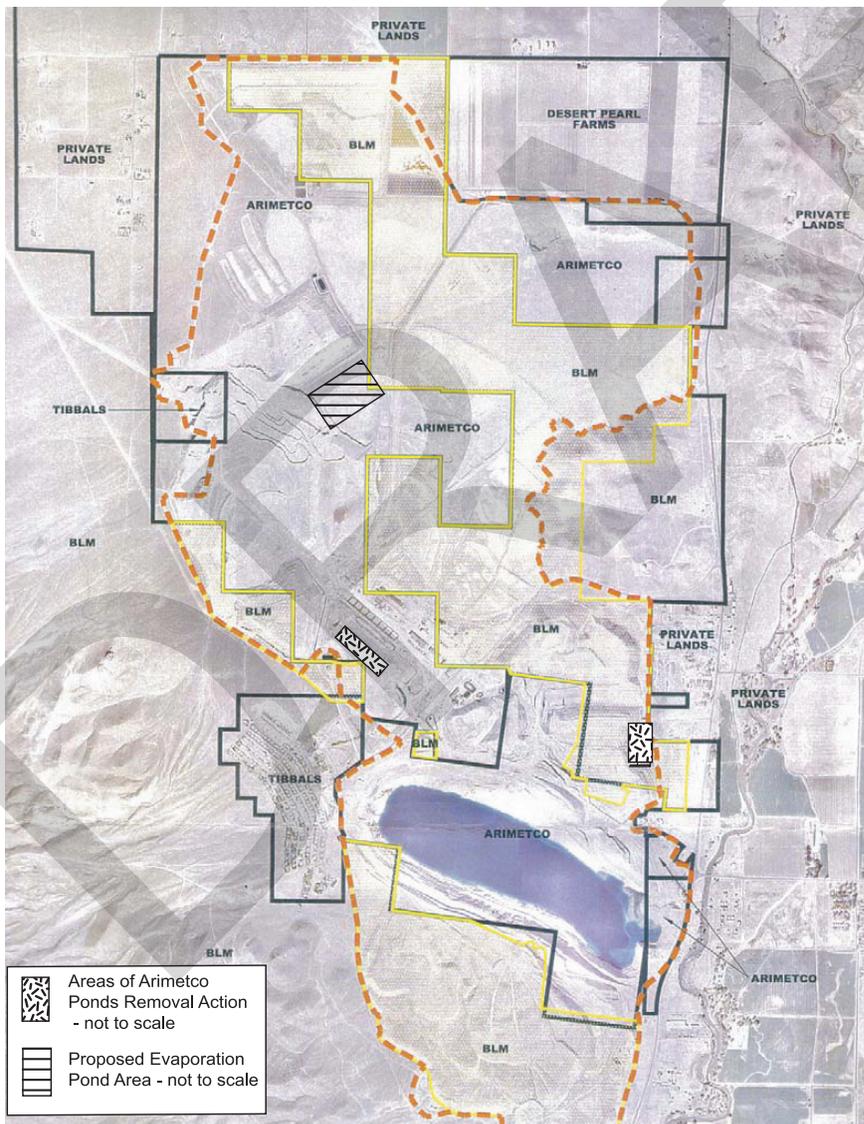
Air Monitoring

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.

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ANACONDA / YERINGTON MINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • October 2007

Yerington, Nevada

SITE UPDATE

There has been much activity at the Anaconda Mine site since our last fact sheet in September 2006. This newsletter will describe what has been going on and what we can expect in the near future. An evening community meeting will be scheduled for later this year...stay tuned.

Current Field Work and Sampling

Both Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been in the field taking samples. ARC's work has been in three areas: Second Step groundwater well installation, background soils sampling and ongoing groundwater and air monitoring. EPA has concentrated on two areas: sampling the Arimetco heap leach pads and ponds and assessing the Anaconda process areas for radiological constituents.

Groundwater

ARC's First Step groundwater investigation, conducted in late 2006, resulted in boreholes up to 240 feet deep and installation of monitoring wells at 15 locations around the mine site. The Second Step groundwater investigation was approved by EPA this past May. It calls for the installation of more than 50 wells at both existing and new locations (see photo of drill rig). The purpose of these monitoring wells is to help further evaluate the extent to which the groundwater



Typical drill rig

from the site may have impacted off-site areas. Field work began in May and will continue through the end of the year, with data available mid-2008.

Upcoming groundwater activities include a site-wide groundwater investigation and monitoring plan (including evaluation of pump-back system monitoring wells). ARC has submitted a work plan for this which includes additional well installation both on and off site.

Background Soils Sampling

Following approval of the work plan one year ago, ARC identified 74 off-site sample locations (south and west of the mine perimeter), each of which had samples taken at two depths—on the surface and three feet below ground surface (see photo of backhoe). Prior to sampling at these locations, archaeological screening was conducted to ensure that historically significant sites were not disturbed. Some locations were moved to protect sensitive areas. Field work has been completed, and data will be available at the end of this year. Results of the off-site sampling will be compared to what has been found in soils in the process area.



Backhoe digging trench

Appendix

Radiological Assessment—Process Areas

Past sampling of the Anaconda process areas found elevated levels of radiation. Though ARC proposed to remove contaminated soils from a limited area, EPA believed a larger radiological assessment and removal was necessary. In light of this, EPA conducted a radiological scan of the area from July 26 – August 8, 2007. The scan utilized several different methods including an ERG gamma scanner, a hand-held gamma scanner, a gamma spectrometer and soil sampling of hot spots (see photo of scanner). The initial screening revealed several scattered areas of surface radiological contamination at levels as high as those seen in earlier screening. However, the actual concentrations need to be determined by lab analyses. Results should be available later this year. EPA is currently taking deeper soil samples to determine if a removal action is warranted.



Hand-held gamma scanner

Arimetco Heap Leach Ponds and Pads

A great deal of work occurred on some Arimetco heap leach ponds this past year because of the poor shape they were in and the possibility that they would leak and spread contamination (see aerial photo next page). This included replacing one pond, constructing a new one and building a French drain for the large Mega-pond in 2006. During the high wind events this past May and June, the liner for the Bathtub Pond tore causing an ongoing release of heap leach fluids. EPA will close this pond this fall by constructing a trench similar to what we built for the Mega-pond, remove sediments and the liner, and regrade the pond. Additional sampling of other ponds was completed in August which will then lead to figuring out a strategy for closing them.

In a separate effort, EPA's contractors are collecting soil samples from borings and surface surveys of the tops of the heap leach pads. Samples of the acidic fluids draining from

the pads is also being collected to allow EPA to better understand the contamination in the pads and how to best close them. This is all part of the Remedial Investigation of the Arimetco facilities and will help determine options for containing and/or cleaning up contaminated areas on this section of the mine site.

Site-Wide Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

The mine site has been divided into eight Operable Units (OUs) based on location, type of contamination and other attributes. The RI/FS for each OU will outline how each area is investigated and what is determined from that investigation, followed by options for controlling and/or cleaning up each area. ARC is responsible for implementing the RI/FS for seven OUs, and EPA has the lead on OU8 (Arimetco facilities). ARC and EPA have been working together on a schedule for each work plan based on urgency and length of time to implement. The work plans for each OU must be carefully planned and integrated in order to be effective overall. Presently, the status for the work plans is as follows:

- Health & Safety Plan, Data Management Plan, Air Quality Monitoring Work Plan, and Background Soils Work Plan — completed and currently being implemented
- Site-wide Groundwater (OU1) RI Work Plan — currently under review
- Site-wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan — currently under review
- RI Work Plan for Process Areas (OU3) — currently under review
- Revised Site-wide Quality Assurance Plan — currently under review
- Revised Conceptual Site Model — currently under review
- Pit Lake RI (OU2) Work Plan — due December 2007

Possible Purchase of Mine Areas and Facilities

Two companies have expressed interest in purchasing various portions and/or equipment from the Anaconda Mine site. Quaterra Resources has been given an option to purchase the site including mineral and water rights, private land, Arimetco holdings (except the Solution Extraction (SX)/Electrowinning (EW) plant equipment and documents). The company will have six months from the date of purchase,

along with a possible four-month extension, to work out environmental requirements through an agreement with EPA. The process is still in the technical evaluation phase, and no decision has been made at this point. If a purchase offer is made, EPA would be involved in the process to ensure all environmental issues are handled properly.

Western Utah Copper Company (WUCC) has purchased the Arimetco SX/EW plant and plans to move parts of it to their operations in Utah. They had a year after the purchase was finalized to move the equipment. However, EPA was recently told of financing issues, and WUCC has asked to extend the original purchase timeframe to work things out. It is looking like the extension may be granted and the removal may take place later this year.

Trespassing on Mine Site

There have been several instances of people trespassing on the site and stealing mine property. As work increases on the site, this type of behavior becomes more serious as well as dangerous due to physical conditions on site. Although no one has yet been apprehended by law officials, ARC is prepared to press charges against any individual caught in this type of action.

Information Repository

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

Lyon Country Library

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

Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri - 9 am to 6 pm
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Hours:

Mon through Fri - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

EPA website: www.epa.gov/region09/anaconda



Arimetco heap leach pads and ponds

Appendix

Anaconda / Yerington Mine Site Update

For More Information

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

Jim Sickles
Remedial Project Manager
(SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3265
sickles.james@epa.gov

Nadia Hollan Burke
Remedial Project Manager
(SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3187
hollan.nadia@epa.gov



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

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ANACONDA / YERINGTON MINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • January 2009

Yerington, Nevada

Technical Assistance Plan for the Anaconda Mine Site

The Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) for the Anaconda Mine site makes \$50,000 in funding available to an eligible community group for the services of a technical advisor. The purpose of hiring such an advisor is to help the group better understand site documents and then share the knowledge gained with the community-at-large. Funding for the TAP comes from the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) as part of a legal agreement with EPA. This funding mechanism is one of the main differences between a TAP and a federal Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). However, most requirements and restrictions for TAGs also apply to TAPs.

Who is eligible for the TAP?

- Community group affected by the site and representative of affected community
- Group able to share information with broader community

Who is *not* eligible for the TAP?

- Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) for the site, represents PRP or receives money from PRP
- Affiliate of national organization
- Academic institution
- Political subdivision
- Tribal government
- Group established or sustained by entities listed above or have members who represent entities listed above

On what may TAP money be spent?

- Services of independent technical advisor to help interpret and comment on site-related documents
- Disseminating site information to community-at-large

On what may TAP money *not* be spent?

- Developing new information
- Activities related to lawsuits, other legal actions or attorney fees
- Group members' travel, tuition, training
- Political activity, lobbying
- Group activities such as parties, celebrations
- Reopening or challenging final EPA decisions
- Epidemiological or health studies

What's the process for applying for and awarding TAP funding?

- Interested group sends Letter of Intent to EPA
- EPA publishes notice in local newspaper stating group's interest, notifying other interested groups to form coalition or submit their own LOI within 30 days
- Group(s) submit TAP application(s) for EPA evaluation and award decision

Community Meeting

**Thursday, January 22, 2009
7:00 pm**

Yerington Elementary School
112 N. California St.

Please come and get an update on what has been happening at the mine site and what is in the works for the future. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and have a dialogue on any site-related issues. You'll also hear about the Technical Assistance Plan that makes funding available to an eligible community group to hire a technical advisor. We look forward to seeing you on the 22nd.

What if no group applies for the TAP funding?

- Funds remain available with no expiration date

How can I get more information on the TAP?

- Technical Assistance Grants Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/index.htm>
- EPA website under "Legal Documents": www.epa.gov/region09/anaconda
- Lyon County Library (see Anaconda or Yerington Mine site documents)
- Contact Vicki Rosen, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator: (415) 972-3244 or rosen.vicki@epa.gov

Appendix

Community Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2009

7:00 pm

Yerington Elementary School

112 N. California St.



For More Information

If you have questions about the above information or any Anaconda Mine activities, please contact:

Nadia Hollan Burke

Remedial Project Manager (SFD 8-2)

(415) 972-3187

hollan.nadia@epa.gov

Vicki Rosen

Community Involvement Coordinator (SFD-6-3)

(415) 972-3244

rosen.vicki@epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • March 2009

Yerington, Nevada

Groundwater Monitoring to Expand

This fact sheet is being sent to the Yerington community to explain the groundwater monitoring program that is being expanded adjacent to the Anaconda Mine site. Field activities, which will begin this month, are expected to lead to an increased understanding of the relationship between contaminants on the site and the groundwater which moves from the site northward. These activities have been agreed upon by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the Yerington Paiute Tribe and the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC). ARC will conduct the sampling activities under EPA oversight.

Field Investigations Planned

Two objectives have been established for the upcoming groundwater monitoring:

1. Fill in the “data gaps” that exist in our understanding of the shallow groundwater north of the site where no groundwater samples have been collected. By expanding the sampling locations, we will better understand what is happening to groundwater as it leaves the mine site and whether that water contains site-related contaminants.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the “pumpback system.” This system has been operating since the 1980s and extracts groundwater at the northern end of the site. The goal of the system is to help keep contaminated groundwater from moving off site.

In order to accomplish the first objective we are asking for the cooperation of residents whose property is strategically located over the groundwater flow path. ARC and their contractors would like to take groundwater samples from below these properties by using a large truck called a “drill rig.” This drill rig utilizes “direct push” technology to drill boreholes. **No off-site permanent wells will be installed**

at this time. This testing will take less than one day per drilling location, with approximately 70 off-site wells drilled. EPA will work directly with property owners to ensure any concerns about this work are addressed.

Under NDEP oversight, the on-site pumpback system was designed as an interim action. EPA is trying to determine what measures may need to be taken for the long term. In order to see whether the pumpback system is preventing groundwater flow off site and contaminant migration to the north, the system must be turned off. By turning it off and thereby allowing the groundwater to flow naturally, we will be able to better evaluate this issue. Additional permanent monitoring wells will be installed as part of this study but they will all be located on site. While the system is off, water and contaminant levels will be measured in these new monitoring wells. Each pumpback well will be started up separately to determine its “zone of influence” (area of groundwater it captures). This study will take place beginning this month and continue over the next year. Because groundwater moves very slowly in this area, turning off the system for a year is not expected to present either a short or long-term risk to drinking water wells. However, if monitoring indicates the need, we can turn the system back on.

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Anaconda/Yerington Mine Site

Importance of Local Groundwater and Potential Threats

Groundwater in the Yerington area is used for drinking water, agriculture and livestock. What we have seen during the time we have been monitoring the water moving northward from the mine site is a periodic increase in the levels of uranium and arsenic above federal safe drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels or MCLs) in certain wells. However, over the past two years no clear trends have been noted, with the levels of contaminants fluctuating both up and down (see Figure 1). By adding more monitoring wells we will be able to better evaluate the movement of water and contaminants. Since both uranium and arsenic occur naturally in the bedrock and alluvium (silty or sandy water-bearing unit under ground), it is important to know whether these constituents were concentrated and mobilized by mining operations.

As part of the existing monitoring program, ARC has been sampling domestic drinking water wells on a yearly basis to check for elevated levels of uranium and arsenic. All households with levels of uranium that have ever been above 25 ppb are eligible to receive bottled water. If you live north of the site and have not had your drinking water well tested and would like to, please contact us and we will pass your request on to ARC (see contact information at the end of this fact sheet).

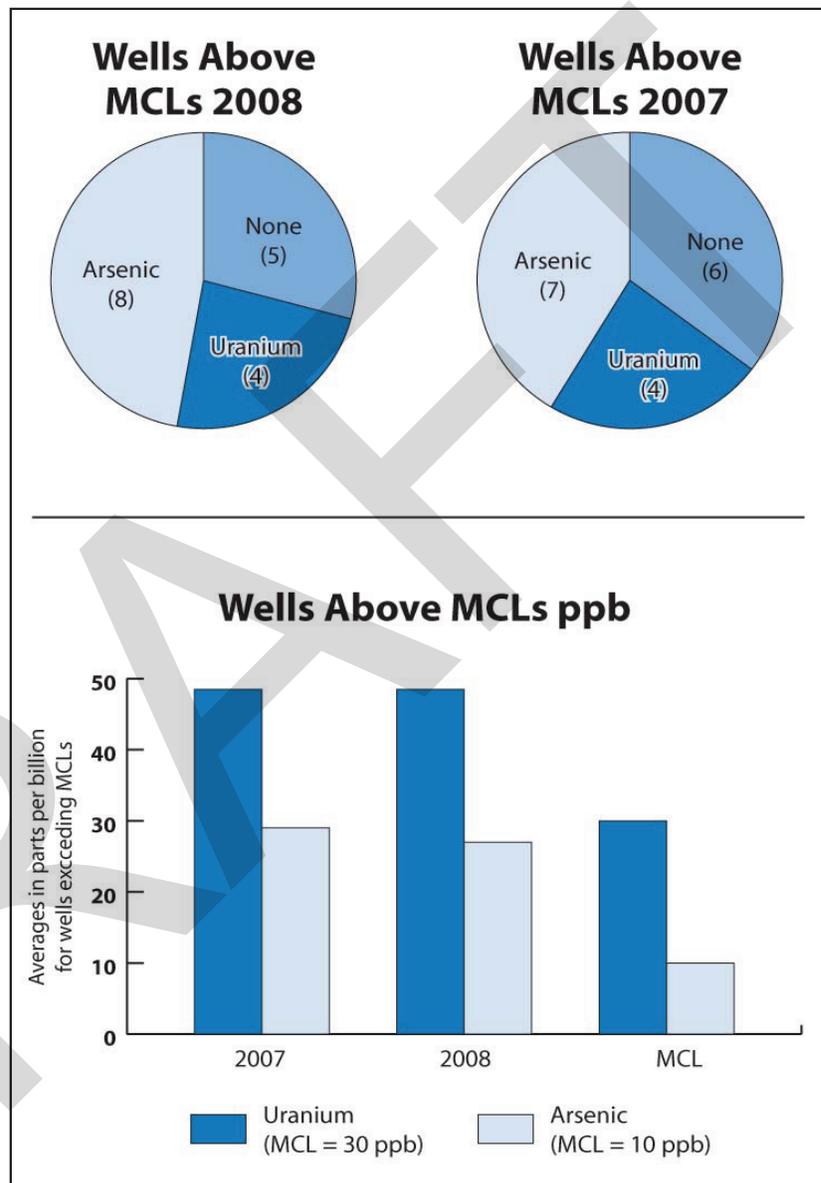


Figure 1: Arsenic and uranium levels in off-site wells

March 2009

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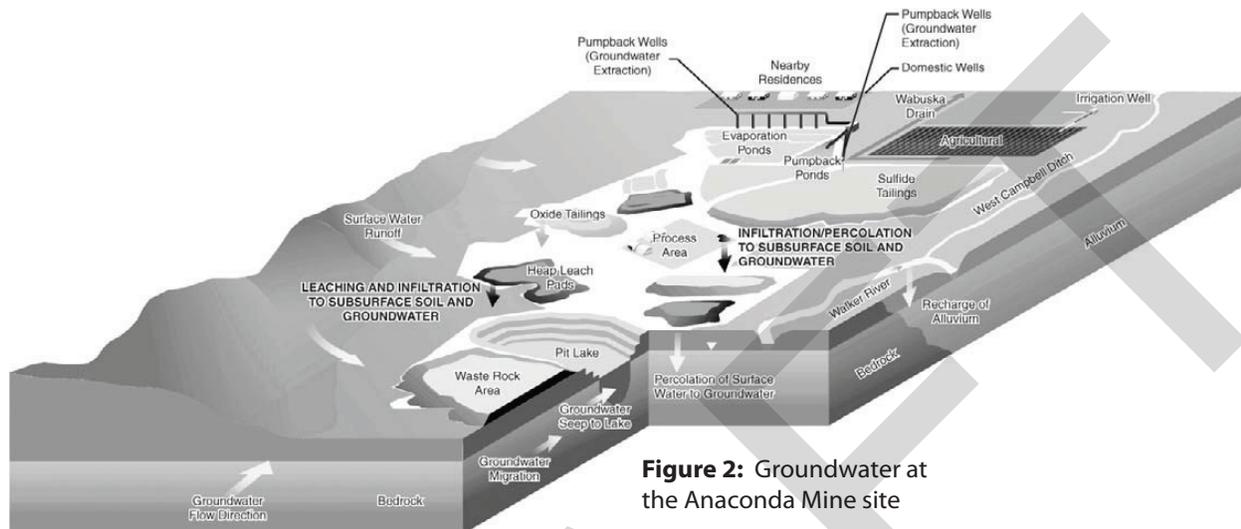


Figure 2: Groundwater at the Anaconda Mine site

A Little More About Groundwater

All groundwater, whether used for drinking water or other purposes, is considered a valuable resource. Getting the data needed to evaluate the appropriate cleanup objectives and prevent the movement of mine contaminants to areas off site is one of our main objectives at the Anaconda Mine.

In this area of the Mason Valley, groundwater comes from the Walker River watershed and occurs naturally in bedrock and alluvium (see Figure 2). The bedrock can be seen close to the ground surface in the former pit area on the mine site (now the pit lake) and in surrounding mountain

ranges. The alluvium fills the valley to the north of the pit and consists of weathered material eroded from mountains and deposited by the Walker River. In the area immediately adjacent to the pit lake, groundwater flows towards the pit. In other areas of the site, groundwater flows in a northerly direction.

The Yerington community has expressed interest in getting detailed information on the groundwater conditions at the mine site. We hope this fact sheet has been informative, and we will also be planning a community meeting within the next few months to discuss groundwater more in depth. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about groundwater or any site-related issues.

For More Information

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

Dave Seter (groundwater)
Remedial Project Manager (SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3250
seter.david@epa.gov

Nadia Hollan Burke (overall site lead)
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(415) 972-3244
rosen.vicki@epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

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



Appendix

Anaconda / Yerington Mine

Groundwater Monitoring to Expand

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Yerington, Nevada

Upcoming Removal Actions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed this fact sheet to explain upcoming removal actions at the Anaconda Yerington Mine site. During the removal work, other site activities (such as monitoring domestic wells and remedial investigation work) will continue. Information on these other activities will be presented soon, including at an evening community meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2009, 7-9 pm, at the Yerington Elementary School, 112 N. California Street.

What is a Removal Action?

A “removal action” addresses a specific environmental and/or health concern in a streamlined manner. A removal is not a final solution to a problem, but an expedient way to prevent a toxin or hazard from spreading or causing harm in the short term. Our intention is for the upcoming removal actions to contribute to the performance of long-term remedial actions.

Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)

The planned removal actions are required under an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) between EPA and the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC). ARC is responsible for four removal actions: 1) Capping of Four Inactive Evaporation Ponds, 2) Process Area Characterization and Radiological Materials Removal, 3) Transite Pipe Removal and 4) Electrical Threats Removal (see figure on page 2). The agreement also requires ARC to maintain the Arimetco Fluids Management System. These removal actions will be conducted by ARC at an estimated cost of \$8 million. In addition, ARC has reimbursed EPA \$2.2 million for costs of overseeing ARC’s work in the past. ARC has agreed to pay future EPA oversight costs for the work under the AOC. The removal actions are anticipated to be completed over the next two years. In coordination with ARC, EPA will also conduct limited removals of a tire pile and a building that contains asbestos.

Implementing the AOC requires a partnership between the responsible party (ARC) and the regulatory agencies (EPA, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of

Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service), and is a culmination of negotiations that took place over approximately one year. EPA works with all potentially affected parties in the planning process. To this end, we will continue to work closely with the Yerington Paiute Tribe, the Walker River Paiute Tribe and community stakeholders towards sound technical decisions and good results.

Removal Actions

Capping of Four Inactive Evaporation Ponds (lined, unlined, thumb and a portion of the sulfide tailings)

The inactive evaporation ponds will be capped with on-site vat leach tailings (VLT) to: 1) mitigate potential threats to wildlife (so that wildlife will not come into contact with acidic water in the ponds that have elevated metal concentrations) and 2) control fugitive dust. This action is not intended as a groundwater cleanup. It will take several years to investigate and develop a permanent solution to protect groundwater.

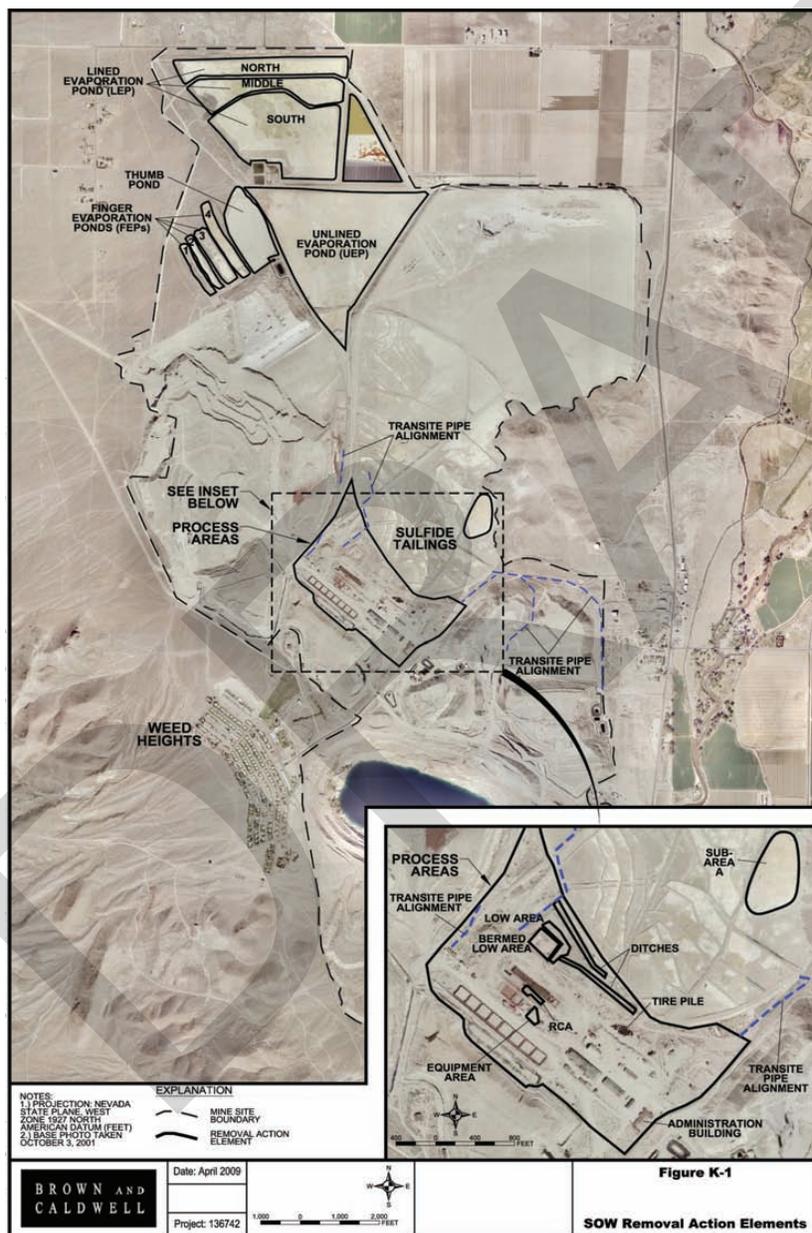
Approximately 250 acres of evaporation ponds will be capped using more than one million cubic yards of VLT material at an average 18–inch thickness. The VLT material consists of naturally occurring rock which, in the past, was subjected to an aggressive leaching process to remove metals for recovery in previous mine related operations and then washed three times. VLT has been selected due to its low potential for impact to groundwater, favorable grain size for dust suppression and high soil moisture storage. Test results of the VLT material demonstrate that radiation levels are similar to background (unimpacted areas). The VLT material is on site and close to the pond areas and is a cost-effective solution to mitigate

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Anaconda/Yerington Mine Site

the immediate concerns associated with the evaporation ponds. EPA is reviewing a Draft Removal Action Data Characterization Summary Report, submitted by ARC on June 12, 2009. After the Removal Action Work Plan is approved, ARC will submit an Implementation Work Plan for approval prior to fieldwork. The fieldwork is expected to begin in early 2010. EPA and ARC have received comments from the community and tribes on the evaporation ponds removal action, which we are taking into account.



Process Area Radiological Characterization and Removal

The planned removal action will reduce potential exposure to on-site workers from radiological contamination that exceeds standards for industrial safety. Once this removal action is completed, the Radioactive Hazard signage can be removed from the site perimeter and moved, if necessary, to internal areas of the site. ARC will conduct additional characterization of the area prior to finalizing a removal action work plan. Details for the planned characterization are provided in the Draft Process Areas MARSSIM (Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual) Characterization Work Plan, submitted June 17, 2009 and currently under EPA review.

Transite Pipe Removal

Approximately 20,420 feet of above ground asbestos-containing pipe runs across the site. The purpose of the removal is to prevent possible asbestos inhalation risk to workers if they inadvertently damage the pipes and potentially create a release of asbestos. This pipe will be removed and placed in an on-site repository, or landfill, to be constructed near the current landfill that holds construction debris. Details of this work are proposed in the Transite Pipe Removal Action Work Plan, dated August 19, 2009 and currently under review by EPA. There have been concerns raised by the community that pipe scale buildup is a radiological threat. EPA is requiring additional sampling of the transite pipe to ensure that the disposal is adequate to address any radiological materials in the pipe scale.

Electrical Threats

Because of concern for on-site workers from the risk degraded electrical system can pose to cleanup operations at the site, the old, inactive electrical systems will be de-energized. Exceptions will be for portions of the existing system that

September 2009

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are currently being used for site operations or may be used in the future. EPA is reviewing ARC's Potential Electrical Hazards Removal Action Work Plan, dated July 24, 2009.

Fluids Management System Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

This ongoing activity associated with the Arimetco Heap Leach System includes ponds, perimeter ditches, pipes, pumps, etc. On behalf of EPA, ARC had been conducting O&M through an earlier agreement. Now, ARC's responsibilities for this area have been expanded to include assisting EPA with any emergency measures that might be needed to control fluids – maintaining system components so they do not deteriorate, making routine repairs, monitoring various aspects of the ponds including levels, inflow rates and pumping rates as well as sampling the ponds twice a year. ARC must also maintain a bird deterrent system to keep birds from landing on standing water that may potentially be harmful to wildlife and will continue to monitor wildlife per agreements between EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An updated O&M Manual was submitted to EPA by ARC on June 9, 2009 and is currently under review.

EPA-Lead Removal Actions

Asbestos-Containing Material in Mine Office Building

The Mine Office Building contains asbestos material and is on the perimeter of the site, posing potential inhalation exposure to site visitors or trespassers as the building deteriorates. EPA will demolish the building and, as with the transite pipe, dispose of the building material in a new disposal cell. EPA will prepare plans for this work after ARC has defined their plans for disposal of the transite pipe.

Tire Pile

A tire pile is located on site within the former Anaconda process area. Since the tire pile could pose a threat of fire, the tires will be removed. Disposal options (on site or off site) and recycling options are being evaluated.

Other Activities Ongoing at the Site

Although this fact sheet concentrates on the removal actions occurring or planned, other site activities are ongoing. Please note that EPA will hold a **groundwater-specific community meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2009, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, at the Yerington Elementary School, 112 N. California Street.**

Ongoing site activities include:

- Finalizing the Sitewide Conceptual Site Model
- Finalizing the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary Report
- Finalizing plans for the Human Health Risk Assessment for the Inhalation Pathway
- Planning the Process Areas (OU3) Remedial Investigation approach
- Continuing Arimetco investigations, including installation of groundwater monitoring wells
- Continuing the monitoring and evaluation of the groundwater pumpback system and shallow groundwater investigation studies
- Evaluating the current domestic well sampling and drinking water supply program

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Anaconda Yerington Mine site, please contact any of the staff below:

Nadia Hollan Burke (overall site lead)
Remedial Project Manager (SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3187
hollan.nadia@epa.gov

Dave Seter (groundwater and Arimetco)
Remedial Project Manager (SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3250
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Anaconda / Yerington Mine

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ANACONDA / YERINGTON MINE

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Yerington, Nevada

Groundwater Investigation Results and Next Steps

This fact sheet presents the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) current information about groundwater contamination at the Anaconda Yerington Mine Site. It also describes the EPA's next steps in the groundwater investigation.

We have concluded that uranium contamination from the Anaconda Mine site has migrated off-site north of the boundary, although it is not yet clear how far. It is less certain whether contaminants other than uranium (arsenic, for example) have moved off-site. Studies are underway to further define the extent of groundwater contamination. These studies are necessary to clean up or otherwise address this off-site impact.

In the interim, EPA continues to implement the bottled water program to reduce the impact to domestic well owners. EPA may consider further interim actions in the future.

Next Phase of Field Work Begins in April

Key areas for further groundwater investigation in 2010 include areas west of the mine near Locust Drive, and areas to the north of Luzier Lane, including wells as far as two miles north of the site boundary. Well drilling began the week of April 5. Approximately 40 locations have been chosen. At most locations, wells will be drilled in shallow, intermediate, and deep groundwater zones (see "Subsurface Structure" section for explanation of the zones). This will provide over 100 additional groundwater data points. Locations were selected based on technical input from EPA and stakeholder experts as part of a public process.

Subsurface Structure

Knowledge of the subsurface is important for understanding the groundwater contamination, as well as the next groundwater investigation steps. Groundwater in the subsurface occurs in layers called "aquifers". Aquifers are underground layers of materials that hold water similarly to a sponge. These layers may be made of rock (these aquifers are known as bedrock aquifers) or unconsolidated material such as gravel, sand, silt, or clay (these aquifers are known as alluvial aquifers). Water moves within and between these layers at varying speeds and directions, depending on the materials that make them up. Both types of aquifers, bedrock and alluvial, occur in the Mason Valley, where the site is located.

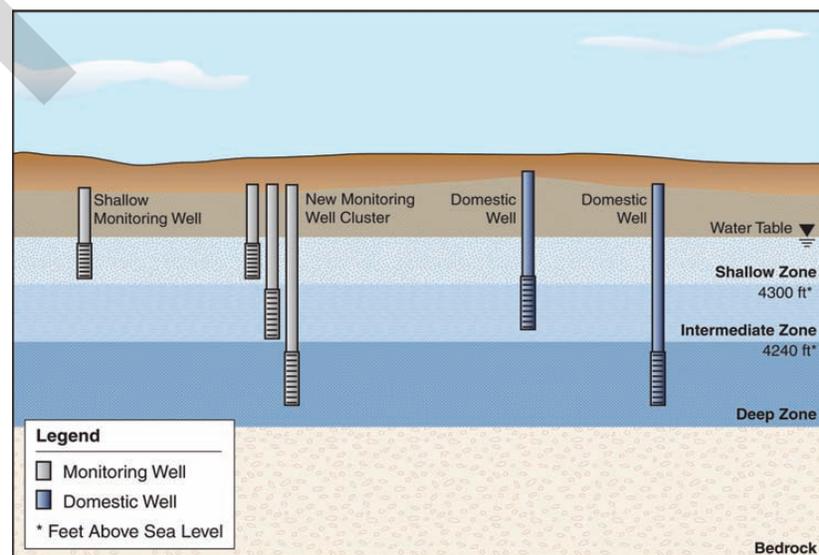


Figure 1: Wells placed throughout the aquifer

Appendix

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Anaconda/Yerington Mine Site

Groundwater is extracted from aquifers using water wells. To the north of the site, the overwhelming majority of water wells draw water only from the alluvial aquifer. Therefore, the alluvial aquifer has been the focus of studies to date. The bedrock aquifer will be the subject of future investigations.

Groundwater north of the mine is generally found starting at 15–25 feet below the ground surface. The upper groundwater boundary is called the “water table”. The alluvial aquifer is roughly divided into three zones: shallow, intermediate, and deep (see Figure 1). The shallow zone extends to 20–30 feet below the water table, meaning 35–55 feet below the ground surface. The intermediate zone represents the next 60 feet of the aquifer. The deep zone extends between the intermediate zone and bedrock, which begins at varying depths. These three zones were once thought to be separated from one another by clay layers, but we now believe that they are connected to one another. Domestic wells generally draw water from the intermediate or deep alluvial zone.

What We Know About the Extent of Groundwater Contamination

Groundwater investigation results collected in 2009 and presented at the September 2009 public meeting were based on shallow zone data collected in 2009. These data clearly show a plume of uranium extending to the north of the mine, beyond the mine boundary, indicating that the contamination has migrated off-site (see Figure 2 at right). Further study is necessary to determine the extent to which this plume continues into the intermediate and deep zones.

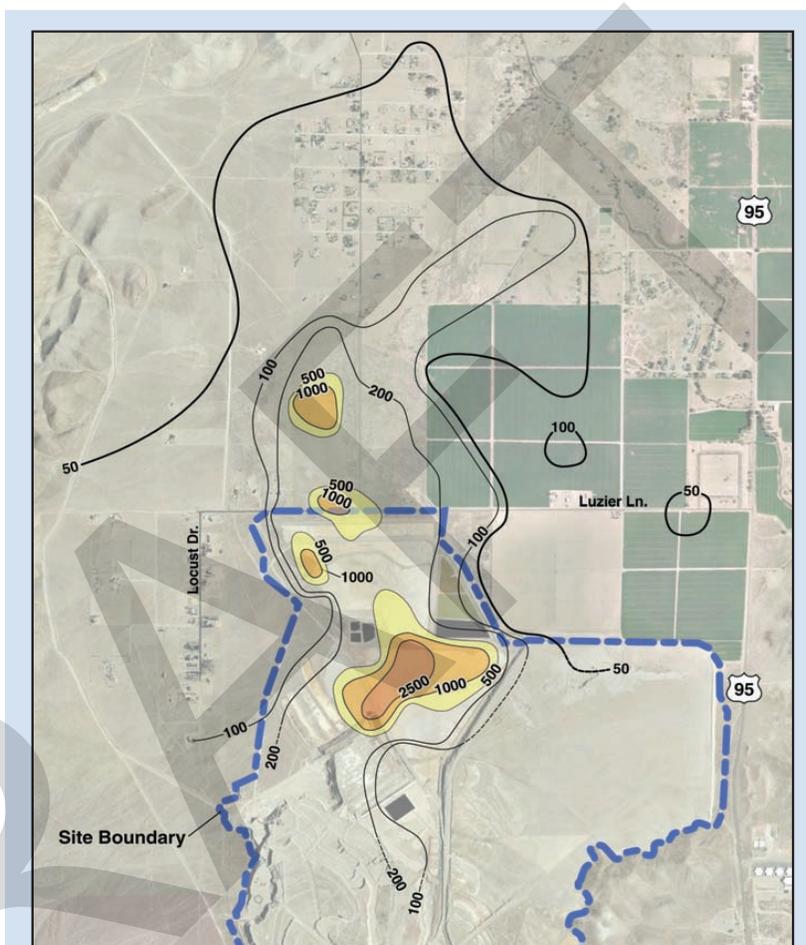


Figure 2: Contamination plume at the Anaconda Yerington Mine Site

A plume is a mixture of a chemical and groundwater created by a contaminant source. EPA suspects the plume at the site was caused by leakage or disposal of fluids onto the land surface during historical mining operations.

Each black line on the map (called a “contour line”) connects points in the shallow aquifer at which concentrations of uranium are approximately equal, indicated by the number associated with the line. For example, the contour line with “100” next to it indicates that uranium concentrations in the shallow zone along the line are approximately 100 parts uranium per billion parts total liquid solution.

This map only shows Uranium because it is the chemical that is most readily traced to mining operations at this site. The values shown on each line of the plume map represent total uranium, which includes both uranium from a contaminant source and uranium that occurs naturally in local groundwater.

Since more monitoring wells are being installed in 2010, there will be more data points to use to draw the map. This means that some areas of the map will change as a result of the new data.

April 2010

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Water supplied to residents by the City of Yerington Water System is not impacted by the mine site. City water is regularly tested and complies with federal drinking water requirements. Information on the City of Yerington Water System is available at www.yerington.net.



How far off-site has the uranium contamination moved?

EPA has concluded that contamination from the mine has moved off-site. Our investigation found shallow zone uranium concentrations above the federal drinking water standard as far as two miles north of the site. Data obtained within one mile from the mine property boundary suggest that a hot spot of uranium (concentrations significantly higher than expected to occur naturally) exists in that area.

However, it is possible that some, though not all, of the uranium detected north of the site may occur naturally or come from sources other than the mine. In order to determine what cleanup actions may be necessary, it will be helpful to determine the level of naturally occurring, or “background”, uranium in groundwater.

Background uranium concentrations likely differ throughout the site. This variation depends on soil and rock type, which vary in this part of the Mason Valley, and on the depth of the groundwater being tested. EPA will look to conduct a science-based background level study as part of the next site investigation steps.

What about arsenic?

While EPA has been able to trace some uranium contamination that occurs north of the site back to the mine, it is much more difficult to do so for the elevated concentrations of arsenic.

Arsenic, like uranium, occurs naturally in varying concentrations throughout the area. EPA will look to study background arsenic concentrations as part of the next site investigation steps. Determining the naturally occurring levels of arsenic in groundwater will help measure the amount of arsenic coming from the mine or other sources.

How fast does the contamination spread?

Contaminants move along with groundwater, but usually more slowly due to physical and chemical interactions with underground materials. Groundwater travels locally at up to 100 feet per year. Rates of groundwater movement may have

been higher in the past, which makes it difficult to use current groundwater speed to estimate how far the contamination may have moved in the last few decades.

Next Steps

During the next phase of work, we expect to make significant progress in defining the extent of the contamination plume and determining how much of it derives from the mine site. This work is slated to begin in April 2010 (see text box on page 1 for more details).

EPA is planning a groundwater summit meeting in 2010 to focus its future investigations. Those investigations will include further work on determining background levels of uranium and arsenic in groundwater.

EPA is also expanding the Domestic Well Monitoring Program, which provides sampling of domestic wells located north and west of the mine. The intent of the program is to address immediate threats to human health until we determine the full extent of groundwater contamination.

With EPA oversight and domestic well owner consent, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) takes samples from those wells and analyzes the samples for uranium and other constituents. ARC is now sampling a greater number of domestic wells more frequently and checking the samples for an expanded list of contaminants. The resulting data can help determine the impact of mine-related contaminants on domestic wells. Furthermore, the expanded program will help determine if ARC needs to provide more residents with bottled water.

ARC sampled over 130 wells in March 2010 as part of the expanded program, while most recent prior sampling events included less than 30 domestic wells. EPA expects results to be available by June 2010.

Why is so Much Data Needed to Characterize the Plume?

The situation at the site is very complex. The mine operated for approximately 25 years, producing contamination. Mining operations have been shut down for the past approximately 30 years. This made for a total of 55 years for natural processes (rainfall and natural groundwater movement) to spread the contaminants around, resulting in complex contamination patterns that require extensive investigation to define. In addition, background concentrations and the possibility of other sources of uranium and arsenic make it more difficult to define how much of the contamination comes from the mine. EPA is working to gain a thorough understanding of the site in order to develop an effective long-term remedy.

Appendix

Anaconda / Yerington Mine

Groundwater Investigation Results and Next Steps

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Anaconda Yerington Mine site, please contact any of the staff below:

Dave Seter

Remedial Project Manager
(SFD-8-2)
(415) 972-3250
seter.david@epa.gov

Svetlana Zenkin

Community Involvement
Coordinator (SFD-6-3)
(415) 972-3244
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EPA website:

www.epa.gov/region09/anaconda

**U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency**

75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

EPA toll-free number

(leave a message and your
call will be returned):
(800) 231-3075



Information Repository

Site reports and other information on the Anaconda Yerington Mine 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 7 pm
Saturday – 9 am to 4 pm

EPA Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne St. (4th floor)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 535-2000

Hours: Mon through Fri – 8 am to 5 pm

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Svetlana Zenkin (Anaconda 4/10)

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Anaconda / Yerington Mine

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Yerington, Nevada

EPA Draft Community Involvement Plan Available for Public Comment

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to a community meeting to discuss the status of cleanup work for the Anaconda Mine in Yerington, Nevada. The meeting will be held on April 21, 2011 at the Yerington Elementary School, 112 N. California Street, Yerington, 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

During the meeting, EPA will be accepting comments on the draft Community Involvement Plan that organizes the public participation effort for the site. The 60-day public comment period is from **March 28 – May 27**. Please see Page 5 for information on how to provide comments.

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

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

Community Meeting

April 21, 2011
7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m

Yerington Elementary School,
112 N. California Street



Cleanup Activities Under EPA's Removal Program

In December 2010, under an Administrative Order with EPA, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) completed three cleanup actions:

1. Removal of 6,097 tons of soil contaminated with radiological materials above EPA's industrial worker exposure limit
2. Removal of 27,000 feet of pipe contaminated with asbestos and radioactive materials
3. Capping of 26.5 acres of tailings to limit standing, acidic water to prevent wildlife deaths, and to minimize the migration of dust containing hazardous substances

The work was completed a month ahead of the original schedule. About one third of the work crew consisted of local labor hired through ARC's contractor.

The contaminated soil was transported via 274 truck loads to the U.S. Ecology facility in Grand View, Idaho, which is permitted to accept radiological waste. The majority of the transite pipe, which was only contaminated with asbestos, was safely landfilled on-site. Transite pipe additionally contaminated with radioactive material was also sent to the U.S. Ecology facility for proper disposal.

Appendix

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 the open pit, which resulted in liquid and solid wastes, such as tailings piles, evaporation ponds, leach vats, and waste rock piles. The Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) bought the Anaconda Mining Company, including the Site, in 1977, and consequentially is responsible for 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 about 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.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) conducted response actions to address immediate concerns after Arimetco abandoned the Site. EPA assumed regulatory control of the Site in 2004. EPA and ARC have conducted a number of removal actions at the Site. EPA, with the support of NDEP, continues to move forward with investigations to determine the extent of contamination and identify cleanup options for the Site.

A dust suppression plan was in place during the removal actions and work was halted at the site on two occasions when the wind speed exceeded 25 miles per hour. However, monitoring showed that levels of PM10 (used to measure particulate matter in the air) did not exceed stop-work levels either at the immediate work areas or at the site perimeter at any time during the cleanup activity.

The ARC cleanup actions are in addition to removal work performed last summer by EPA. The EPA actions included:

1. Removal of asbestos from the Anaconda Mine office and off-site disposal of the asbestos containing material
2. Demolition of the mine office and on-site landfilling of the demolition debris
3. Removal, radiological screening and off-site disposal of more than 300 large truck tires
4. Repair of the heap leach fluids management system
5. Performance of an evaporation pond pilot test
6. Removal of small containers of hazardous waste left on-site

Other EPA Site Activities

Arimetco OUS

EPA is preparing a response to comments submitted by stakeholders on the Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report for the Arimetco heap leach pads. EPA is also conducting an internal review of the Draft Arimetco Feasibility Study (FS) of options to close the heaps. The FS will be released to the public for comment once the internal review is complete.

Groundwater Monitoring

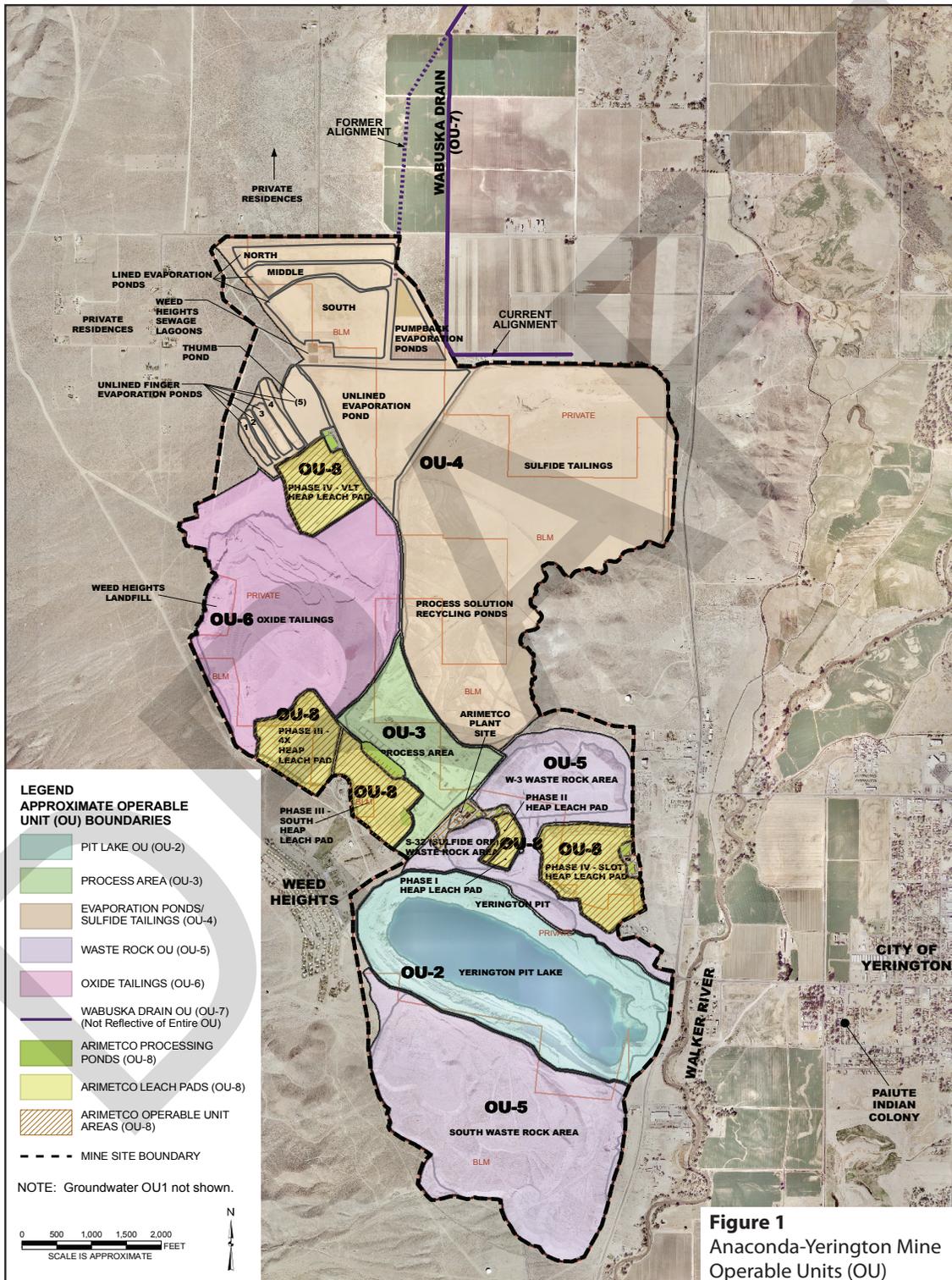
The investigation of the nature and extent of groundwater contamination is continuing. Atlantic Richfield Company recently completed the installation of 94 additional groundwater monitoring wells in the area north of the mine site. Sampling of these wells and previously-installed monitoring wells will provide an improved picture of what is happening with groundwater beneath and downgradient of the site.

Domestic Well Monitoring Program

EPA continues to oversee the Domestic Well Monitoring Program implemented by the Atlantic Richfield Company. Over 150 private wells located north of the site are sampled on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Private well users are provided with bottled water if the measured uranium concentration in their well equals or exceeds 25 micrograms per liter (the federal primary drinking water standard, or Maximum Contaminant Level, is 30 micrograms per liter). EPA will continue to monitor private wells as we advance our groundwater investigations to determine the extent of mine-related groundwater contamination.

March 2011

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Appendix

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Anaconda/Yerington Mine Site

Status of Proposed Superfund (NPL) Listing

Although EPA is completing the Feasibility Study to select a remedy for the Arimetco heap leach pads, the Agency is prohibited from spending money to implement the remedy unless the site is added to the Superfund National Priorities List. Over the past 10 years, EPA has worked with the State of Nevada to explore options to fund the cleanup of the Arimetco operation without Superfund listing. Unfortunately, no timely or reliable alternatives have materialized. EPA is continuing to move forward with the listing process to assure that the site is cleaned up and returned to productive use.

Next Steps**Groundwater Investigation (OU 1)**

A final workplan to complete the Remedial Investigation for Groundwater will be prepared during Summer 2011. The workplan will include groundwater components of all the Operable Units (OU) with the exception of OU3 (Mine Process Areas), which is integrated with the Mine Process Areas source investigation, and OU8 (Arimetco portion), which is being investigated separately by EPA.

Anaconda Mine and Mason Valley Agriculture

EPA has no evidence that contamination from the Anaconda Mine has affected any agricultural products in the Yerington Area. Crops grown and livestock raised in the vicinity of the mine should not be considered contaminated by virtue of their proximity to the site.

To be affected by contamination from the Anaconda Mine site, an agricultural product would have to come into contact with elevated levels of site contaminants. By their nature, pathways that may transport contaminants tend to be very localized and directional. Just being near the mine site is not a reason to assume or otherwise conclude an impact to the safety or quality of an agricultural product.

In 2007, EPA conducted tests of onions grown adjacent to the Anaconda site and irrigated from a supply well located just north of the site boundary. The onions were selected from random areas of the field and were not washed or trimmed prior to analysis. The onions were analyzed for uranium, a primary site contaminant. The results showed that the uranium levels in the onions were low, and below levels typically found naturally in onions from other areas of the United States. Accordingly, EPA concluded that the test results showed that the Anaconda mine did not elevate uranium levels in local onions.

**Mine Process Area (OU3)**

EPA will work with ARC to advance investigations in the former mine process area. Geophysical investigations to identify underground utilities and assess their condition will be completed this year. The information will help identify potential ongoing sources of contamination. A draft Remedial Investigation (RI) work plan will be released by EPA for public comment in the Spring. We intend to have the work plan finalized for ARC to implement in the Fall.

Evaporation Pond and Sulfide Tailings (OU4)

EPA will work with ARC to conduct a removal action and initiate the remedial investigation for OU4. The Cover Materials Characterization Data Summary Report will be available for public comment in March. EPA will use this information to choose an appropriate cover material for the lined and unlined evaporation ponds located at the northern portion of the site. A removal action to cover these two large ponds will be implemented later this year. A draft RI work plan will be released for public comment later this year. Dates for technical meetings to discuss the evaporation ponds removal action and the OU4 RI will be announced soon.

Wabuska Drain (OU7)

EPA will work with ARC to initiate the RI for the Wabuska Drain. This agricultural return-flow ditch is about 14 miles long, originates near the northern boundary of the mine, and terminates in the Walker River. Records indicate that mining process fluids from Anaconda operations entered the Wabuska Drain. A draft RI work plan will be released for public comment later this year. A date for a technical meeting to discuss the RI will be announced soon.

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Community Involvement Program

The purpose of EPA's Community Involvement program is to help the public become involved in the cleanup decision-making process. Our work is organized by a Community Involvement Plan (CIP). The CIP lists the community's issues and concerns about the site, then identifies the tools and techniques that EPA will use to provide information about the site and access to the cleanup process.

EPA's draft CIP is available for review and feedback during a 60-day public comment period from **March 28 – May 27**. Please send your input to David Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator (contact information on back page). EPA's next community meeting, April 21, 2011, falls within the draft CIP's public comment period. It is also possible to provide verbal or written comments at that time.

EPA has a number of ways for the public to learn about the site. We've placed site documents in our Information Repository at the Lyon Library and on EPA's web site (see information on right). EPA also has a number of staff that you can call with questions using their direct line or EPA's toll-free line (800-231-3075). Their direct lines are listed on the back page.

Information Repository

For site documents, please visit the Information Repository at:

Lyon County Library

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

Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri – 9:00am to 6:00pm
Tues, Thurs – 9:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday – 9:00am to 4:00pm

Please visit the Anaconda / Yerington Mine website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/anaconda>



Mailing List Coupon

If you are not already on EPA's mailing list for the Anaconda / Yerington Mine Site, please send an e-mail or return the coupon below to David Cooper (contact info on back).

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Affiliation (optional) _____

Appendix

Anaconda / Yerington Mine

EPA Draft Community Involvement Plan Available for Public Comment

— Public Meeting on April 21st —

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