



Lava Cap Mine Superfund Site

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

EPA Begins Water Pipeline Project

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to an open house where EPA will explain its upcoming pipeline construction work for the Lava Cap Mine Superfund site. The meeting will be held on June 21, 2012 at Esterly Hall, Nevada County Association of Realtors, 336 Crown Point Circle, Grass Valley, from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

During the open house, EPA will also update the community on the status of other site activities, including 1) the design of the adit water treatment plant, 2) the feasibility study for the Lost Lake area, and 3) the first five year review for the mine area.

Open House

June 21, 2012
6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m

Esterly Hall
Nevada County
Association of Realtors
336 Crown Point Circle
Grass Valley

At-A-Glance

What:

Construction activities at the Lava Cap Mine Superfund Site.

EPA will build an 8-inch diameter water supply pipeline to provide a reliable municipal drinking water supply from Nevada Irrigation District (NID) to the affected properties.

Where:

The 1.5 mile long 8-inch pipeline (approximately 3 feet deep) will start on Tensy Lane, and continue north on Lava Cap Mine Road then go west towards Lee Lane (see Figure 1).

When:

July 2012-November 2012

Open House:

See Box above



Construction of 8-inch Pipeline Remedy for Operable Unit 2 (OU2)

The project is part of the Operable Unit 2 (OU2) groundwater remedy at the Lava Cap Mine Superfund Project to provide drinking water to residents whose drinking water wells are impacted with arsenic contamination from the Lava Cap Mine Superfund Site.

EPA will build an approximately 1.5 mile 8-inch distribution line and up to 12 service lines, to connect only impacted residences and non-impacted residences where the pipeline will go through their properties.

Potential Community Impacts

Lava Cap Mine is in a relatively remote location, yet construction may be audible for neighboring residences. Temporary traffic congestion may also result from construction machinery at the site. The main access route for construction-related traffic will be along Tensy Lane, located off Greenhorn Road.

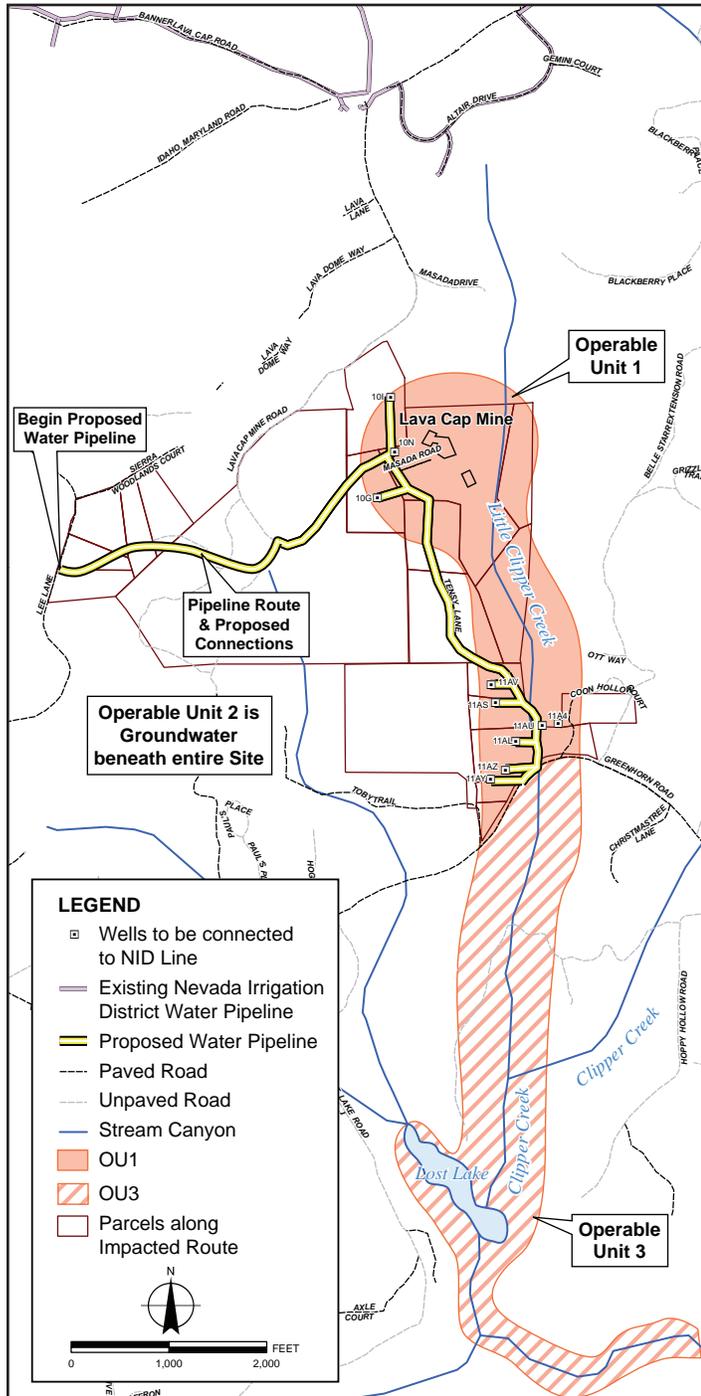
Some of the equipment used during fieldwork may generate noise while trenching or during installation of the distribution and services lines. Predominantly, equipment noise will consist of running diesel/biodiesel-powered construction equipment and the safety beeps of reversing vehicles. There will be continuous monitoring of noise at the site to ensure it does not become a nuisance.

Materials such as pipes, soil and rock, will be brought onto the Site at various phases of the project from July 2012 to November 2012. Work will take place between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Work may continue on Saturdays if necessary to meet the fall completion deadline for the work.

Concerns related to noise, construction, or any other site related questions and concerns should be directed to the EPA contacts listed on the back of this fact sheet.

Will I be affected by fieldwork at the site?

The site is relatively remote and disturbance is expected to be minimal except for immediately adjacent property owners. No contaminated soil or water will leave the site during construction activities without proper testing that would allow proper disposal. All equipment associated with the work will be properly washed prior to exiting the site and entering public roads.



Site History

Lava Cap Mine, located in the northern foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, operated as a gold and silver mine from 1861 until 1943. The 30-acre mine property processed ore to extract gold and silver, which produced finely ground tailings containing naturally-occurring arsenic and trace metals at high concentrations.

The tailings were disposed in the Little Clipper Creek drainage adjacent to the mine's ore processing buildings. The tailings were held in place by a log dam constructed across Little Clipper Creek. During a major storm in January 1997, the log dam partially collapsed and the flood waters spread arsenic-laden tailings down stream.

EPA designated these tailings a health and environmental threat because they are highly toxic and exposure to these tailings presents a significant health risk. In 1999, the federal government placed the site on its National Priorities List or NPL (commonly called the Superfund List).

Is traffic going to be disrupted?

The waterline must be located under the street so that NID can perform future maintenance. Therefore, only one lane of traffic will be open during excavation, installation and backfilling of the trench. In rare places where the waterline crosses both lanes of the road or culverts are being replaced, a street closure of short duration will be necessary.

The implementation of the fieldwork will result in significant additional traffic in the neighborhood. This is expected when equipment is mobilized to the site and after completion of the work. Additional traffic will include trucks and support vehicles traveling to and from work during the day when the pipeline is being installed. This traffic will be mostly limited to the beginning and end of the workday.

What will I see during construction?

Most of the field activities will take place in the area of the site. EPA and contractor work trailers may be parked onsite or on one of the impacted properties (see full-page map). Most of the time, you will see workers wearing hard hats, safety glasses, safety gloves and work boots.

Soil removed during the trenching will be staged in piles on plastic. Non-contaminated soil may be screened of large rocks and reused in the trench. If the removed trench soil is contaminated, it will be contained, analyzed for off-site disposal and placed in trucks by using loaders. No contaminated soil will be placed back in the trench. The construction area will be fenced off during these activities to keep the public a minimum distance away for their safety.

How will workers and the public be protected during field work?

As required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), during construction and remediation activities at hazardous sites, the Site will be divided into work zones to help control access to work areas.

The work will be conducted most likely from both ends of the pipeline in a linear fashion moving along the length of the pipeline route. For a length of trenching activity, the immediate area along the water line route will be designated the exclusion zone. This zone will be limited to workers only and will be controlled and monitored by EPA. EPA will also designate a safe distance from the work area.

The potential level of exposure to Site contaminants determines the boundaries of this work zone and it will be designated by professionals experienced with assessing such potential exposure and trained to be responsible for worker safety. All work will be performed in accordance with an approved Health and Safety.

Workers within the exclusion zone may wear protective clothing and possibly respirators. Then, samples will be collected and analyzed. Depending on the analytical results, the work may continue without using an exclusion zone for that length of trench.

Outside of the exclusion zone and on-site, workers will typically wear normal work clothes because the potential to be exposed to the contamination is much lower or non-existent.

Site neighbors and the general public will be outside all work zones. There is no potential for site work exposing such individuals to site contaminants or a requirement for them to wear protective clothing, respirators or equipment. EPA will implement dust prevention to control generation of dust.

Can I visit the Site during fieldwork?

EPA is committed to open communication with the public regarding site activities. EPA wants to make sure that all questions that the public has about activities at the Site are answered. To better serve the community during field work, a Bulletin Board will be installed outside of the exclusion zone and be easily accessible to the public. The Site Bulletin Board will host EPA information on fieldwork and provide community space for site-related postings.

EPA's Project Manager, Bruni Dávila, will be available to answer questions. The availability of the Community Involvement Coordinator and Project Manager to meet with the public will change weekly depending on field work activities. You may also call EPA staff at 1-800-231-3075.

Community Involvement

EPA has a number of ways to keep the community informed about the progress of its work and to solicit public input into the decision-making process.

To learn more about the Site, you will find an extensive amount of information at EPA's Information Repositories (see box on back).

One convenient place to find major Site documents is to go to EPA's web site: www.epa.gov/region09/lavacap.

EPA has two points of contact for the Lava Cap Mine Site: the Remedial Project Manager, Bruni Dávila and the Community Involvement Coordinator, David Cooper. If you have technical questions about EPA's cleanup effort, please call Bruni Dávila, and if you have questions about public participation, please call David Cooper.



Mailing List Coupon

If you are not already on the Lava Cap Superfund Site mailing list and would like to be, please fill out the coupon below and return it to: David Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-6-3), San Francisco, CA 94105 or e-mail the information to: cooper.david@epa.gov

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____



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Open House

June 21, 2012, 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m

Information Repositories

Pertinent documents related to the Lava Cap Mine Superfund Site can be found at the locations below. Documents at these repositories are part of the Administrative Record for the Site.

Nevada County Library
980 Helling Way
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-7050

Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

Grass Valley Public Library
206 Mill Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 273-4117

Site documents are located on EPA's web site:
www.epa.gov/region09/lavacap

For Further Information

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the following individuals:

Bruni Dávila
Remedial Project Manager
SFD7-2
75 Hawthorne
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 972-3162
davila.brunilda@epa.gov

David Cooper
Community Involvement
Coordinator, SFD6-3
75 Hawthorne
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 972-3245
cooper.david@epa.gov

You can also call EPA's toll-free message line (800) 231-3075. Leave a message and your call will be returned.



United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: David Cooper (Lava Cap 6/12)

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