



IRON KING MINE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • AUGUST 2005

U.S. EPA Plans Removal Assessment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to investigate the Iron King Mine site in August 2005. The investigation will be limited to privately owned, residential parcels located along the stream corridor known as the Chaparral Gulch in Humboldt, Yavapai County, AZ. The site is divided by Highway 69, and the Chaparral Gulch passes beneath the highway and flows to the east-southeast (see map on back). It is believed that these adjacent parcels may be affected by erosion and tailings from the nearby Iron King Mine during rain and floods.

Why is EPA Doing This Assessment and How Long Will it Take?

Past soil sampling at the Iron King Mine site has found metals, including arsenic and lead, at levels significantly above what occurs naturally in the background and above state and federal health-based levels. In prior inspections, EPA has observed several non-permitted runoff channels and canals from the Iron King Mine discharging into the Chaparral Gulch. EPA has also found significant concentrations of arsenic in soils in and near the Gulch.

EPA believes that more data is required to determine the severity and extent of lead and arsenic soil contamination on nearby properties. The Removal Assessment (a "removal" is a quick response to lessen potential impacts of a hazardous environmental situation), will consist of soil and air sampling. This will determine if arsenic and/or other metals are present at concentrations that may pose adverse health effects. The Removal Assessment will begin on August 15 and should take no more than five days.

What Will EPA Do if There is a Potential Health Problem?

Soil sampling results will allow EPA to quickly identify whether or not residential soils should be removed and

replaced with clean fill. Following sample collection and any other action, properties will be restored to their present condition. If a human health threat is observed based on sampling results, response action will be swift. Beginning within three months of the assessment, construction work to mitigate any such threat will take approximately six weeks for the entire Gulch area.

Potential health risks posed by soil contamination at the site are currently unknown. This assessment will determine whether or not there is a risk of adverse health effects from metals in soils at each residence within the area of concern. If no risk is identified, no further action will be necessary. EPA, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, will also collect eight additional samples in town to determine if contamination as a result of air transport has occurred in Humboldt.

Community Meeting to Discuss the Removal Assessment

EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss the upcoming Removal Assessment activities with the community. Your participation is encouraged.

Thursday, August 11, 2005 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
City Hall, 2735 S. Highway 69
Humboldt, Arizona

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

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

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You may also call Harry or Andre toll-free at **(800) 231-3075**. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

*Parcel map,
Iron King Mine
site*



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