



Klau / Buena Vista Mines Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 9

San Francisco, CA

San Luis Obispo County, California

September 2010

Upcoming Activities On and Near Mine Site

There will be a flurry of activity in the upcoming month or so on the Klau/Buena Vista Mines site and along Las Tablas Creek. This fact sheet will describe what will be happening and why. Should you have questions or concerns about information provided here or anything having to do with this site, please do not hesitate to contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff listed on the back.

Removal Action to Repair and Stabilize

EPA has engaged in several “removal actions” at the site over the past 10 years. A removal is generally a quick fix meant to immediately address an “imminent and substantial” environmental threat. Sometimes this fix can be permanent, and other times it is considered temporary until a long-term cleanup action is taken. At the Klau/Buena Vista site, EPA has moved and capped mine tailings to prevent erosion and runoff of toxic materials as well as re-graded and hydro seeded various areas, also to prevent erosion and the movement of contamination. Sediment basins were designed to catch releases, and slopes were stabilized. These major removal activities were in addition to other supporting actions such as fencing and road work.

Due to the 300-year rain that occurred last October, additional repair work and stabilization is now necessary before the next rainy season arrives. This work will include:

- Stabilizing a slope of capped mine tailings on the Buena Vista Mine that had slid after the storm and caused subsidence on the slope face, exposing mine tailings
- Repairing the gravel pack around a standpipe and outflow pipe in the sedimentation basin; erosion from the storm and throughout the winter made the standpipe ineffective, allowing fluids to flow out of the basin
- Cleaning out the existing sedimentation basins at both mine sites to improve capacity

- Re-grading and improving drainage where excessive erosion has occurred on site access roads
- Increasing capacity of the Klau pond and deepening the spillway
- Adding fencing to restrict access to areas with physical hazards such as open shafts and the rotary furnace

These removal activities will start the week of September 20th and should take approximately 18 days to complete. Work will most likely start early in the day to take advantage of lower temperatures.

Sampling Along Las Tablas Creek

In addition to the removal actions described above, EPA contractors will do another round of sampling along Las Tablas Creek beginning the week of September 7th. The same locations that were sampled last April will be sampled again to determine what influence the dry season has on mercury, its movement from the site and the formation of methyl mercury. For approximately 20 days, sampling will occur from the mine site to Harcourt Reservoir and will include some work on Franklin Creek. Trailers on the mine site will be used as a base location for the sampling teams.

Groundwater Sampling

The final activity on the site for this season will be the last round of groundwater sampling beginning the week of October 4th.

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Information Repositories

Documents related to the Klau/
Buena Vista Mines site can be
found at the following locations:

Paso Robles Public Library

1000 Spring St.
Paso Robles, CA 93445
(805) 237-3870
Mon-Fri 10 am to 8 pm
Saturday 10 am to 5 pm

EPA Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne St., 4th floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 820-4700
Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Klau/Buena Vista Mines site,
please contact:

James Sickles

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Vicki Rosen

Community Involvement
Coordinator (SFD-6-3)
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U.S. EPA

75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Both Jim and Vicki can be reached
toll-free at (800) 321-3075.
Please leave a message and
your call will be returned.



EPA website for Klau/Buena Vista:

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

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)
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Attn: Vicki Rosen (KBV 9/10)

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