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[www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/rpeagle.htm](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/rpeagle.htm)

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

EAGLE MINE SUPERFUND SITE  
**EAGLE MINE NEWS**

Summer 2011



## Water, water everywhere for spring inspection



*A lower water level in the upper surge pond will help prevent an overflow if a storm comes through the area. The fencing also needs maintenance.*

Personnel from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, New Fields and Environ inspected the Eagle Mine Superfund Site on May 16 to observe the site during the spring snowmelt/runoff season. The group also followed up on the October 2010 pipeline/conveyance system audit by URS, which was done during a much drier period.

Considering Colorado's heavy snowpack, it's not surprising that the inspectors encountered lots of water throughout the site.

"Environ has done a good job of improving the water treatment plant,

but there's a lot of clean water that could be diverted so the plant doesn't have to treat it," said Mike Holmes, EPA remedial project manager. "Water management is an issue, and we need improvements to the collection and conveyance systems to better segregate the clean runoff."

The water treatment plant is struggling to keep up, observed Wendy Naugle, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment site manager for the Eagle Mine Superfund Site. "There's water in the Temporary

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## Project Managers' Letter

Dear Friends:

This issue of *Eagle Mine News* describes the recommendations from our spring site inspection. With this year's heavy snowpack, there's an abundance of water on the site, so it was good to see how the remedy is performing under challenging conditions. CBS, through New Fields and Environ, is prepared to address the issues we identified.

We're pleased to participate in the Eagle River Valley State of the River meeting in Edwards on June 6<sup>th</sup>. It's all part of our ongoing quest to improve water quality in the Eagle River. Sponsors are the Eagle River Watershed Council, the Eagle River Water & Sanitation District and the Colorado River District.

Wendy Naugle, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Mike Holmes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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## EAGLE MINE ROUNDUP

A summary of recent developments

### **Work continues on Focused**

**Feasibility Study:** The draft Focused Feasibility Study is nearing completion. The document, prepared by CBS, compares remedy options to meet new Eagle River water standards set in 2008. When complete, EPA will issue a proposed cleanup plan describing the remedy alternatives for public review and comment. After considering all public comment, EPA will then amend the Record of Decision to include the preferred remedy. EPA and the state will negotiate a new consent decree with CBS to cover additional remediation plus long-term operations, maintenance and monitoring, which will continue as long as water treatment is needed at the site.

### **Water Treatment Plant audit**

**report expected soon:** Andy Poirot of the state Water Quality Control Division, is finalizing his audit report on Eagle Mine Water Treatment Plant. The report will evaluate equipment, maintenance, and operating/emergency procedures.

**Video tour available:** View "From the Outside Looking In: Exploring the Eagle Mine Superfund Site" online at [www.publicaccess5.org](http://www.publicaccess5.org). Click on "Video Library" then under "Categories" go to "ER Watershed Council" to find the program.

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*EPA will repair sections of the concrete wall damaged over the winter.*

### **Site inspection**

*...continued from page 1*

Cell and the Sludge Cell that needs to be pumped out," she said.

Here's a site-by-site summary of the inspectors' recommendations:

### **Water Treatment Plant**

- No actions identified.

### **Surge Ponds/Consolidated Tailings Pile/Temporary Cell/Sludge Cell**

- Lower the upper pond water level by at least one foot.
- Repair the surge pond fence.
- Remove excess water in the Temporary Cell and Sludge Disposal Cell.

### **Consolidated Tailings Pile (CTP)**

- No maintenance required.

### **Old Tailings Pile (OTP)**

- CBS has agreed to clean up contaminated soil from the 2011 overflow of the pipeline sump near Tigiwon Road. The spill is not harming vegetation.

- CBS should inspect the surge block and pipe, a recommendation of last fall's audit, to determine if pipe movement within the block is damaging the line.

### **Base of Rock Creek**

- CBS needs to upgrade the Adit 6 seep collection system as soon as possible, because system failure would cause a discharge to the Eagle River.

### **Belden**

- The major issues were avalanche damage to the concrete block wall and leaky pipe from the Doghole seep. Mike Holmes will contact EPA's Removal Program.

### **Gilman**

- Clean and contaminated runoff from Waste Rock Pile 8 continue to mix, increasing treatment requirements. CBS needs to submit a work plan to the agencies detailing revisions to the run-on control system.
- CBS should repair a damaged line between the Lower Seep Collection Basin and the Seep #7 basin before next year's spring runoff.
- CBS needs to determine the permanent configuration of Adit 5 area piping and bury or otherwise protect the lines.