

Site Update

Silver Dyke Adit and Drainage Site

Operational Period 1

July 13 - 23, 2023

Site Description

The Silver Dyke Mine Adit and Drainage Site is located within Operable Unit 3 (OU3) of the Carpenter-Snow Creek Mining District National Priorities List (NPL) Site (CSCMD Site), near the Town of Neihart, Cascade County, Montana. This emergency response includes initial activities to address severe erosional damage to the area around and down drainage of the Silver Dyke Mine adit that was caused by a high level of snowmelt followed by extremely heavy rains this past Spring.

Site Goals

1. Improve water management and erosion control across the Site.
2. Divert water away from the drainage above the Silver Dyke Adit.
3. Stabilize the slope above the Silver Dyke Adit.
4. Construct containment ponds below the Silver Dyke Adit.
5. Prep the “Glory Hole” to receive waste.
6. Remove waste rock from below the Silver Dyke Adit to the Glory Hole.
7. Provide a stable flow channel for the Adit drainage.
8. Prep drill site(s) above the Silver Dyke Adit.
9. Drill into and drain the Silver Dyke Adit.
10. Open and stabilize the Silver Dyke Adit.
11. Repair the toe of the two large fluvial tailings ponds.
12. Upgrade the bridge/water crossing at Carpenter Creek.
13. Reclaim disturbed areas.

Operational Period Objectives

The following are the Objectives for Operational Period 1, July 13 to July 23, 2023:

1. Mobilize response team on July 13, 2023.
2. Mobilize equipment as needed beginning on July 13, 2023.
3. Begin road and erosion control work.
4. Clear access road to waste rock pile.
5. Prep Glory Hole to receive waste.
6. Begin hauling waste rock to the Glory Hole.

Accomplishments - Operational Period 1

1. Environmental Restoration (ER) mobilized 7 crew members.
2. ER mobilized the needed heavy equipment to the Site.
3. Road and erosion control work above the Glory Hole was completed.
4. Access roads to the waste rock pile were completed.
5. The Glory Hole began receiving waste rock on July 22, 2023.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

For Operational Period 2, July 24 to July 30, 2023, the following operations are planned:

1. Continue hauling waste rock to the Glory Hole.
2. Begin work on slope stabilization/benching above the Adit.
3. Continue road improvement and erosion control work.
4. Scout and locate specific location for the containment ponds.

For additional information please visit the EPA Silver Dyke Adit and Drainage Site Response page: response.epa.gov/silverdykeadit



Crews working on the Glory Hole above the Silver Dyke Adit.