

Site Update

Silver Dyke Adit and Drainage Site

Operational Period 11

September 25 - October 1, 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.

Announcements

EPA's Response Team will be demobilizing the week of October 2, 2023 for the winter.

Site Goals

Goal 1: Improve water management and erosion control.

- a. Divert water away from the drainage above the adit (**complete**).
- b. Stabilize the slope above the adit to support construction (**complete**).
- c. Complete stabilization of the slope above the adit (**complete**).
- d. Upgrade the bridge/water crossing at Carpenter Creek (**complete**).
- e. Restore disturbed areas (**in progress**).
- f. Repair the toe of the two large fluvial tailings ponds (**in progress**).

Goal 2: Open and stabilize the Silver Dyke Adit.

- a. Prep the "Glory Hole" to receive waste (**complete**).
- b. Remove waste rock from below the adit to the Glory Hole (**complete**).
- c. Construct containment ponds below the adit (**complete**).
- d. Provide a stable flow channel for the adit drainage (**complete**).
- e. Conduct geophysical surveys (**complete**).
- f. Prep drill site above the adit (**complete**).
- g. Drill into and drain the adit (**complete**).
- h. Remove material blocking the adit to the Glory Hole (**will not be completed this year**).
- i. Install structure to keep the adit open and draining (**will not be completed this year**).
- j. Remove containment ponds (**complete**).

Operational Period 11 Objectives

The following were the Objectives for this past Operational Period:

1. Complete removal of retention ponds.
2. Complete upgrade the bridge/water crossing at Carpenter Creek.
3. Continue restoring disturbed areas and sitewide erosion control work.
4. Remove contaminated material generated during public water line improvements in Neihart.
5. Continue demobilizing equipment and personnel.

Operational Period 11 Accomplishments

- The second lower retention pond has been removed, the area regraded and the drainage through the area was partially lined with rock. More mine waste was hauled to the Glory Hole during this process. The entire area was seeded with a native vegetation mix and straw bales were installed to help control erosion until new vegetation is established.
- The new Carpenter Creek crossing was completed and compacted. Additional road base and compaction will be applied during the next Operations Period.
- Drainage controls were established across the Site to prevent future erosion.
- The contaminated soil that had been stockpiled in Neihart after a public works project was loaded into trucks and hauled to the Glory Hole.
- The Command Post, haul truck and one operator were demobilized.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

For the Operational Period 12, October 2 - 8, 2023, the following operations are planned. This will be the last week EPA's Response Team will be on-Site.

1. Remove the O'Brein Street bridge in Neihart.
2. Stabilize the toe of the tailings deposits in Carpenter Creek in several erosion-prone areas.
3. Complete restoration activities.
4. Demobilize all remaining equipment and personnel.

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



Upper retention pond, outside adit, has been removed and the area has been regraded and partially lined with rock.



Drainage controls (hay bales) placed on restored slope below adit to aid erosion control.