

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Ore Knob Mine Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #19
Progress Update
Ore Knob Mine Site
A4ND
Ore Knob, NC
Latitude: 36.4086670 Longitude: -81.3238890

To: Terrence Byrd, EPA

From: Terrence Byrd, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 2/2/2010

Reporting Period: 12/20/09 - 01/31/10

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A4ND	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	11/3/2008
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	10/20/2008	Start Date:	10/20/2008
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	NCN000409895	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Time-Critical Removal

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site contains areas affected by mining, including three principal areas that were directly affected by mining along with other areas, primarily downstream, where hazardous substances have come to be located. The three principal areas include the 1950s Mine and Mill Area, the 19th Century Operations Area and a Main Tailings Impoundment. The Action memo recommends response actions to address threats from the main tailings impoundment.

The 1950's Mine and Mill Area comprises 15 acres and is located northwest of the intersection of Ore Knob Road and Little Peak Creek Road, just north of Highway 88. This area contains derelict ore bins, concrete mill foundations, a transformer building, other ruins, a small sawmill currently in operation, two acres with about 10,000 cubic yards of tailings - now mostly covered with stumps, and a two acre former pond where process water was stored. Little Peak Creek starts just upstream of the former pond, flows through the former pond, and discharges into Peak Creek 2.5 miles downstream.

The 19th Century Operations Area and the Main Tailings Impoundment are located across Little Peak Creek Road, at the end of Ore Knob Mine Road. The 19th Century Operations Area includes a series of barren and nearly barren stretches of land (totaling about 5 acres) near the top of Ore Knob that contain waste rock dumps from at least 11 mine shafts as well as locations where ore was roasted to drive off sulfur and smelted to recover copper.

1.1.2.1 Location

Ore Knob, Ashe County, North Carolina

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The site is impacted by Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), causing several creeks and rivers to become sterile.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See Site Stability Analysis and Tailings Dam Inspection Report for removal assessment information.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

1. 1. Diversion Channel

See Pol/Sitrep #17 for diversion channel description.

Construction of the water dissipator at the end of the channel has begun. OSC received access from adjacent property owner allowing remediation on both sides of the creek bed. The dissipator is anticipated to be finished in 30 to 45 days, weather permitting.

2. Site Ponds

See Pol/Sitrep #17 for Site Ponds description.

Pond 2 is still being filled with tailings that are excavated from the dam face and water dissipator.

3. Tailings Dam

See Pol/Sitrep #17 for Tailings Dam description.

A. Sediment Pond

No notable changes.

B. Starter Dam

No notable changes.

C. Shear Key

No notable changes

D. Main Tailings Impoundment

The dam face of the Main Tailings Impoundment is currently being re-shaped. Four terraces varying in height from approximately eight to twelve feet were constructed in order to create the desired slope.

4. Other/Miscellaneous

START assisted NCDENR with surface water sampling on 01/27/10. START performed soil sampling on 01/28/09/

Constant precipitation has greatly hampered Site activities, increasing site costs and extending the project schedule.

A railing will be built along the final 500 feet of the diversion channel as a safety measure.

Recycling

In an effort to reduce the carbon footprint of the Ore Knob Mine Site, all paper and plastics are being recycled and no construction waste is being generated on-site. All soils, rock and water is recycled for use onsite—thus eliminating transportation and disposal costs.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

PRPs have been identified and enforcement activities are underway.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics to date (approximate)

<i>Product Stream</i>	<i>Quantity (CY)</i>
Soil	141780
Tailings	78195
Rock	30330

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The construction crew will demob from February 12, 2010 until February 16, 2010.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Construction will continue on the tailings dam face and the water dissipator. Crew will continue to fill and raise Pond 2 to its proper grade.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

Constant precipitation has greatly hampered Site activities. As a result, the crew size has been reduced by half.

In an effort to reduce the carbon footprint of the Ore Knob Mine Site, all paper and plastics are being recycled and no construction waste is being generated on-site. All soils, rock and water is recycled for use onsite, thus eliminating transportation and disposal costs.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$4,100,000.00	\$3,600,000.00	\$500,000.00	12.20%
IAGs	\$250,000.00	\$230,000.00	\$20,000.00	8.00%
USCG	\$60,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$10,000.00	16.67%
RST/START	\$250,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$50,000.00	20.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$4,660,000.00	\$4,080,000.00	\$580,000.00	12.45%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

2.6 Liaison Officer

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.

POLREP #19 Last Updated 6/22/2010