

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Region IV**  
**POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Monday, November 17, 2008

**From:** Terrence Byrd

**To:** Terrence Byrd, EPA

**Subject:** Ore Knob Mine Site  
Ore Knob, NC  
Latitude: 36.4086670  
Longitude: -81.3238890

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	3	<b>Site #:</b>	A4ND
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	11/03 to 11/10	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	10/20/2008	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	10/20/2008	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	NCN000409895	<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**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. This 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.

**Current Activities**

11/3/2008 to 11/10/2008

Six Sediment Control Check Dams were installed downstream of the sediment pond. These check dams are constructed of straw bales and silt fencing.

Water Diversion Operations Continued in a effort to dewater the sediment pond/excavation area.

Sediment Pond continues to be dredged and transported to the top of the tailings pile (Approximately 3,000 cubic yards were removed from the sediment pond and transported to the top of the tailings pile during this time period).

pH monitoring began and initial pH results indicate that the pH on top of the tailing pile at the drain opening is approximately the same as the pH in the sediment pond being discharged to Ore Knob Branch (a pH difference of .3).

Electricity was installed and service was turned on at the office trailers.

Concrete pipe in sediment pond was temporarily repaired with grout to prevent additional sediment from being discharged.

Preparations were made at the site to withstand forecasted rain events (sediment control measures and a berm of sawdust was installed around the stockpiled sediment on the tailings pile).

**Planned Removal Actions**

Final discussions with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) continue in regards to installing a new pipe in the

sediment pond as well as the engineering and design plans for the diversion channel.

**Next Steps**

Install New Discharge Pipe in Sediment Pond.

Distribute Engineering Design Plans to stakeholders for the water diversion channel for review.

**Estimated Costs \***

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

\* 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.

[response.epa.gov/OreKnob](http://response.epa.gov/OreKnob)

POLREP #3 Last Updated 11/17/2008