

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2009

From: Terrence Byrd

To: Terrence Byrd, EPA

Subject: Preparation for diversion channel excavation.

Ore Knob Mine Site

Ore Knob, NC

Latitude: 36.4086670

Longitude: -81.3238890

POLREP No.:	7	Site #:	A4ND
Reporting Period:	12/5-1/7/2009	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	10/20/2008	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	10/20/2008	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	NCN000409895	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

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.

Current Activities

During this reporting period, activities conducted at the site included: identification and staking of proposed diversion channel boundaries, water quality monitoring with surface water sampling of the Ore Knob Branch, grading of the sludge stockpile area, and tree removal with chipping of small diameter trees and brush.

Site work was suspended from 12/6-12/14/2008 with the exception of water quality monitoring and surface water sampling which occurred on 12/9-12/10/2009. Work resumed at the site from 12/14-12/23/2008 and included tree removal and chipping activities. Trees with a diameter too large for chipping were relocated to the top of the dam and stockpiled. The remainder of the trees and understory was chipped, hauled to the top of the dam and stockpiled. Tree stumps were left in place to minimize erosion.

Demobilization for the holidays occurred on 12/23/2008.

Mobilization to the site occurred on 12/29/2008. Work resumed at the site from 12/29/2008-1/6/2009 and included tree removal, wood chipping and grading of the sludge stockpile area. Demobilization from

the site occurred on 1/7/2009.

Planned Removal Actions

Final design of the diversion channel and slope re-facing is being completed. Site activities will resume when the final design has been approved.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$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

POLREP #7 Last Updated 3/30/2009