Mixed-Ownership Abandoned Mine Collaboration Process in Colorado

Site: Pennsylvania Mine, Summit County
Mission Statement

The purpose of the Colorado Mixed-Ownership Mine Collaboration Initiative is to provide a forum for federal and state agencies, and where appropriate, local interests, to share expertise, combine staffing, and pool financial resources in order to effect clean-up of lands and waters in Colorado impacted by historic mining activities.

“Mixed Ownership Mine - A mine or mill site that is located partially on private land and partially on public land”
Focused Need

• Mixed ownership sites stagnancy exists!
• Pooling of Funding and resources through IAG/grants – Federal Land Management Agencies to state
• State contracting generally proven less expensive and able to hire locally easier
• Look at sites comprehensively knowing constraints on use of funding
• Use resources & expertise more efficiently
• Information sharing between agencies on abandoned mine sites
• Focusing on capabilities, expertise, and authorities
Objectives

• Identify and implement pilot projects
• Determine and develop creative approaches to implementation
• Strive to fund projects of mutual interest
• Create inventories and prioritize projects
• Engage/collaborate with private sector partners (city, county, local watershed groups)
• Share sound science and engineering practices
• Promote use of alternative and emerging technologies
Prioritization and Site Selection

- States and FLMA’s discuss top priorities
- Identify projects of mutual or overlapping interest (map)
- Involvement based on priority ranking criteria (ex. handout)
  - Human health concerns
  - Ecological health concerns
  - Stakeholder involvement & partnerships
  - Additional site factors
Following Site Selection

- Multi-agency sampling event (establish current conditions)
- Informal work breakdown
  - Field operation documents (QAPPs, SAPs)
  - Fieldwork (sampling, equipment, lab)
  - Reporting (results interpretation)
  - Outreach and communications (access, public meetings)
- Assessment determination – Cleanup or not?
- Decide on lead agency for cleanup
- Formalize work agreements, if needed (e.g., MOUs, IAGs)
## Partners & Contributions

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Ute Ulay Site is comprised of four distinct sites:

1. Ute Ulay Town Site
2. Ute Ulay Mine and Mill Site (DRMS Permitted Boundary)
3. Ute Ulay Mine and Mill Site (Non-Permitted Portion)
4. BLM owned portion of mine and mill site (tailings impoundment)
Mixed Mine Ownership Tools Used at the Ute Ulay

- Phase 1 and Phase 2 Reports for Ute Townsite (EPA via State)
- Voluntary Cleanup Program (State)
- 1306 (CDPHE) Cleanup Grant for Mine Waste at Townsite (State)
- EPA 128 Funds for abatement of asbestos and lead based paint from Mine/Mill Site and Townsite buildings (EPA/State)
- Phase 1 and two(2) Phase 2 Reports for Mine/Mill Site (EPA/State)
- Stability Analysis at Mine/Mill Site (State)
- DRMS Technical Revision for Permit Boundary at Mine/Mill Site (County/State)
- DRMS Permit Closure at Mine/Mill Site (County/State)
- EPA Time Critical Removal Action at Mine/Mill Site (EPA)
- Coordinating between private owner, BLM, EPA, Hinsdale county, DRMS and CDPHE from potential litigation to cooperative cleanup and land transfer to county (County/Fed/State)
- Environmental Covenant / Institutional Controls (State)
Phase 1: TBA

Phase 2: TBA on interior of site buildings
Phase 2 on exterior site grounds

Contracted with DRMS to provide stability analysis on tailings impoundments and waste rock piles.

CDPHE conducted the following to assist Hinsdale County in acquiring bona fide prospective purchaser status: