

AML Project Description

Date: 02/01/02

Project Name: Umpqua Mine
Mine Name: Umpqua also known as Maude S
AMLIS #: AMLIS # 105800001
State Office Contact: John Kalvels
Field Office Contact: Eric Heenan Telephone: (541) 464-3308
HUC #/Subbasin: 17100302031603
Specific Watershed: South Umpqua
Location: Oregon T. 29 S., R. 2 W., Sec 34, NENW UTM E 505500 UTM N 4762600
GENERAL STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES: The Umpqua Abandoned Mine Land (AML) site is located approximately 25 air miles southeast of Roseburg, OR. The site consists of an abandoned mercury mine and processing plant which includes an open adit, wooden hopper, crusher, conveyor belts, rotary furnace, amalgamation plant, and diesel fuel tank all situated near or over a tributary to Deadman Creek. Historical information indicates that the mine last operated in the early 1940's and produced approximately 9 flasks of mercury. A completed site assessment indicates that mercury contaminated soil is present in the vicinity of structures of regional historical significance which has been migrating off-site via the tributary. The objectives of this project are to: (1) identify and characterize the nature and extent of environmental contamination at the site; (2) quantify, to the extent possible, the damage caused to the quality of the surrounding environmental media (i.e., surface water, groundwater, and soil) and local flora and fauna as a result of the mining activities; (3) evaluate the potential for off site impacts to human health and the environment; (4) obtain historical mitigation documentation; (5) conduct an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis of removal alternatives; (6) conduct a Removal Action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) in order to eliminate contamination at the site to the extent practicable; and (7) monitor the site to determine the effectiveness of the removal actions.

Actions at the Umpqua AML site to date:

FY '98- A preliminary abandoned mine land survey was conducted on the Roseburg District which consisted of initial investigations of sites either located on, or with the potential to effect lands managed by the District. This initial investigation indicated that the mill portion of this mine site could be located on BLM managed lands. Cadastral Surveyors investigated and determined this to be a fact. An Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) of resource specialists visited the site and prepared a report recommending that a source of funding be acquired to investigate the extent of contamination, if any, existing at the site.

FY '99- A preliminary Site Assessment (SA) was completed which indicated that mercury contamination of the soils exists at the site in quantities that warrant further investigation and removal. A preliminary historical investigation of the site was also conducted in FY '99 which resulted in a determination from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) that because of structures and other remaining features, the site is potentially of regional historical significance. Mercury contamination has been found to be concentrated both within, and within the vicinity of the structures. The structures themselves are determined to also be contaminated with mercury and pose a significant physical safety hazard. Surveys were conducted in '99 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife which determined that there are no bat species currently utilizing features at this site.

FY '00- Interim actions were implemented to minimize the potential for the public to be exposed to contaminants or to be injured at the site until additional site sampling could be conducted, an EE/CA, historical mitigation, and Removal Action completed. A contract was issued late in the FY through NTSC to begin this process. The interim actions include the installation of a gate approximately ½ mile from the site and posting signs warning of the hazard and requesting that the site be avoided.

FY '01- Historical mitigation consistent with Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Tier I requirements was completed. Tier I resources are those, like the Umpqua Mine, that have been evaluated and have been found to have only statewide or regional significance. An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was also conducted in FY 2001 in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) document, Guidance on Conducting Non-Time Critical Removal Actions Under CERCLA.

Actions Planned for FY 2002

A design package (including construction specifications, design drawings, bid schedule, and government cost estimate) for the preferred alternative of off-site removal is being prepared with an initial draft due by the end of February. The design package will include the development of the removal contract which will contain: RFP documents, boilerplate, invitation letters, RFP submittal requirements, technical SOW, evaluation criteria, and other items relating to the procurement package. An Action Memorandum under CERCLA will be prepared following receipt of the design package. Removal of contaminated soils, equipment, and debris from the site will be conducted over two years with phase I, access improvement, removal of equipment and debris, and site stabilization, scheduled to occur between late spring and early summer. Phase II, removal of contaminated soil and site rehabilitation, will occur in FY 2003.