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MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announces August public “office hours” in Telluride, CO to discuss progress on Telluride Valley Floor/Boomerang Road Removal Action

TELLURIDE (August 17, 2021): Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of two public sessions or “office hours” to be held in Telluride, CO on August 25, 2021. Members of the press are also invited to schedule one-on-one interviews in advance of these public office hours by contacting Laura Jenkins, EPA Public Information Officer, at Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov or at 720-519-5504.

Personnel from the EPA , U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will be available to talk with residents about progress on the Telluride Valley Floor (TVF)/Boomerang Road Time-Sensitive Removal Action and answer questions about efforts planned for the remainder of this summer and fall.

Office Hours will be held on Wednesday, August 25th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm at:

Wilkinson Public Library
100 W. Pacific Avenue
Telluride, CO 91435-2189

Anyone interested in dropping in on a session is asked to register here: <https://bit.ly/3g8kfJC>

Anyone who cannot attend the scheduled office hours, can contact Chris Wardell at: Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov to arrange for a one-on-one briefing on progress at the site.

Background

This site was referred to the EPA by USFS in the fall of 2020, after sampling conducted by USFS and the responsible party (Idarado/Newmont), found mine tailings within the 34-acre site contained high levels of lead and arsenic.

As part of the 2020, emergency response, EPA installed erosion controls to mitigate runoff from excavation and stockpile operations; removed of up to 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated tailings and stabilized/armored bank areas; installed a low water crossing; stabilized hike/bike areas; placed barriers around contaminated areas; and hauled excavated material to the state-designated, responsible party-owned repository.

Efforts so far in 2021, have focused on the excavation of remaining contaminated tailings/soils from the site and hauling to the repository. Additional background information can be found on the [TVF Site Profile](#), which includes regular [Site Updates](#) on operations progress, monitoring data, maps, document repository, and site images.