

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CSMRI) SITE FLOOD PLAIN AREA CLEANUP FACT SHEET & PROJECT SUMMARY

December 10, 2011

- The CSMRI Site was used for metallurgy research between 1911 and 1987.
- In 1992 a water main break at the Site flooded a tailings pond that overflowed into Clear Creek. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency excavated and stockpiled soil from the tailings pond and surrounding area, demolished several buildings, and cleaned an industrial sewer system. The School subsequently shipped the excavated pond-area soils from the Site for off-site disposal. The pond area was released for unrestricted use in 1997.
- During the later 1990's several thousand drums of materials were characterized and shipped for disposal. The remaining buildings were evaluated, decontaminated, and disposed of off-Site. Starting in the 2000's, the concrete and asphalt foundations and roadways were evaluated, excavated, and disposed of off-Site.
- Following disposal of the concrete and asphalt, the soils on the upper terrace of the Site were evaluated. Excavated, contaminated soils were temporarily stockpiled at the Site for later disposal off-Site.
- Following excavation, the remaining soils were surveyed and additional excavation was performed at several small areas where remaining contamination was found. The soils were extensively sampled and laboratory analyzed to confirm that remediation goals were met for the contaminants of concern. The stockpiled soils were shipped off-Site for disposal during the summer of 2007.
- The ground water monitoring program was expanded in 2007. Several new ground water sampling wells were added. One of the new wells at the west end of the former tailings pond area previously cleaned up by EPA was found to contain significantly elevated concentrations of dissolved uranium. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment requested that the School perform additional investigation to determine the source of the uranium in ground water.
- Additional evaluation of the Site performed in 2010 and 2011 determined that the EPA had not cleaned up the west end of the former pond area in the area with elevated uranium in ground water. Testing and excavation of soil in the area determined that contaminated soil was present in the area that contributed to the ground water contamination. Excavation of soil in contaminated areas continued to bedrock in most areas at the west end for the former pond area. Excavated soil was stockpiled on the Upper Terrace portion of the Site in a lined facility.
- A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan issued in November 2011 recommended off-Site disposal of the stockpiled soil. The State of Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines sought public comment regarding the Proposed Plan. Comments received favored the off-Site disposal recommended in the

Proposed Plan. Following the comment period the School issued a Record of Decision adopting the off-Site disposal option.

- Loading and transport of the approximately 1,400 cubic yards of stockpiled soil to the Foothills Landfill north of Golden, Colorado will commence and be completed in December of 2011.
- In order to ensure the protection of public health the School has drafted environmental covenants for the Site. The covenants are designed to prohibit the extraction of ground water from the Site for beneficial use. In addition, the covenants would require the installation of radon mitigation systems in any residential structures.
- The School is working with the City of Golden to allow the installation of hiking and bicycle paths through the Site near Clear Creek following the off-Site disposal of the stockpiled soil.

If you have any questions regarding the site, please contact Linn Havelick, Director of Environmental Projects at the Colorado School of Mines at (303) 273-3316 or via email at lhavelic@mines.edu. Additional information regarding the Site is located at <http://www.is.mines.edu/ehs/CSMRI/CSMRI2007.htm>.