



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor  
Curt Fransen, Director

March 28, 2012

Mr. Ken Marcy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
12928 SW 276<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vashon, WA 98070

RE: Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment Report for the Easter Mine, Idaho County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Marcy:

Attached is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Easter Mine near Elk City, Idaho. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) did not visit this property due to lack of contaminant sources and receptors at this site.

A site inspection was conducted by the Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) in 1999. IGS observed the following:

*The lode workings at the site include two caved adits and a caved shaft. There is also a large area of placered Tertiary gravels north of the lode workings. Caved Adit 1 and the caved shaft are north of the access road and just east of the Forest Service gate. There is a minor seep coming from the adit, but the volume was too small to sample. The waste dump is 50 feet long, 10-15 feet wide, and 10 feet thick. The shaft is above the trough of the caved adit. It is completely caved, forming a pit about 8 feet deep. Much of the forest floor around the workings is bare, probably from animals frequenting a salt lick set out by the local landowners. Adit 2, also caved, is a minor tunnel with a small waste dump that measures 10 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 5-6 feet thick. This adit is probably on the patented claims. The disturbed area is less than 0.5 acre.*

*To the north and west of these workings are deep ravines cut into the slope. These ravines are placer workings in the Tertiary gravels that cap some of the ridges in the area. The placer workings cover an area at least 500 feet long and 300-500 feet wide.*

The site inspection conducted by IGS provided direct observations that confirmed sources of contaminants of concern including hazardous materials and petroleum products were not present in quantities that pose a threat to human health or the environment. No occupied homes or cabins exist on the site, thus no pathways exist relative to human health risks or environmental risks. No

Mr. Ken Marcy  
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drinking water sources or residences exist in close proximity to the Easter Mine. This mine site is far from any inhabited area. No soil, sediment or water samples were taken.

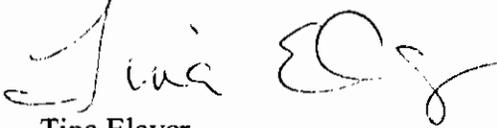
As a result of the above information, **DEQ recommends the property status of the Easter Mine site be designated as No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP).**

A link to DEQ's Easter Mine APA can also be found on DEQ's Mining Preliminary Assessment Web page at:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/remediation-activities/mining-preliminary-assessments.aspx>

If you have any questions about this site, the report, or DEQ's recommendations, please do not hesitate to call me at (208) 373-0563.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Elayer", written over a horizontal line.

Tina Elayer  
Mine Waste Specialist

attachment

cc: Clint Hughes – USFS  
Scott Sanner – BLM  
Easter Mine File

## ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

This is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Easter Mine near Elk City, Idaho. This document provides the rationale for the determination of No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP) and that no additional analysis or site investigation is necessary for the Easter Mine. The information to produce this document was taken from the 2003 Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) report. A map generated during desktop research is attached.

**Preparer:** Daniel D. Stewart **Date:** 3/19/12  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
300 W. Main  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
(208) 983-0808  
daniel.stewart@deq.idaho.gov

**Site Name:** Easter Mine

**Previous Names (aka):** Golden Age Prospect, Meadow Creek, Black Sam

**Site Owner:** U.S. Forest Service

**Address:** c/o Mr. Clint Hughes  
Nez Perce National Forest  
104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, ID 83530

**Site Location:** From IGS 2003:

*The Easter Mine is on the north side of the West Fork of Newsome Creek. Access from State Highway 14 is on FS Road 1858 about 2 1/2 miles north to FS Road 440 (or 440A). The mine is about 2 miles up Road 440. Several patented claims are along the creek, and one of the adits is probably on these claims. Road 440 is gated just beyond the mine site.*

Township 29 North, Range 7 East, Section 7

**Latitude:** 45.86278°N **Longitude:** -115.63333°W

### **Describe the release (or potential release) and its probable nature:**

DEQ did not visit this property due to lack of contaminant sources and receptors at the Easter Mine site.

The Easter Mine was investigated by IGS in 2000 and reported the following:

*The lode workings at the site include two caved adits and a caved shaft. There is also a large area of placered Tertiary gravels north of the lode workings. Caved Adit 1 and the caved shaft are north of the access road and just east of the Forest Service gate. There is a minor seep coming from the adit, but the volume was too small to sample. The waste dump is 50 feet long, 10-15 feet wide, and 10 feet thick. The shaft is above the trough of the caved adit. It is completely caved, forming a pit about 8 feet deep. Much of the forest floor around the workings is bare, probably from animals frequenting a salt lick set out by the local landowners. Adit 2, also caved, is a minor tunnel with a small waste dump that measures 10 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 5-6 feet thick. This adit is probably on the patented claims. The disturbed area is less than 0.5 acre.*

*To the north and west of these workings are deep ravines cut into the slope. These ravines are placer workings in the Tertiary gravels that cap some of the ridges in the area. The placer workings cover an area at least 500 feet long and 300-500 feet wide.*

### Part 1 - Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

<b>If all answers are “no” go on to Part 2, otherwise proceed to Part 3.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Is the site currently in CERCLIS or an “alias” of another site?		<b>x</b>
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remedial program (Federal, State, or Tribal)?		<b>x</b>
3. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (e.g., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?		<b>x</b>
4. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to RCRA corrective action)?		<b>x</b>
5. Is there sufficient documentation to demonstrate that there is no potential for a release that constitutes risk to human or ecological receptors? (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, or an EPA approved risk assessment completed)?	<b>x</b>	

#### Please explain all “yes” answer(s):

The site inspection conducted by IGS provided direct observations that confirmed sources of contaminants of concern including hazardous materials and petroleum products were not present in quantities that pose a threat to human health or the environment. No contaminants or hazardous substances remain on the site. No surface water, ground water or airborne pathways were detected. No occupied homes or cabins exist on the claim. Although IGS mentioned two homes (summer residences) on the patented claims across the creek from the workings, these are probably unrelated to the mine.

**Part 2 - Initial Site Evaluation**

For Part 2, if information is not available to make a “yes” or “no” response, further investigation may be needed. In these cases, determine whether an APA is appropriate. Exhibit 1 parallels the questions in Part 2. Use Exhibit 1 to make decisions in Part 3.

<b>If the answer is “no” to any of questions 1, 2, or 3, proceed directly to Part 3.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Does the site have a release or a potential to release?		<b>x</b>
2. Does the site have uncontained sources containing CERCLA eligible substances?		<b>x</b>
3. Does the site have documented on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets?		<b>x</b>

<b>If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were all “yes” then answer the questions below before proceeding to Part 3.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
4. Does documentation indicate that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?		
5. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site?		
6. Is there an apparent release and no documented on-site targets or targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets (e.g., targets within one mile)?		
7. Is there no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there are uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site?		

**Notes:**

During the site assessment, DEQ used references from several different documents including U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps, county tax rolls, and historical reports that have spelled numerous claim names, town sites, and/or geographic features differently from one and another. DEQ’s use of the different spellings is to remain in context with the reference used for each given section of text or written in this report.

**Exhibit 1 – Site Assessment Decision Guidelines for a Site**

Exhibit 1 identifies different types of site information and provides some possible recommendations for further site assessment activities based on that information. The assessor should use Exhibit 1 in determining the need for further action at the site, based on the answers to the questions in Part 2. Please use your professional judgment when evaluating a site. Your judgment may be different from the general recommendations for a site given below.

<b>Suspected/Documented Site Conditions</b>		<b>APA</b>	<b>Full PA</b>	<b>PA/SI</b>	<b>SI</b>
1. Releases or potential to release are not documented at the site. <b>YES</b>		Yes			
2. Uncontained sources with CERCLA-eligible substances have not been documented as being present on the site. (i.e., they do exist at site) <b>YES</b>		Yes			
3. On-site, adjacent, or nearby receptors are not present. <b>YES</b>		Yes			
4. There is no documentation or observations made leading to the conclusion that a sensitive receptor is present or may have been exposed (e.g., drinking water system user inside four mile TDL). <b>YES</b>	Option 1: APA	Yes			
5. There is documentation that a sensitive receptor has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site. <b>NO</b>	Option 2: Full PA or PA/SI	No			
6. There is an apparent release at the site with no documentation of targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site. <b>NO</b>	Option 1: APA SI	No			
	Option 2: PA/SI	No			
7. There is an apparent release and no documented on-site targets and no documented targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets. Nearby targets are those targets that are located within one mile of the site and have a relatively high likelihood of exposure to a hazardous substance migration from the site. <b>NO</b>		Yes			
8. There are: no indications of a hazardous substance release; uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous substances; but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in proximity to the site. <b>NO</b>		Yes			

**Part 3 - DEQ Site Assessment Decision**

When completing Part 3, use Part 2 and Exhibit 1 to select the appropriate decision. For example, if the answer to question 1 in Part 2 was “no,” then an APA may be performed and the “NRAP” box below should be checked. Additionally, if the answer to question 4 in Part 2 is “yes,” then you have two options (as indicated in Exhibit 1): Option 1 -- conduct an APA and check the “Lower Priority SI” or “Higher Priority SI” box below; or Option 2 -- proceed with a combined PA/SI assessment.

**Check the box that applies based on the conclusions of the APA:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP)		Defer to NRC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Higher Priority SI		Refer to Removal Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lower Priority SI		Site is being addressed as part of another CERCLIS site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer to RCRA Subtitle C		Other:

**DEQ Reviewer:**

*Daniel D. Stewart*  
 Daniel D. Stewart

*3/27/12*  
 Date

**Please Explain the Rationale for Your Decision:**

The 2003 IGS report indicated no areas of concern were found. No occupied homes or cabins exist on the site, thus no pathways exist relative to human health risks or environmental risks. IGS did not indicate any hazardous or deleterious materials on site. No soil, sediment or water samples were taken.

**As a result of the information contained in this APA, DEQ recommends the property status of the Easter Mine be designated as No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP).**

**Notes:**

The italicized text below was taken directly from the 2003 IGS report.

*Site Description: The lode workings at the site include two caved adits and a caved shaft. There is also a large area of placered Tertiary gravels north of the lode workings. Caved Adit 1 and the caved shaft are north of the access road and just east of the Forest Service gate. There is a minor seep coming from the adit, but the volume was too small to sample. The waste dump is 50 feet long, 10-15 feet wide and 10 feet thick. The shaft is above the trough of the caved adit. It is completely caved, forming a pit about 8 feet deep. Much of the forest floor around the workings is bare, probably from animals frequenting a salt lick set out by the local landowners. Adit 2, also caved, is a minor tunnel with a small waste dump that measures 10 feet long, 6 feet wide, and*

*5-6 feet thick. This adit is probably on the patented claims. The disturbed area is less than 0.5 acre.*

*To the north and west of these workings are deep ravines cut into the slope. These ravines are placer workings in the Tertiary gravels that cap some of the ridges in the area. The placer workings cover an area at least 500 feet long and 300-500 feet wide.*

***Geologic Features:*** *The Easter Mine is near the contact between the biotite gneiss and schist unit of the Middle or Early Proterozoic Elk City metamorphic sequence and the overlying Miocene lacustrine and fluvial sediments (Lewis and others, 1990, 1993). The vertical quartz vein has an east-west strike and contained free gold, pyrite, galena, and telluride minerals (Shenon and Reed, 1934; Jellum, 1909).*

***History:*** *In the early 1900s, the property was under bond to W. M. Luther and was owned by W. B. Houston and associates (Jellum, 1909). By the early 1930s, the owners were Marlow, Holder, and Wolson. The mine had a 130-foot adit and a 100-foot vertical shaft from which 220 feet of drifts had been driven (Shenon and Reed, 1909).*

#### **References:**

IGS (Idaho Geological Survey). Erdman, Ted, John Kauffman, Earl H. Bennett, and Victoria E. Mitchell. 2003. *Site Inspection Report for the Abandoned and Inactive Mines in Idaho on U.S. Forest Service Lands (Region 1) Nez Perce National Forest. Volume III, Section C: Elk City, Orogrande, Buffalo Hump, and Surrounding Areas, Idaho County, Idaho.* Prepared for the U.S. Forest Service Under Participating Agreement No. FS-01-96-14-2800. Staff Report 03-23.

Topographic Overview Map of the Easter Mine Location. 10/25/2011. 1:24,000. Daniel Stewart; National Geographic Topographic Software.  
<http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/topo%21-state-series/topo%21-idaho>

#### **Attachment:**

Map

