



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 276th Street
Vashon, WA 98070

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

Dear Mr. Marcy:

Attached is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Scheelite Mine near Elk City, Idaho. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) made several attempts to request access from the landowner of the Scheelite Mine, but permission was never granted.

The Scheelite Mine was investigated by the Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) and observed the following:

This site has one open adit with a very small dump. Some rock material has sloughed in front of the adit, but a large opening, about 3-4 feet high and 4-5 feet wide, provides access into the dry adit. The dump is very small and may have been disrupted by road building. An estimate of the size of the dump is 30 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 10 feet thick. The total disturbed area is less than 0.1 acre.

If the adit is still open and unrestricted it could be a dangerous physical hazard. DEQ recommends the adit should be closed or have access eliminated.

The IGS report contained no information indicating any environmental concerns were observed or documented. The waste dumps observed were relatively small and vegetated. This would indicate no potential releases of heavy metals by airborne, surface water or ground water pathways existed which would cause any human health risks or ecological health risks. Additionally, potential discharges of other deleterious materials, such as petroleum products and ore processing chemicals would have been investigated had they existed. IGS did not take sediment, soil, or water samples indicating no potential issues were on site.

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

Mr. Ken Marcy
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A link to DEQ's Scheelite 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", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tina Elayer
Mine Waste Specialist

attachment

cc: Scott Sanner, BLM
Clint Hughes, USFS
Scheelite Mine File

ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

This is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Scheelite 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 Scheelite 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:** 3/20/12
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
300 W. Main
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-0808
daniel.stewart@deq.idaho.gov

Site Name: Scheelite Mine

Previous Names (aka): Sheelite Mine, Shealite Mine, Sacramento No. 2 Lode

Site Owner: Nolan Hildreth (according to Idaho County Assessor's Office)

Address: N/A

Site Location: From IGS 2003:

Access is via State Highway 14 to FS Road 78536, which joins the highway 0.2 mile west of mile marker 33 near the site of Fall Creek. The first switchback on FS Road 78536 is approximately 600 feet west of the highway. The adit is just north of the switchback and is on a patented claim.

Township 29 North, Range 6 East, Section 36

Latitude: 45.8125°N **Longitude:** -115.65389°W

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

DEQ was unable to access the property after various attempts to contact the property owner were unsuccessful.

The Scheelite Mine was investigated by IGS on September 17, 1999. IGS reported one open, dry adit. The waste dump associated with this adit is very small. No streams or flowing water goes through the site. IGS did not take sediment, soil, or water samples, indicating no potential issues were on site.

The IGS report contained no information indicating any environmental concerns were observed or documented. This would indicate no potential releases of heavy metals by airborne, surface water or ground water existed which would cause any human health risks or ecological health risks. Additionally, potential discharges of other deleterious materials, such as petroleum products and ore processing chemicals would have been investigated had they existed.

Part 1 - Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

If all answers are “no” go on to Part 2, otherwise proceed to Part 3.	YES	NO
1. Is the site currently in CERCLIS or an “alias” of another site?		x
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remedial program (Federal, State, or Tribal)?		x
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)?		x
4. Are the hazardous substances that may be released from the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to RCRA corrective action)?		x
5. Is there sufficient documentation to demonstrate that there is no potential for a release that constitutes risk to human or ecological receptors? <i>(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)?</i>	x	

Please explain all “yes” answer(s):

A site inspection by IGS involving direct observations confirmed that contaminants of concern including hazardous materials and petroleum products were not reported in concentrations that present 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.

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.

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

If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were all “yes” then answer the questions below before proceeding to Part 3.	YES	NO
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:

It is unlikely any human health risks or ecological health risks are associated with this mine site. No surface water, ground water or airborne pathways were reported by IGS. No occupied homes or cabins exist on the claim. There is no mention of any drinking water sources and no homes are within the drainage or in close proximity.

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.

Suspected/Documented Site Conditions		APA	Full PA	PA/SI	SI
1. Releases or potential to release are not documented at the site. YES		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) YES		Yes			
3. On-site, adjacent, or nearby receptors are not present. YES		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). YES	Option 1: APA	Yes			
5. There is documentation that a sensitive receptor has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site. NO	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. NO	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. NO		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. NO		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 homes or cabins exist on the site. No pathways exist relative to human health risks or environmental risks. No drinking water sources or residences exist in the drainage. IGS did not indicate any hazardous or deleterious materials on site. This site is far from any inhabited area. No structures are on the site.

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

Notes:

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

Site Description: This site has one open adit with a very small dump. Some rock material has sloughed in front of the adit, but a large opening, about 3-4 feet high and 4-5 feet wide, provides access into the dry adit. The dump is very small and may have been disrupted by road building. An estimate of the size of the dump is 30 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 10 feet thick. The total disturbed area is less than 0.1 acre.

Geologic Features: The Sheelite Mine is near the contact between Late Cretaceous biotite granodiorite and the quartzite and schist unit of the Middle or Early Proterozoic Syringa metamorphic sequence. North-south-striking and east-west-striking faults intersect near the mine (Lewis and others, 1990, 1993). The mine explored scheelite-

bearing quartz veins in the country rock.

History: No information is available on the history of the Scheelite Mine.

Structures: *There are no structures on this site.*

Safety: *The Scheelite Mine is open and can be easily entered. The site is readily accessible from State Highway 14.*

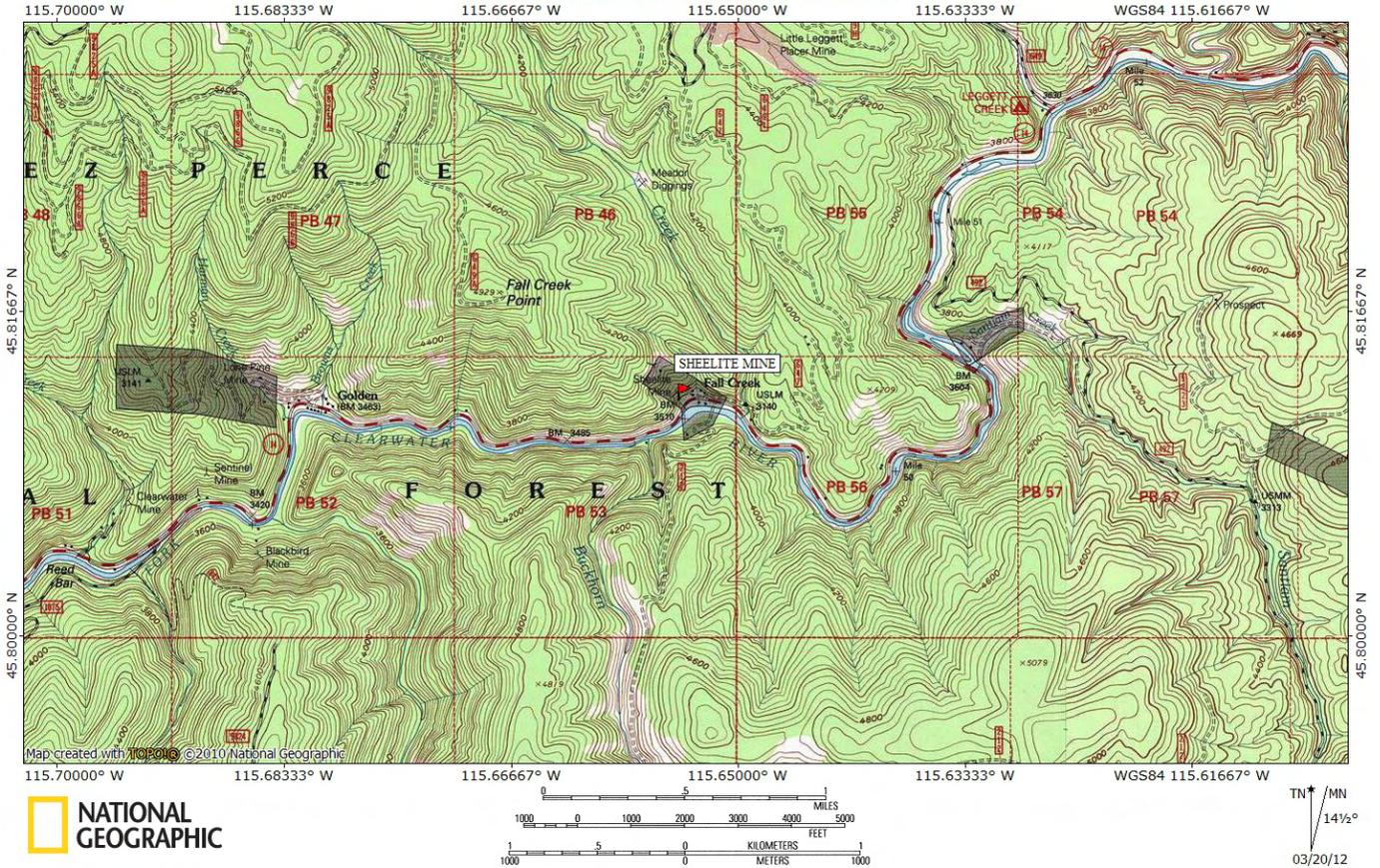
If the adit is still open and unrestricted, it could be a dangerous physical hazard. DEQ recommends the adit should be closed or have access eliminated.

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 Scheelite 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



**Topographic Overview Map of the Scheelite Mine Location
(Map Source: National Geographic Topographic Software).**