

HOLDEN MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

Holden Mine Construction Update for March 2016

The weather slowly warmed up at the Holden Mine Remediation site near Holden Village, with spring-like weather conditions of alternating rain and snow. At the end of March there were 76 inches of snow on the ground at the remediation site, with a total winter snowfall of 297.3 inches, which is 27 inches above average. Avalanche hazards remain a concern on the surrounding hills and an avalanche forecasting team was still in place to assess daily hazards.

Rio Tinto continued snow removal around the mine water treatment plant (MWTP) site throughout March. Regular plowing, grading and maintenance continued along FS Road 8301, to keep it operational and mitigate hazards.

Projects inside the MWTP continued. Crews mounted piping, installed conduits and wiring, set points on instrumentation, and ran mixers on all four sludge conditioning tanks while filled with water. Testing of each of these components and instruments is important to insure proper installation and functionality. Crews worked on finishing electronic, mechanical, and HVAC systems and other details on the MWTP, including the installation of lightning rods on the MWTP building and lime silos. A lightning rod is a metal rod that is mounted on top of a structure to protect it from lightning strikes. If lightning hits the rod, it travels down a wire to the ground rather than traveling through the structure causing a fire or electrical hazard, or other damages.

With the arrival of spring, additional work crews began to mobilize to Holden Village for the summer construction season. With additional crews, other outdoor construction projects started to resume. Major projects this summer will include, but are not limited to; finishing initiating operations of the MWTP, excavating and screening materials at the borrow site (STP3), re-grading the borrow site, finishing regrading of mine tailings, covering remaining tailings with screened soil, completing the construction of interceptor channels and jet grouting columns, constructing a trail system network and a pedestrian bridge, realignment of the by-pass road, constructing a temporary work camp, and completion of site grading so that restoration activities can begin next spring.



Installation of lightning rods on to lime silo



for the greatest good

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Testing sludge tanks



Snow removal activities

Holden will remain closed to guests for the 2016 summer season, and no transportation will be available to and from the village. Please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/okawen/> for campground and trail closure information or contact the Chelan Ranger district at 509-682-4900.

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