



File Code: 2160/2800

Date: April 13, 2010

Interested Citizen:

This letter is intended to inform and update you about four abandoned mine site clean-up projects in northeast King and Snohomish Counties, Washington: the Monte Cristo Mining Area, and the Rainy, Sunset, and Kromona mine and mill sites (Sites). Site clean-ups are being performed by the Forest Service under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980; and Federal Executive Order 12580.

Specifically, the locations of the Sites are:

- **Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA).** Snohomish County, Washington, in the headwaters of the South Fork Sauk River (SFSR) approximately 28 air-miles east-southeast of Granite Falls; T29N, R11E, Sections 21 & 22.
- **Rainy Mine.** King County, Washington, on Quartz Cr. about 12 mi. northeast of North Bend; T24N, R10E, Section 9, SE/4. Middle Fork Snoqualmie watershed.
- **Sunset Mine.** Snohomish County, Washington, on Trout Creek about 5 miles northeast of Index; T27N, R10E, Section 1, SW/4NE/4. North Fork Skykomish watershed.
- **Kromona Mine.** Snohomish County, Washington, on Middle Fork of the South Fork Sultan River, about 10 miles northeast of Sultan; T28N, R9E, Section 13, N/2. Skykomish River watershed.

The need for the clean-up is based on the chemical hazards posed by the sites.

MCMA - Risks to human and ecological health are posed by very high metals concentrations, particularly arsenic, antimony, cadmium, copper, lead, copper, and others in waste rock, unprocessed ore, mill tailings, seep and sediment, and some local soils, as well as elevated metals in adit and seep water. Local surface waters provide habitat for several Rare, Threatened, or Endangered species including bull and cutthroat trout.

Rainy Mine Site - Risks to human and ecological health are posed by high metals concentrations, particularly arsenic, lead, and copper in waste rock, unprocessed ore, mill tailings, seep and sediment, and some local soils, as well as elevated metals in the adit and seep water. Quartz Creek downstream provides habitat for cutthroat, a Federal species of concern.

Sunset Mine Site - Risks to human and ecological health are posed by high metals concentrations, particularly arsenic and copper in waste rock and some local soils, as well as elevated metals in the adit water. Trout Creek provides habitat for several Rare, Threatened, or Endangered species including Coho salmon and cutthroat trout.



Kromona Mine Site - Risks to human and ecological health are posed by high metals concentrations, particularly arsenic, lead, and copper in waste rock and some local soils, as well as elevated metals in the adit water. The Middle Fork Sultan drains to Spada Reservoir which supplies drinking water and power to Snohomish County.

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest completed *Abbreviated Preliminary Assessments* (APA) for these Sites between October 2002 and September 2006. The purpose of the assessments was to determine whether or not there was potential for release of contaminants to the environment and/or to humans.

The APAs were followed by *Site Inspections* (SI) and *Streamlined Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments* (SRA) at the each of the Sites. The purpose of the SIs and SRAs was to determine the potential threat to human health and/or the environment from issues identified during the APA and to assess risks thereto of hazardous substances present at the Sites.

The Forest Service has prepared Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis reports (EE/CAs) for each of Sites to evaluate alternatives for completing non-time-critical removal actions related to metal contamination therein. The EE/CA reports document risks to human health and the environment, evaluate alternatives, and identify a preferred alternative to minimize or eliminate the risks associated with the release of a hazardous substance into the environment or impact on public health and welfare. Public comments were solicited on the Rainy EE/CA in 2008, and clean up is planned for summer 2010. A 45-day public comment period for the MCMA, Sunset and Kromona EE/CAs will begin shortly and is announced by publication of legal notice in the Everett *Herald* newspaper on April 15, 2010.

Copies of the above EE/CA, APA, SI, and SRA reports are posted to Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/cercla-hazmat-projects.shtml>

Rod Lentz is available to answer technical questions you or your staff may have: Rod Lentz, On-Scene Coordinator and Technical Contact, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests, 1240 South Second Ave., Okanogan, WA 98840, phone (509) 826-3274, e-mail: rlentz@fs.fed.us. Curtis Spalding can provide additional information (Curtis Spalding, Environmental Coordinator and Alternate Contact, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2930 Wetmore Ave. Suite 3A, Everett WA 98201, phone (425) 783-6033, e-mail: cspalding@fs.fed.us).

If you wish to submit written comments on the EE/CAs for this project, please send them to me at the above address. I appreciate your continued interest in the management of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Y. Robert Iwamoto
Y. ROBERT IWAMOTO
Forest Supervisor