



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

C.L. "Butch" Oller, 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 Belevadore Mine,
Idaho County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Marcy:

Attached is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Belevadore Mine in the Crooked River drainage near Orogrande, 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:

This property consists of two large excavations and a collapsed adit. The southeastern pit (Pit 1) is the larger of the two and is 200 feet long by 120 feet wide with a 100-foot-high headwall. There is a small seep in the bottom of the pit, creating a boggy area. Pit 2 is approximately 75 feet northwest of Pit 1 and is 100 feet long by 50 feet wide, with the highest part of the headwall approximately 40 feet high.

The collapsed adit is 75 feet north of Pit 2 and just above the road along the West Fork of Crooked River. Mine rails cross the dump and project over the face. The dump is 20 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 15 feet thick, and consists mostly of coarse rock fragments. A small building along the road just north of the adit is probably related to this site. The disturbed area covers 2-3 acres.

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. No sediment, soil or water samples were taken.

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

A link to DEQ's Belevadore 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 in a cursive style.

Tina Elayer
Mine Waste Specialist

attachment

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

ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

This is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Belevodore Mine in the Crooked River drainage near Orogrande, 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 Belevodore 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:** 3/21/12
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
300 W. Main
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-0808
daniel.stewart@deq.idaho.gov

Site Name: Belevodore Mine

Previous Names (aka): Belvudore, Independence

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:

Access is via County Road 233 (the Crooked River Road, which becomes FS Road 233 at the intersection with FS Road 311 in Old Orogrande) approximately 12.7 miles south from its junction with State Highway 14. At this point, which is 1/2 mile southwest of the intersection with Road 311 at Old Orogrande, an old brush-covered road turns south from Road 233 and goes approximately 1/4 mile to the upper pit of the mine.

Township 27 North, Range 7 East, Section 11

Latitude: 45.69089°N **Longitude:** -115.55646°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 Belevodore Mine site.

The Belevadore Mine was investigated by IGS on July 5, 1999. IGS reported the site had two large excavations and a collapsed adit. Although IGS reported that one of the pits had a small seep in the bottom, no sediment, soil, or water samples were taken.

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 means or surface and 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):

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. No sediment, soil or water samples were taken.

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 IGS did not report any water on the site.

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 occupied homes or cabins exist on the site, thus no pathways exist relative to human health risks or environmental risks. No drinking water sources or residences exist in close proximity to the Belevadore Mine. 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 Belevadore 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 property consists of two large excavations and a collapsed adit. The southeastern pit (Pit 1) is the larger of the two and is 200 feet long by 120 feet wide with a 100foot-high headwall. There is a small seep in the bottom of the pit, creating a boggy area. Pit 2 is approximately 75 feet northwest of Pit 1 and is 100 feet long by 50 feet wide, with the highest part of the headwall approximately 40 feet high.

The collapsed adit is 75 feet north of Pit 2 and just above the road along the West Fork of Crooked River. Mine rails cross the dump and project over the face. The dump is 20 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 15 feet thick, and consists mostly of coarse rock

fragments. A small building along the road just north of the adit is probably related to this site. The disturbed area covers 2-3 acres.

Geologic Features: *This property is in Late Cretaceous biotite granodiorite near a roof pendant of the biotite schist and gneiss unit of the Elk City metamorphic sequence. Northeast- and northwest-striking faults end very near the mine (Lewis and others, 1990, 1993).*

History: *This mine is shown on Lorain's (1938) map of the Orogrande district. The original claims were apparently staked in 1934 and 1935 (IGS mineral property files).*

Structures: *The small building along FS Road 233, just north of the Belevadore adit, is the only building at the site.*

Safety: *There are no hazards associated with the Belevadore Mine.*

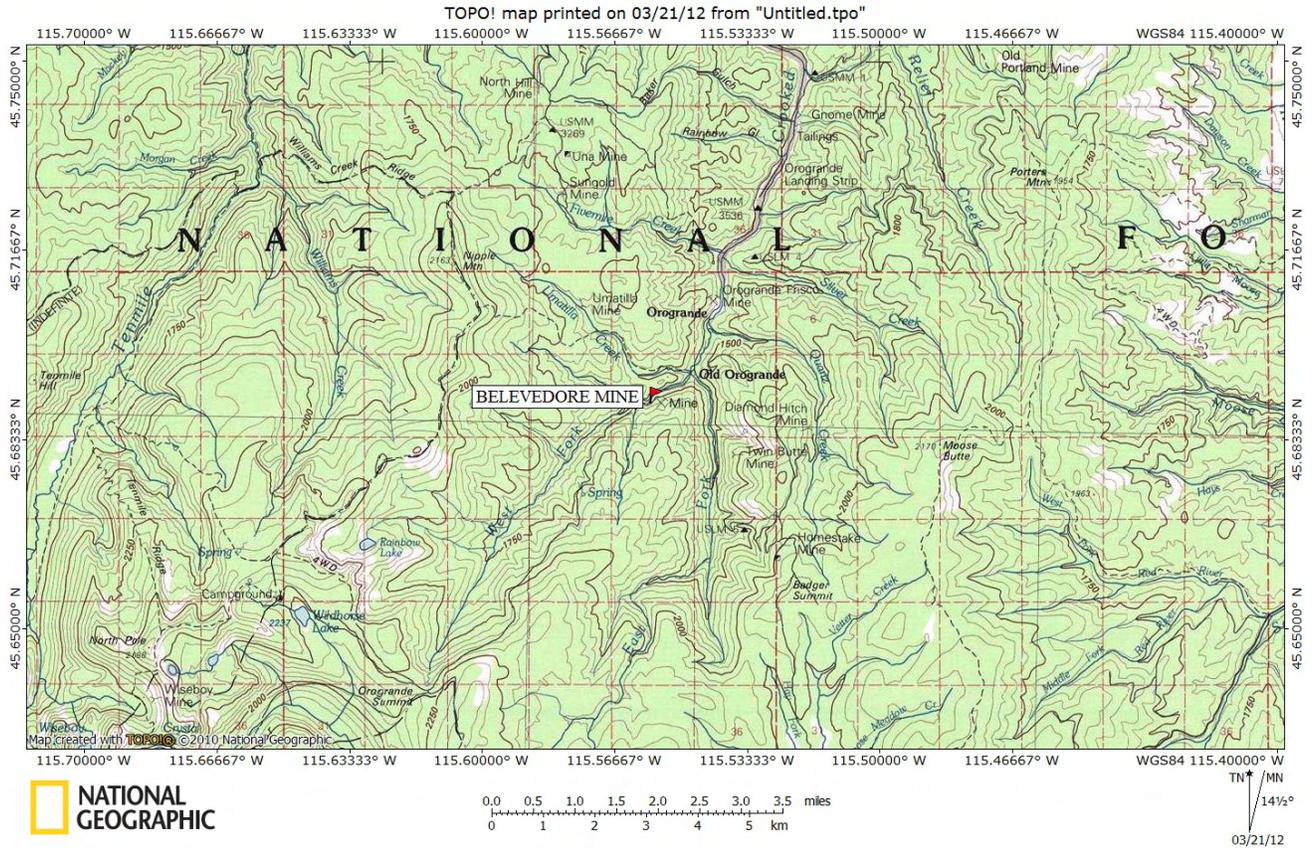
References:

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 B: 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 03-22.

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