

# NMED

New  
Mexico  
Environment  
Department



## THE GOLD KING MINE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE: THE COMMITTEE, PURPOSE, MEMBERS, AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

September 27,  
2016

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# Gold King Mine (GKM) Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)

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- The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) is a group of 10 citizen volunteers from Northern New Mexico, including the Navajo Nation.
- The CAC liaises between the State of New Mexico's Long-Term Impact Review Team (LTIRT) and the public.



# Gold King Mine (GKM) Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)

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- Committee meetings are a forum for dialogue between the LTIRT and the community around:
  - ▣ Data collection and sampling
  - ▣ Sharing of resources, concerns, and comments
  
- Upcoming Meetings:
  - ▣ October 25, 2016
  - ▣ November 28, 2016
  - ▣ January 17, 2017
  - ▣ March 27, 2017



# CAC Current Members

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Committee Member	Email Address	Focus Area
George Baloo	gibaloo@sbcglobal.net	Wildlife
Aaron Chavez	achavez@sjwc.org	Agriculture
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Evan Tyrrell	evantyrrell@live.com	Agriculture



# CAC Current Members

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# Data Collection and Sampling – Current Status

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- Heavy metal concentrations in river water comply with N.M. Water Quality Control Commission standards for both irrigation and livestock watering
- No evidence of well water contamination from GKM spill
- Sediment testing is underway in both CO and NM, at least one hot spot on Animas River by Eagle Bend
- Crop tissue testing for 2016 growing season is underway, no high results to date
- No unusual livestock distress, illness, or mortality observed during first year after spill



# Sharing of resources, concerns, and comments

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## □ Gold King Mine Website

- Animas and San Juan Exposure and Risk Dashboard
- NMED Comments on Proposed Superfund Site (June 13, 2016)
- Water Hauling Safety Tips
- New Mexico Lawsuit Against State of Colorado (June 20, 2016)
- New Mexico Lawsuit Against U.S. EPA (May 23, 2016)
- Animas, San Juan Spring Runoff Preparedness Plan
- Long Term Monitoring Plan

## □ Citizens' Advisory Committee Website

## □ Animas and San Juan Exposure and Risk Dashboard



# Animas and San Juan Exposure and Risk Dashboard

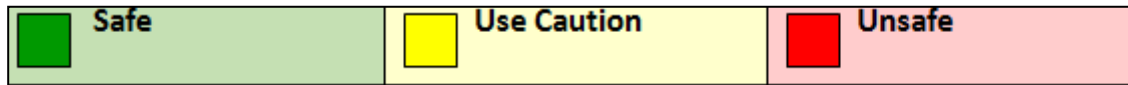
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- The dashboard addresses potential contaminant exposure pathways and risks for the Animas River corridor in New Mexico, and the San Juan River corridor downstream of the Animas confluence to the Navajo Nation border.
- This evaluation is based on current monitoring data and will be updated in the future, if necessary, as new data become available.





# Animas and San Juan Exposure and Risk Dashboard



Potential Exposure Pathway	Risk Level	Explanation
Public Drinking Water Supplies	Safe	Public drinking water supplies in the river corridors covered by this dashboard are subject to multiple protective requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and are presently safe for all uses. These requirements include infrastructure construction standards, solids settling and treatment, disinfection, testing treated water, and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) inspections.
Private Domestic Wells	Use Caution	Private domestic wells are not subject to the protective requirements of the federal SDWA. Many private wells were not constructed in a sanitary manner or have deteriorated as the well has aged. These wells are at risk of contamination by bacteria, parasites or viruses. High levels of manganese, iron, sulfate and total dissolved solids existed in some wells prior to the Gold King Mine (GKM) spill. Elevated lead also has been detected in private water systems that have galvanized steel plumbing components or lead solder. Following the GKM spill, NMED tested more than 600 private domestic water wells in San Juan County, NM. There is no evidence that the GKM spill contaminated any water wells in New Mexico. NMED and the New Mexico Bureau of Geology continue to monitor private domestic wells for evidence of mining and milling contamination.
River Water for Domestic Supply	Unsafe	Untreated river water should never be used for domestic supply, even if there are not visible signs of contamination. When you consume untreated water from surface sources, you run the risk of ingesting harmful bacteria, parasites or viruses. Untreated river water also may contain high levels of lead and arsenic during periods of high turbidity such as when storm events stir up contaminated river sediments.

# Animas and San Juan Exposure and Risk Dashboard

<b>River Water for Irrigation</b>		River water presently complies with all standards for irrigated agriculture.
<b>Crops</b>		Crops will be tested for heavy metal content by New Mexico State University during the 2016 growing season to ensure that they are safe for consumption by humans and livestock.
<b>River Water for Livestock</b>		River water presently complies with all standards for livestock watering.
<b>Livestock</b>		The New Mexico State Veterinarian, New Mexico Department of Agriculture Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and local veterinarians are on the alert for any signs of unusual animal distress or illness that could result from GKM or other mining and milling contamination.
<b>River and Ditch Sediment</b>		Sediment that is heavily contaminated with heavy metals exists in Colorado, and has the potential to migrate into New Mexico. NMED is monitoring sediment contamination in New Mexico to identify any hot spots that exceed residential risk screening levels. This monitoring is ongoing as contaminated sediment can migrate during times of high river flow. Anyone who observes discolored sediment within or near the Animas or San Juan Rivers in New Mexico should notify NMED immediately by calling 1-800-219-6157.
<b>Fish</b>		Fish tissue test results in the Animas River, and in the San Juan below the confluence with the Animas, show that heavy metals are within guidelines for human consumption. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will continue to monitor and test fish to ensure that they remain safe for consumption. The "Quality Waters" of the San Juan River below Navajo Lake are located upstream from the confluence with the Animas River and were not affected by the GKM spill or by other mining and milling waste discharges into the Animas River.
<b>Recreational Activities</b>		Mining and milling contaminants do not presently pose hazards to people enjoying water sports, fishing and other recreational activities in and near the Animas and San Juan Rivers in New Mexico. Both rivers, however, may contain bacteria, parasites or viruses which could pose a health hazard to people who come into contact with river water. It is recommended that people wash thoroughly after going in the river, and avoid swallowing river water when swimming or doing water sports.

# Resources

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- Gold King Mine Website
  - [www.NMEDRiverWaterSafety.org](http://www.NMEDRiverWaterSafety.org)
- Citizens' Advisory Committee Website
  - [www.env.nm.gov/river-water-safety/animas-river-citizens-advisory-committee-public-participation-page/](http://www.env.nm.gov/river-water-safety/animas-river-citizens-advisory-committee-public-participation-page/)
- September 20, 2016 Risk Dashboard
  - [www.env.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Animas-San-Juan-Risk-Dashboard.-2016.09.20.pdf](http://www.env.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Animas-San-Juan-Risk-Dashboard.-2016.09.20.pdf)
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