



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

C L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curl 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 Vendetta Mine, Idaho County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Marcy:

Attached is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Vendetta Mine 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:

The Vendetta Mine site is very small and consists of one completely caved adit that is expressed as a large scarp in the slope. The old road leading to the adit from Road 311 has been recently reclaimed. The site covers less than 1 acre.

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 drinking water sources or residences exist in close proximity to the Vendetta Mine. No soil, sediment, or water samples were taken. 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. This site is far from any inhabited area.

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

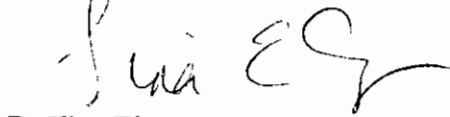
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A link to DEQ's Vendetta Mine APA can also be found on DEQ's Mining Preliminary Assessment Web page at:

<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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tina Elayer
Mine Waste Specialist

attachment

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

ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

This is an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) for the Vendetta Mine 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 Vendetta 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: Vendetta Mine

Previous Names (aka): Pasadena

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:
The mine is 1/2 mile south along FS Road 311 from Old Orogrande. At this point, the site is 100 feet east of the road at the end of a north-trending reclaimed road. The mine is on Forest Service land.

Township 27 North, Range 7 East, Section 12

Latitude: 45.69028°N **Longitude:** -115.54083°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 Vendetta Mine site.

The Vendetta Mine was investigated by IGS on June 20, 1999. IGS reported one small collapsed adit which is apparently dry. No sediment, soil, or water samples were taken, indicating a dry, innocuous 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 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.

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 in close proximity. The site covers less than one acre and no mention was made of 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 Vendetta Mine. IGS did not indicate any hazardous or deleterious materials on site. This site is far from any inhabited area. 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 Vendetta Mine be designated as No Remedial Action Planned (NRAP).

Notes:

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

Site Description: The Vendetta Mine site is very small and consists of one completely caved adit that is expressed as a large scarp in the slope. The old road leading to the adit from Road 311 has been recently reclaimed. The site covers less than 1 acre.

Geologic Features: The mine is near the contact between Late Cretaceous biotite granodiorite and the biotite schist and gneiss unit of the Middle or Early Proterozoic Elk City metamorphic sequence. The Vendetta is near a large fault that marks the course of the East Fork of Crooked River (Lewis and others, 1990, 1993). Many mines in the region are near the contact between the metamorphic rocks and the igneous

rocks that intruded them. Jellum (1909) indicated the ore is associated with a large north-south-trending dike. The main sulfide minerals present in dump material are pyrite and chalcopyrite (Rains, 1991).

History: Joseph Powers located the Vendetta Mine in 1903 (Rains, 1903). In the early 1900s, the Vendetta Group consisted of fourteen claims owned by Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, capitalists. Joe Powers was the manager. The ore ran \$3.85 per ton across 250 feet (Jellum, 1909). During the 1920s, Frank Peck located the property as the Full Moon, Half Moon, and Quarter Moon. In 1955, the claims were again relocated, and Don Lee called the property the Pasadena. In 1989, the claims were owned by Kathleen Van Scotter (Rains, 1991).

Structures: There are no structures at this site.

Safety: There are no hazards associated with the Vendetta 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.

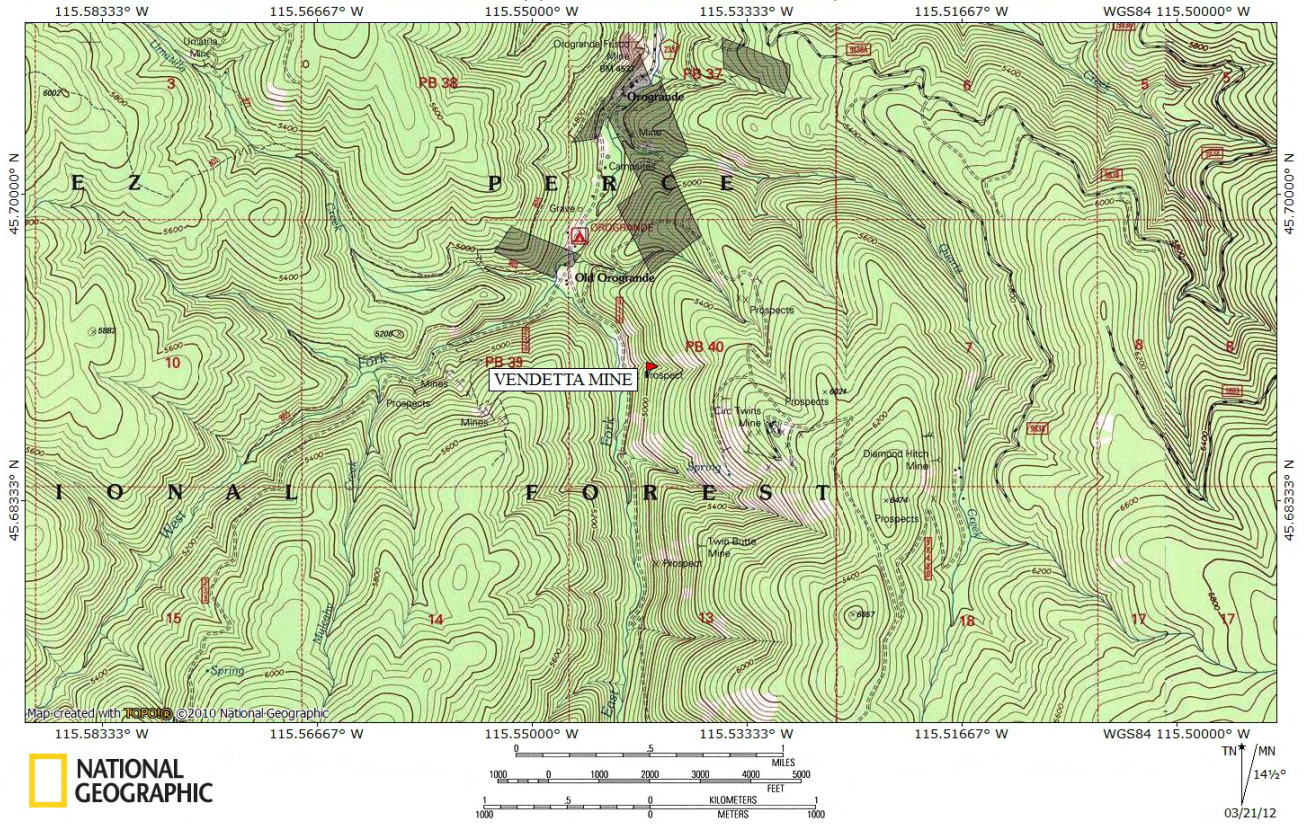
Topographic Overview Map of the Vendetta Mine Location. 10/25/2011. 1:24,000. Daniel Stewart; National Geographic Topographic Software.

<http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/ngs/product/topo%21-state-series/topo%21-idaho>

Attachment:

Map

TOPO! map printed on 03/21/12 from "Untitled.tpo"



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