

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) have identified an inactive Sunshine Precious Metals, Inc. (Sunshine) tailings pond as a potential site for a repository for disposal of waste generated by cleanup activities conducted pursuant to the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision (OU3 ROD). The site is located adjacent to Big Creek in Shoshone County, Idaho, approximately 0.25 mile south of I-90. The site under consideration is the more northerly of two adjacent tailings ponds formerly operated by Sunshine. The site location is shown in Figure 1-1.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the public and the Coeur d'Alene Basin Environmental Improvement Commission (Basin Commission), including the Basin Commission's Technical Leadership Group (TLG), with information regarding use of the old Sunshine tailings pond site as a mine waste repository pursuant to the requirements established in the OU3 ROD. An initial conceptual design report was prepared in March 2002, and door-to-door community updates were provided in late May 2002. The Shoshone County Commissioners were briefed on May 1, 2002.

The repository was operated during the 2002 and 2003 field seasons in support of the Basin Yards Program under the authority of the memorandum entitled "Special Circumstances Action Memorandum to Continue Removal Actions at Common Use Areas and Residential Properties and at Residences with Contaminated Drinking Water Wells and Interior House Dust, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, Idaho" dated June 18, 1999 and the OU3 ROD. Field investigation and design work has continued and will be completed by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) design team in Spring 2004. IDEQ has acquired the property from Sunshine and will operate the facility as a mine waste repository in support of the OU3 ROD as of the 2004 field season. The facility was operated by EPA and the USACE team during the 2002 and 2003 field seasons.

This memorandum summarizes information presented in the following USACE documents.

- Big Creek Repository Conceptual Design Alternatives: Technical Memorandum, March 26, 2002 (final)
- 2002 Field Season Activities Waste Disposal Report, May 5, 2003 (final)
- Big Creek Repository: Phase 1 Field Investigation Report, December 2002 (final)
- Big Creek Repository: Phase II Field Exploration Investigation Report, March 20, 2003 (draft final)
- 2003 Field Season Activities Waste Disposal Report, April 2004 (draft final)
- Big Creek Repository Design Analysis Report (DAR), April 2004 (draft final)

Technical Memorandum
Big Creek Repository Site Evaluation
Draft Final as of June 30, 2004

- Big Creek Repository Operations Plan, April 2004 (draft final)

The remainder of this memorandum is organized in four sections.

- Section 2 provides descriptions of pertinent site features
- Section 3 provides an overview of important design issues
- Section 4 describes the proposed repository operations and waste acceptance criteria
- Section 5 describes how the proposed repository will fulfill the technical evaluation criteria described in the ROD

