



Superfund Records Center

SITE: _____
BREAK: 13.5
OTHER: 213131

Callahan Mine

Community Update

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is beginning a Remedial Investigation (RI) at the Callahan Mine Superfund site in Brooksville, Maine. The purpose of this study is to identify the nature and extent of contamination in the groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, air and fish/shellfish. EPA is conducting this study in cooperation with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP). This comprehensive field investigation will begin in November 2004 and is expected to be completed by December 2005.

November, 2004



SDMS DocID 000213131

Site Background

The Callahan Mine Superfund site is located approximately 1,000 feet east-southeast of Harborside Village in the town of Brooksville, Hancock County, Maine. The site is the former location of a zinc/copper open pit mine that was approximately 600-1,000 feet in diameter and 320 feet deep. The mining operations were conducted adjacent to and beneath Goose Pond, a tidal estuary. The site encompasses approximately 150 acres and is located in a coastal, rural setting on the Cape Rosier peninsula. The property abuts Goose Pond to the east, and private properties to the west, south, and north.

The mine was operated by the Callahan Mining Corporation between 1968 and 1972. When mining operations ceased, the open pit mine was flooded by opening a dam at Goose Falls. The remains of the mine's operations buildings, a tailings pond, and large waste piles (waste rock piles) remain on the site (see map on page 2).

Studies conducted by state and federal agencies to initially assess the environmental impact of mining operations indicated that there were elevated levels of cadmium, copper, lead, and zinc in Goose Cove sediments, in on-site soils as well as

in the shellfish. Based on an evaluation of these studies, EPA placed the Callahan Mine site on the Superfund List in September, 2002.

Current and Future Activities

EPA has gathered and reviewed existing documentation and information regarding site conditions and past mining operations. This information was compiled to develop a conceptual site model and a detailed work plan to fully investigate the nature and extent of contamination. In 2003 and 2004 ME DEP sampled private drinking water wells near the site and found elevated levels of metals in four wells. As a result of these findings, ME DEP has offered to provide bottled water to the affected residents.

EPA's upcoming field investigation to assess the contamination at the site will include:

- ▲ collection and analysis of soil and air samples;
- ▲ collection of fish, shellfish, surface water and sediment samples;
- ▲ installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells;
- ▲ a residential water sampling program; and
- ▲ a wetlands and wildlife survey.

Using the information collected above, a human health and ecological risk assessment will be developed to assess the potential hazards the contamination poses, as well as to identify potential cleanup measures that might be warranted.

The field investigation will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will begin in early November and will extend into late December of 2004. The second and final phase will begin in the spring of 2005 and is planned to be completed by December of 2005.

WARNING:

During the field investigation, site workers will be moving heavy equipment on and off the site. While EPA will take measures to restrict public access, residents are urged to help in this effort by warning children and others not to enter the former mine site work areas. EPA will make every effort to minimize disturbance to residents during this investigation and would like to thank you for your cooperation.

INFORMATION AND CONTACTS:

Internet users may access current site information at:

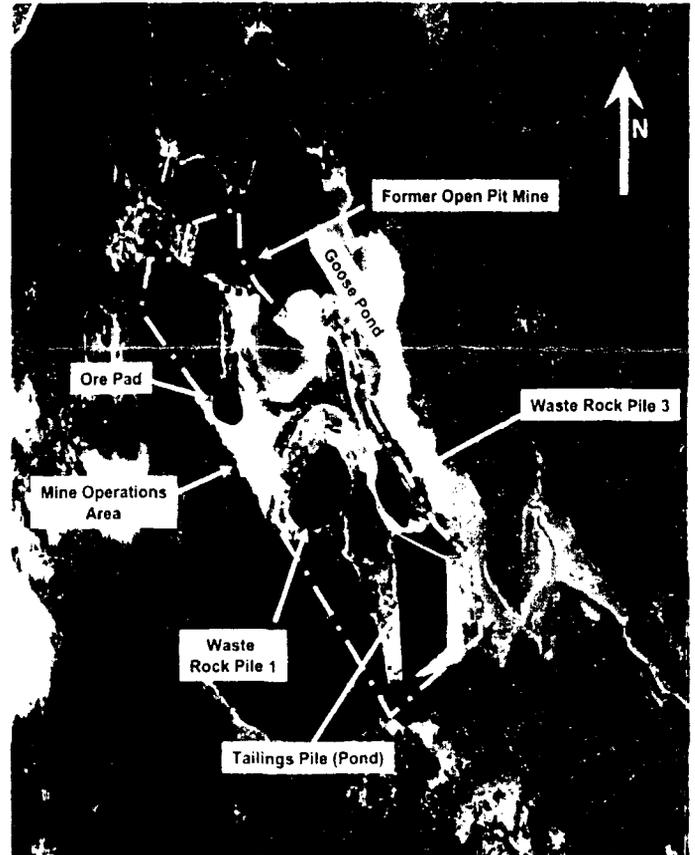
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/maine.htm#statelist>

Site information can also be found at:

Brooksville Free Public Library
1 Town House Road
Brooksville, Maine 04617
(207) 326-4560

EPA Records Center
One Congress Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
617-918-1318

CALLAHAN MINE SUPERFUND SITE



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