

Hecla Settlement Brings New Cleanup Funds, Fosters Cooperation

On June 13, 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice and EPA announced that a significant settlement was reached between Hecla Mining Company and the United States, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the State of Idaho. The settlement resolves one of the largest cases ever filed under Superfund, bringing decades of litigation to a close. Under the settlement, Hecla will pay \$263.4 million plus interest to the United States, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the State to resolve claims stemming from releases of wastes from its mining operations. Most (75%) of the recovery funds will be used for response actions at the Bunker Hill Superfund Site. The remaining amount will fund natural resource restoration projects.

The settlement brings in new funding for important cleanup to restore critical fish and wildlife habitat in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. Although there have been many measurable improvements in the health of people and the environment over the years, the contamination is widespread and much more cleanup is needed. The settlement also lays the foundation for future cooperation between Hecla and EPA in the Basin. It includes a process for coordinating Hecla's future mining operations with the Coeur d'Alene Basin cleanup. Cleanup and mining can now move forward together in the Silver Valley. This will help establish a stronger future: one built on mining and stewardship, a healthier environment, and a growing, vibrant economy.