

August 16, 2007

Caribou-Targhee NF  
Soda Springs RD  
410 East Hooper Ave  
Soda Springs, ID  
(208) 547-4356

# Phosphate Newsletter

## *North Maybe Mine*

Nu-West Mining, Inc. and Nu-West Industries Inc. are conducting a site investigation at North Maybe Mine. In August 2006, Nu-West completed a "2006 Supplement the Site Investigation Report, North Maybe Mine" in February of 2007.

North Maybe Mine is located entirely on National Forest System Lands within the boundaries of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Significant site features include a mine pit 2.5 miles long, waste dumps external to the pit on the west, south and northeast sides, former haul roads and a former shop/office site with no buildings. There are approximately 612 acres disturbed as a result of mining activities.

The contaminants of concern are selenium, cadmium, chromium, nickel, vanadium and zinc. USDA Forest Service is the lead agency for this cleanup project.

Among the concerns identified in the Site Investigation to date are two sediment ponds located at the toe of the East Mill Dump. These ponds are filled with sediment and no longer perform their intended function as sediment traps.

Threats to public health, welfare or the environment posed by these ponds include:

1. Selenium has been detected in the sediments located within ponds at the head of East Mill Creek. These sediments are one source of selenium contamination detected in East Mill Creek water.
2. The sediment ponds are full. There is no current means of trapping any material eroded from East Mill Dump or preventing migration of sediments downstream.
3. Severe weather conditions could produce severe erosion of the ponds. Contaminated sediments continue to be released to East Mill Creek and the associated riparian area.

### **Proposed Action Items Include:**

- Remove the existing sediment accumulation and ponds to bedrock.
- Transport material removed to the West Mill Dump where it will be placed on an existing waste rock pile, covered with a 2-foot cap of selenium-free rock from the Dinwoody Fm., fertilized and seeded.
- Construct energy dissipation structures to capture any waste rock sediment eroded off the East Mill Dump and prevent it from impacting the creek.
- Restore the creek channel.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the action.
- Maintain energy dissipater structures, as needed, to remove sediment accumulations and to ensure long-term performance.

Removal of contaminated sediments in the East Mill Creek drainage is the first remedial action planned for the North Maybe Mine. Other actions are anticipated for the future. The sediment removal will complement future actions by removing one known source of contamination.

The Forest Service anticipates approving a removal action. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2007.

## *Pole Canyon Update*

Construction on the Pole Canyon diversion, part of the Smoky Canyon Phosphate Mine, started in October of 2006 and the pipeline portion of the project was complete on February 2007. The purpose of the diversion was to divert Pole Canyon Creek, before it flows beneath a waste rock overburden disposal area (ODA), as part of the plan to remediate contaminant releases from Smoky Canyon Phosphate Mine.

In March, engineers found leaks in the pipeline after running water tests through the pipe. Further testing conducted in April indicated approximately 6800 ft. of the 10,400 ft. pipeline leaked. J. R. Simplot's personnel and engineering consultants along with the Forest Service's engineers met to discuss why the pipeline failed and replacement options. During May and June, Simplot conducted a forensic evaluation of the entire project and submitted a work plan to replace the leaking portion of the pipeline.

Changes to the new pipeline include:

- Type of Pipe Used—Slip joint corrugated HDPE pipe was used in the section that leaked. Now the entire project will use a fused pipe which will be welded/fused joints and a thicker wall.
- Access Points—Access points will be installed every 1,000 feet in the pipeline for future maintenance, if needed.

During the month of July, the leaking pipeline was removed and installation of the replacement pipe began July 31st. Installation will continue through August with an anticipated completion date of September 30, 2007.

## *Wooley Valley Mine*

Negotiations have begun with Rhodia LLC. to conduct a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study to address selenium releases from the Wooley Valley Mine.

### **Information Highlights:**

- Next newsletter will be in October 2007

For more information and to download documents:

- [www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/)
- <http://giscenter-ims.isu.edu/SISP/>