

# Damage Assessment Plan

Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt Superfund Site (Jasper County)  
and Newton County Mine Tailings Superfund Site

## Information Sheet

June 2008

### Document Location:

The Damage Assessment Plan is available for review on the Web at:

[www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/sfund/nrda.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/sfund/nrda.htm) or in the

following locations:

Joplin Public Library  
300 South Main St.  
Joplin, Missouri

Webb City Public Library  
101 S. Liberty  
Webb City, Missouri

Carl Junction City Hall  
105 N. Main St.  
Carl Junction, Missouri

Granby City Hall  
302 N. Main  
Granby, Missouri

U.S. EPA Region 7  
Superfund Records Center  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas

### Comment Period:

June 29 – July 28, 2008

Please send written comments to:

Frances Klahr  
Missouri Department of  
Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102



**Missouri  
Department of  
Natural Resources**

### Site History

The Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt Superfund Site (Jasper County) and Newton County Mine Tailings Superfund Site are located in the Tri-State Mining District, covering approximately 2,500-square miles across the states of Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the District is the fourth largest historic producer of lead within the United States, and the number one historic producer of zinc. Total ore production is estimated at nearly 12 million tons of zinc and 2.9 million tons of lead.

Chat piles, tailings, development and waste rock piles, subsidence ponds, and contaminated soils are widespread across the sites. Much of the waste is highly contaminated with hazardous substances, including lead, zinc, cadmium, copper, and selenium. Lead, zinc, and cadmium are the main contaminants of concern at the Sites because of their relative volume, concentration and toxicity. Runoff from mine waste has contaminated streams and sediments. Former underground mines have flooded exposing mineralized areas to oxygen and contaminating groundwater.

Due to threats to human health and the environment by mining-related releases of hazardous substances, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Superfund Program, listed the Jasper County Site (1990) and Newton County Mine Tailings Site (2003) on the National Priorities List. Cleanups have been completed for some of the operable units at the Superfund sites, while others are in the cleanup process.

### Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA) History

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) are the designated Trustees on behalf of the citizens of the United States and State of Missouri. As Trustees, MDNR and USFWS have the authority to assess injuries to natural resources and recover damages on behalf of the public. The recovered damages are used for “restoring, replacing, rehabilitating or acquiring the equivalent of” the injured natural resources.

# Questions

For more information, please call or write:

Frances Klahr  
Missouri Department of  
Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
frances.klahr@dnr.mo.gov  
573-522-1347  
1-800-361-4827

or

David Mosby  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
101 Park DeVille Dr., Suite A  
Columbia, MO 65203  
dave\_mosby@fws.gov  
573-234-2132 ext. 113

Through the NRDA process, the Trustees assess the environmental affects of the mining-related contaminants on natural resources and develop restoration actions to restore these injured resources for public use. NRDA is authorized by federal law and supplements the Superfund cleanup process. The Superfund cleanup process focuses on cleaning up the metals and reducing future risks to human health and the environment, while NRDA focuses on restoration of natural resources to their baseline condition (i.e., the condition prior to the release of the contaminants).

## **Current Status of NRDA Process**

The Preassessment Screens (PASs) for the Jasper County Superfund Site and Newton County Mine Tailings Site were released in 2002 and 2008, respectively. These documents confirmed:

- Release of heavy metals into the environment;
- Natural resources have been adversely affected;
- Contaminant concentrations are sufficient to cause injuries;
- Data needed to conduct a NRDA are available, or can be obtained at a reasonable cost; and
- Completed or planned response actions will neither completely restore injured natural resources to baseline nor compensate for the public's loss.

The Notices of Intent (NOIs) to Perform a Natural Resources Damages Assessment and invitations to participate in the assessment planning process were sent to each potentially responsible party. The Trustees have prepared a Damage Assessment Plan (DAP) to begin documenting the injury caused to natural resources in Jasper and Newton counties. As part of the NRDA process, the draft DAP is being made available for public review and comment. The public review period is from June 29, 2008 to July 28, 2008. Please see the front of this sheet for information on where to find the draft DAP and where to send written comments.

The Trustees will host a public meeting on July 10, 2008. The meeting will be held at Missouri Southern State University, Robert Plaster Free Enterprise Center, Room 213, University Parkway in Joplin, Missouri from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A short presentation regarding the DAP will be given at 5:30 p.m. and repeated at 7:00 p.m. A question and answer session will follow each presentation. Comment cards will be available at the meeting to provide written comments on the DAP.