Molycorp Mine Site



Physical Features (Mine Site)

- Approximately 5.5 km from the Village of Questa.
- Area of Mine Site is approximately 16km².
- Encompasses 3 main tributary valley to the Red River: Capulin Canyon, Goat Hill Gulch and Sulphur Gulch.
- Elevation at the min site ranges from 2300m to 3200m.
- Mining activities produced extensive underground workings and an open pit of approximately 0.65 km². Also produced approximately 320 million tons of waste rock that around the open pit.









Sulphur Gulch



Spring Gulch





Middle



Goat Hill North

Geology (Mine Site)

- Precambrian metamorphic assemblages and granitic intrusive rocks overlain by Tertiary volcanic.
- Molybdenite mineralization caused by Late Oligocene and Early Miocene quartz monzonite and granites intrusions.
- Hydrothermally altered volcanics contain pyrite mineralization (1-3%).
- Mineral deposit considered Climax-type deposit.
 - Associated with silca and fluorine rich rhyoloite prophyry and grantitic intursives.
- 3 principal alternation zones.
 - Highly altered quartz-sericite- pyrite zone,
 - Less-altered argillic (koalinite) zones, and
 - Mildly altered propylitic zone.
- Ore deposit contains quartz, molybdenite, pyrite, fluorite, calcite, dolomite, and rhodochrosite with lesser amounts of galena, sphalerite, chalcopyrite, magnetite and hematite.

Climate and Vegetation

- Annual average temperature is 4°C.
- Annual average precipitation is 52cm.
- Annual average snowfall is 370 cm.
- Prevalent vegetation zones are:
 - Willows, cottonwoods, shrubs, perennial grasses and flowerly vegetation along the Red River,
 - Pinon-juniper woodland (1800-2300m),
 - Mixed conifer woodland (2300-2740m),
 - Spruce-fir woodland (2740-3660m).

Hydrology

- Surface water:
 - Red River originates near Wheeler Peak at an altitude of 3658m and flows roughly 55km to the confluence with the Rio Grande.
 - Peak stream flow occurs from late May to mid June.
 - Summer thunderstorms are prevalent in July and August.
 - Mean annual discharge ranges from 12.8 to 103 ft³/s, average daily discharge ranges from 2.5 to 750 ft³/s.
 - Springs and shallow alluvial ground water discharge to the Red River make it a gaining stream over much of its length.





Spring 13



Spring 13

Cabin Springs



Sampling along the Red River

Spring 39 area



Hydrology

- Ground Water:
- 4 types of water bearing units:
 - Fractured bedrock
 - Largest volume of aquifer but contains small amounts of water do to its low porosity. Chemically clean (no to little exceedences of State Standards.
 - Waste rock piles, debris fans
 - Geochemically reactive, high porosities and fast infiltration rates. (many exceedences of State Standards)
 - Red river alluvium
 - Restricted in areal extent and have variable composition and chemically clean (no to little exceedences of State Standards)





Constituents of Concerns (Mine Site)

Constituent	Standard (mg/l)	Median concentration for Sugar Shack Middle (mg/l)	Median concentration for Capulin Spring (mg/l)
Aluminum	5.0	378	1150
Beryllium	0.004	0.15	0.36
Cadmium	0.01	0.12	0.57
Chromium	0.05	0.04	0.939
Cobalt	0.05	2.36	3.6
Copper	1.0	3.78	9.6
Fluoride	1.6	92	119
Iron	1.0	12	427
Manganese	0.2	241	550
Nickel	0.2	4.2	8.45
Sulfate	600	7100	15000
Total Dissolved Solids	1000	10750	20000
Zinc	10	29	127
рН	Between 6-9 s.u.	2.95	2.76

Major On going Studies (Mine Site)

- Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (EPA)
- Baseline Study (26 reports)
- Revegetation Study
- Cover Infiltration Study
- Stability Study

Closure Plan (Mine Site)

- Regrade slopes to 3:1
- Cover with 3 ft of material and vegetate. (infiltration barrier)
- Water treatment

Molycorp Tailing Facility



Physical Features

- Approximately 3.5km from the Village of Questa.
- Area of Tailings Facility is approximately 4km².
- Facility sits in 2 southwest draining arroyos (draniages).
- Contains approximately 100 million tons of tailings.















Geology

Alluvial Sediments of the Santa Fe Group
– Consists of sand, gravel and clays.

Climate and Vegetation

- Average annual precipitation is 40 cm.
- Vegetation consists of sagebrush/grassland with Pinon-juniper

Hydrology

- Surface water is diverted around the Facility.
- Ground Water:
- 2 main units
 - Upper and Lower Aquifer Units made up of interfingering of sands, gravels and clays. (Dams 1and 2)
 - Basalts (Dams 3, 4, and 5)

Constituents of concern

- Molybdenum
- Fluoride
- Manganese

Closure Plan (Tailings)

- Cover with 1 meter of material and vegetate. (infiltration barrier)
- Create positive drainage off facility.
- Capture and treat seepage.