



# **National Park Service Community Involvement Plan**

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**Skidoo Mill Site  
Death Valley National Park (DEVA)  
Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12  
National Park Service  
October 2019**



**Revision Log:**

Revision #	Revision Date	Revision Description





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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AML	Abandoned Mine/Mineral Lands
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
DEVA	Death Valley National Park
DU	Decision Unit
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ISM	Incremental Sampling Methodology
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NPS	National Park Service
OU	Operable Unit



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service (NPS) is issuing this *Community Involvement Plan* (CIP) as a resource to enable meaningful community involvement throughout its investigation, selection, and implementation of cleanup activities at the Skidoo Mill Site (Site). The NPS is conducting these cleanup activities at the Site pursuant to the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act* (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601, *et seq.* and its implementing regulations under the *National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan* (NCP), 40 C.F.R. Part 300. NPS is committed to encouraging public participation and providing opportunities for communication between the NPS and the affected community, interested stakeholders, and community residents during the environmental investigation and cleanup activities at the Site.

CERCLA-related terms are defined in Appendix A, Glossary.

### 1.1 Purpose and Objectives of the CIP

The CIP has been prepared in accordance with CERCLA and the NCP. The CIP serves as a guide for the NPS to engage and inform community members, environmental groups, government officials, the media, and other interested parties in the environmental investigation and cleanup activities at the Site. The CIP is a “living” document and will be updated or revised, as appropriate, as Site conditions change.

The CIP has two key objectives. The first key objective is to provide for the dissemination of information to the public in a timely, accurate, meaningful, and understandable manner. The second objective is to create opportunities—and ensure the community understands those opportunities—for active public participation, enabling interested persons to provide valuable comments that can be used by the NPS project team for planning and decision making.

The strategies to accomplish these objectives take into consideration the location of the Site and surrounding community. The Skidoo Mill Site is located in Death Valley National Park (DEVA), in an unincorporated area of Inyo County, California (Figure 1). The Site is located near the top of a broad ridge in the Panamint Mountains. The Site is accessed via an unpaved road with signage off Emigrant Canyon Road (Figure 2). It is a popular visitor destination and one of Death Valley’s signature mining areas. The Site is currently fully open to the public. The mill and process areas are located on a steep canyon wall and covers approximately 5 acres. The mill is well preserved and displays many intact features. The tanks, mercury tables, and a large portion of the mill operations are well preserved and visible. The Site is located within Skidoo Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Inyo County is the 26<sup>th</sup>-largest county in the United States with an area of 26,488 square kilometers. Home to 18,410 people, Inyo County has a total of 9,438 households earning \$44,796 on average per year. Major cities in Inyo County are Bishop (population: 13,834), Lone Pine (population: 2,076), Big Pine (population: 1,758), Independence (population: 717), Death





Valley (population: 443), Olancho (population: 343), Tecopa (population: 155), Darwin (population: 47), Keeler (population: 46), and Shoshone (population: 35).

Figure 1. Site Vicinity Map

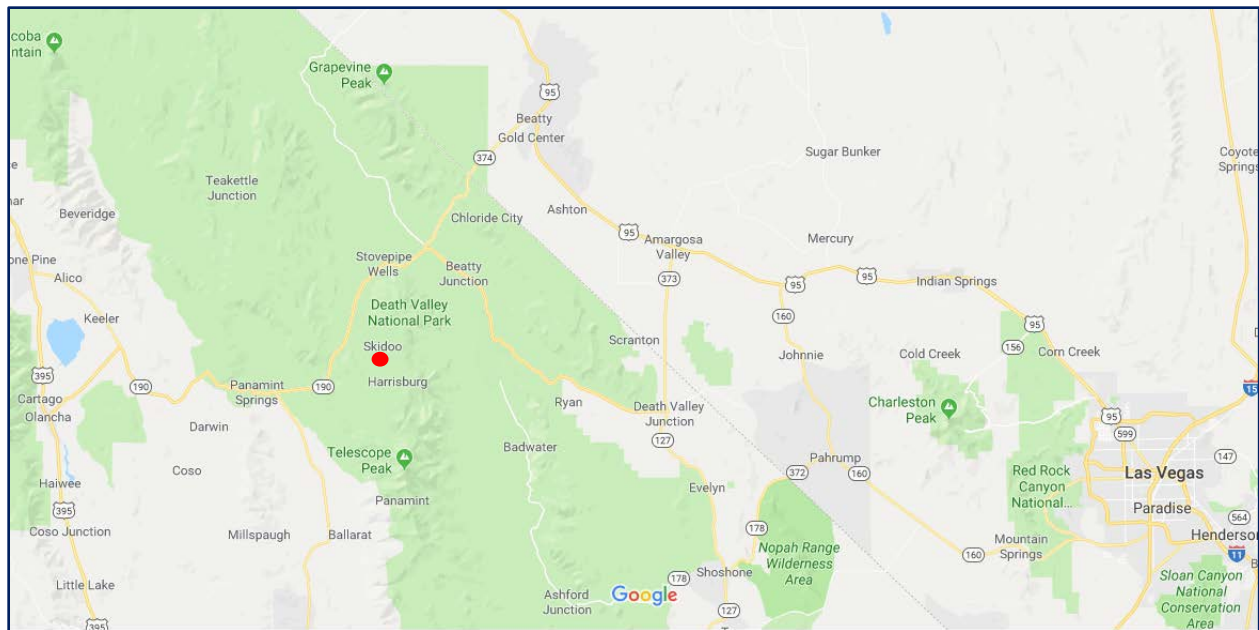
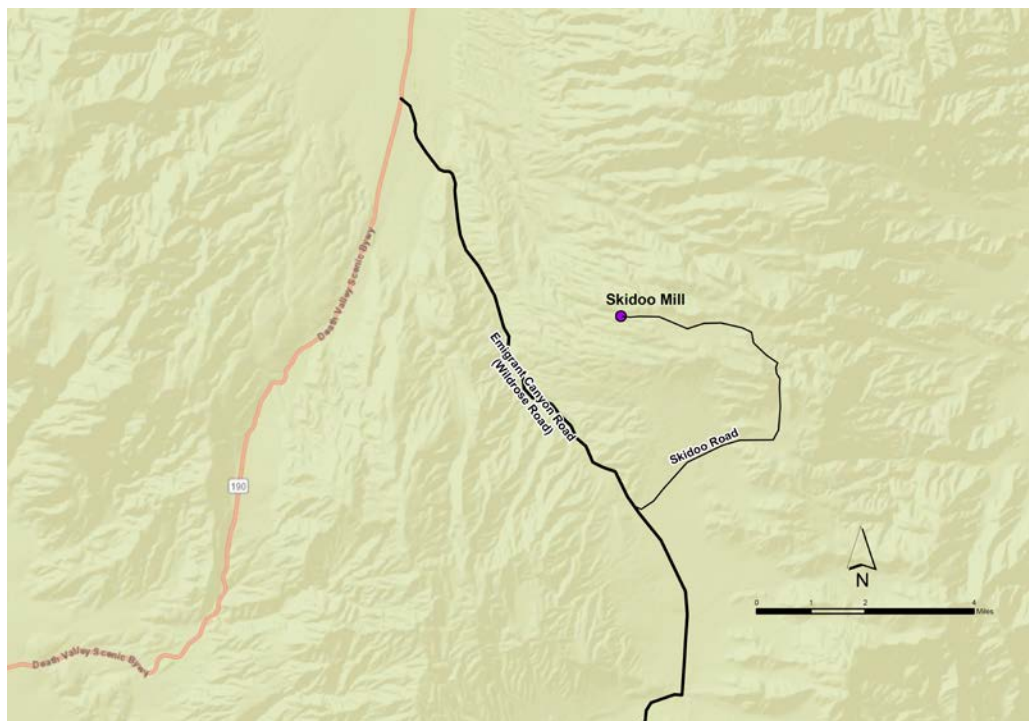


Figure 2. Site Map





## **1.2 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)**

The NPS is investigating and cleaning up the Site pursuant to CERCLA and the NCP. Congress enacted CERCLA, also known as Superfund, in 1980 to address releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances into the environment. CERCLA gives the President broad powers to respond to hazardous substance releases and threatened releases as the President deems necessary to protect the public health or welfare or the environment, including enforcement authority with respect to parties responsible for the releases. The President has delegated this authority to a number of federal departments and agencies, including the Department of the Interior. The NPS, an agency within the Department of the Interior, is the CERCLA lead agency for the Site.

To implement CERCLA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the NCP, which is a set of regulations that detail how CERCLA cleanups are to be conducted, including requirements for community involvement activities. Different requirements apply to different types of response actions. The NPS has determined that preparation of an engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) is appropriate for the Site. The EE/CA is being prepared to fully characterize the nature and extent of Site contamination, evaluate associated potential risks to human health and safety and the environment, identify relevant cleanup requirements, develop a range of cleanup alternatives, and identify a recommended removal and/or response action alternative for the Site. As the lead agency for the Site, NPS must involve the community during the engineering evaluation and cost analysis process in the manner detailed in the NCP, and this CIP is part of that community involvement process.

## **1.3 Overview of the CIP**

The CIP specifies the community involvement activities that the NPS expects to undertake as investigation and cleanup of the Site proceeds. This CIP is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0: Introduction – A description of the purpose of the CIP.
- Section 2.0: Site Background – An overview of Site description and history, previous Site investigations, and current and future Site activities.
- Section 3.0: Community Background – A community profile, history of community involvement at the Site, and summary of community concerns and questions.
- Section 4.0: Community Involvement Activities – A description of planned methods and activities for communicating with the public concerning Site activities, and a general schedule of anticipated community involvement activities.
- Section 5.0: References – A list of references used in developing this CIP.





The appendices include a glossary (Appendix A), administrative record file and information repository details (Appendix B), community fact sheets and community updates (Appendix C), contact information (Appendix D), and tables of minimum community involvement requirements (Appendix E).



## **2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Site Description and History**

The Site is located near the top of a broad ridge in the Panamint Mountains. It is a popular visitor destination and one of Death Valley's signature mining areas. The Site is currently fully open to the public. The mill is well preserved and displays many intact features. The tanks, mercury tables, and a large portion of the mill operations are well preserved and visible. Skidoo Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

To the north, down the canyon, the slope goes over a shear "dry fall." In the area to the south, up the ravine, the grade is very mild and broadens into an alluvial plain. To the east and west are steep to moderately sloped canyon walls.

In 1906, Skidoo Mill was founded when two prospectors found gold on their way to the Harrisburg strike. The bulk of the milling done at this Site took place from 1907-1917, with smaller, sporadic milling continuing periodically until 1942. Skidoo's population grew to 700 people; however, almost nothing remains of the former town. Operations of the mill included four mercury amalgamation tables and at least nine large cyanide-leaching tanks. Skidoo became the Death Valley region's largest mining operation in 1907-1917 time period. Sporadic milling continued periodically until 1942.

Both mercury amalgamation and cyanide-leaching operations took place in large scale. Ore was hauled to the mill by truck to a 50-ton ore bin, and crushed by two jaw crushers in series. Over 90,000 tons of ore was processed.

Pink fine-grained tailings are abundant on Site and in locations accessible to the public. The tailings are found in many of the operations tanks at the mill and upstream/upslope to an area that is suspected to be an impoundment area. Below the suspected impoundment area, tailings can be traced for approximately 4,000 feet down canyon. The main concentration of tailings covers an area of approximately one acre.

### **2.2 Site Location**

Skidoo Mill is located near the top of a broad ridge in the Panamint Mountains (Latitude: 36.4368° North, Longitude: -117.1549° West) in Death Valley National Park. The Site is accessed via a well graded road with signage off Emigrant Canyon Road. The mill and process areas are located on a steep canyon wall and cover approximately 5 acres. The closest permanent residents live in Stovepipe Wells, California, approximately 26 miles driving distance from the Site (approximately 1 hour of drive time). Stovepipe Wells Village is home to the Stovepipe Wells Resort.

### **2.3 Previous Environmental Studies and Response Actions**

A preliminary assessment of the Skidoo Mill Site was conducted by Environmental Cost Management (ECM) in 2014, as part of Preliminary Assessment of 27 Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Sites at DEVA (ECM, 2014). Based on operational history and information gathered during the preliminary assessment, the chemicals of concern were estimated to be cyanide and



metals. As a follow-up, a site inspection of the Skidoo Mill Site was conducted by NOREAS, Inc. (NOREAS) in 2016.

The site inspection field activities at Skidoo Mill were performed in February 2016. Soil samples were collected and characterized using an incremental sampling methodology (ISM), per Interstate Technology Regulatory Council guidance (ITRC 2012). The Site was divided into five decision units (DUs), each of which represents a specific area/volume of soil at the Site.

The cyanide processing area (DU-1) had ISM soil sampling. The mercury amalgamation area (DU-2) had ISM soil sampling and one water sample was taken. The mill tailing impoundment (DU-3) had ISM soil sampling and water sampling from a small area of ponded water within the mill tailings. Mill tailings in the wash (DU-4) was characterized using 15 discrete samples. The background non-contaminated native soil (DU-5) was sampled using both ISM and discrete sampling methods.

The soil and water samples were analyzed for metals listed in California Code of Regulations Title 22, metals listed in California Administrative Manual #17 (CAM17), cyanide, and pH. Also, select soil samples were analyzed for acid-base accounting (ABA).

Concentrations that are elevated above background levels of antimony, arsenic, lead, mercury, molybdenum, silver, and zinc were detected in soil samples collected at the Site. Several metals exceeded the regional screening levels (RSLs) for residential soil and NPS ecological screening values (ESVs). In addition, several metals in water samples exceeded the ESVs.

## **2.4 Current and Future Site Activities**

The Site is routinely visited by approximately 1,000 park visitors per year exploring DEVA while traveling in 4 wheel drive vehicles. The area is only sporadically patrolled by law enforcement. Land uses are unlikely to change in the future.

The NPS is conducting an engineering evaluation and cost analysis to fully characterize the nature and extent of Site contamination, evaluate associated potential risks to human health and safety and the environment, identify relevant cleanup requirements, develop a range of cleanup alternatives, and identify a recommended removal action alternative for the Site. As the lead agency for the Site, NPS must involve the community during the engineering evaluation and cost analysis process in the manner detailed in the NCP, and this CIP is part of that community involvement process.



### **3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Community Profile**

The Skidoo Mill Site is located in Death Valley National Park (DEVA), an unincorporated community in Inyo County, California (Figure 1). The Site is located near the top of a broad ridge in the Panamint Mountains. The Site is accessed via an unpaved road with signage off Emigrant Canyon Road.

No one lives at Skidoo; it a ghost town. The closest residents live in Stovepipe Wells, approximately 26 miles driving distance from the Site (approximately 1 hour of drive time). All residents are employees of either Death Valley Lodging Company or the National Park Service, or are family members of employees.

Skidoo is within the area specified for co-management by NPS and Timbisha Shoshone Tribe by the Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act (P.L. 106-423).

About 1,700,000 travelers visit Death Valley National Park each year from all over the world. Most of these visitors pass through, or stay at, Stovepipe Wells Resort. An estimated 1,000 people per year visit Skidoo. Camping is prohibited at Skidoo. Community Involvement History

There has not been any community involvement activities with respect to Skidoo Mill Site to date.

#### **3.2 Community Concerns and Needs**

This CIP is a living document and will be updated once community concerns and needs are expressed.



## 4.0 PLANNED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The key objectives of the community involvement program are to establish and encourage communication between NPS and the community and provide opportunities for the public to provide input throughout the course of CERCLA response activities at the Site. For the purposes of this document, “community” refers to any interested party, not just people living in close proximity.

The following methods and techniques will be used to promote public participation and establish steps to provide timely information to interested residents, agency staff, government officials, the media, and the public at large. The first part of this section describes each community involvement activity and the second part provides a schedule for when those activities will occur.

*Important: Upon request, NPS will endeavor to meet identified needs for translation, access to electronic communications, disability access, or other accommodations for people with special needs.*

### 4.1 Communication Methods and Community Involvement Activities

- **Site Spokesperson**

Abby Wines is the designated NPS spokesperson who will inform the community of actions taken, respond to inquiries, provide information concerning the Site, and act as liaison between the NPS and community members, environmental groups, government officials, the media, and other interested parties.

Abby Wines  
Public Information Officer, Death Valley National Park  
PO Box 579, Death Valley, CA 92328  
Phone: 760-786-3221  
Email: abby\_wines@nps.gov

- **Administrative Record File and Information Repository**

The administrative record file is housed in both information repositories and contains Site environmental investigations and reports and other information that NPS considers or relies upon in the response action selection process. NPS will update the administrative record file at key points during the response action process, such as when important investigations and reports are completed. The information repositories are located at:

**Furnace Creek Visitors Center**  
P.O. Box 579  
Death Valley, CA 92328  
8 am to 5 pm daily  
Phone: (760) 786-3200



**Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station**

Stovepipe Wells, CA 92328

Open most days, 9 am – 3:30 pm

Phone: (760) 786-2342

- **Interested Parties Mailing List**

NPS maintains an interested-parties mailing list that includes federal, state, and local elected officials; local school district officials; selected agency staff; community groups; media contacts; and interested community members. NPS notifies the parties on the list whenever key documents are published or the status of the Site changes.

In accordance with NPS's sustainability efforts, whenever possible mailings will be sent electronically by email, with hyperlinks to documents posted on the website. However, interested parties can request conventional mail delivery if access to electronic communication is not available. In such cases, the NPS will send a letter informing interested parties of the availability of documents at the information repositories.

Efforts will be ongoing to expand the mailing list. Individuals can be added to the mailing list by contacting the Site spokesperson (See Appendix D for contact information).

- **Public Comment Periods**

A public comment period is a formal time period during which the NPS accepts comments from the public on specific proposed actions or decisions.

Generally, public comment periods last for 30 days, although they may be longer. Upon timely request (preferably to the Site spokesperson and in writing) during any public comment period, the NPS will extend the public comment period by a minimum of 15 days.

Upon request, the NPS will meet identified needs for translation, access to electronic communications, or other accommodations for persons with special needs.

Following the close of a formal public comment period, the NPS will prepare written responses to substantive public comments *received during the public comment period* (called a "responsiveness summary"); the responsiveness summary will be added to the administrative record file.

- **Public Notices**

The NPS will issue public notices to inform the community and the general public of public events, publication of key documents, and major Site milestones.





NPS will use one or more of the following methods to distribute public notices about the Site:

- Press release.
- Social media
- [parkplanning.nps.gov](http://parkplanning.nps.gov)
- Notice sent to the Interested Parties Mailing List.

- **Public Meetings or Open Houses**

Public meetings or open houses may be scheduled to communicate directly with the public about key Site milestones. Open houses are informal opportunities to answer public questions. Public meetings are usually fairly structured forums that are open to the general public. Public meetings typically include an NPS staff presentation followed by a question, answer, and comment session.

If public meetings are held, the NPS will attempt to provide a translator if requested in advance. Public meetings would be recorded and the transcript would be included in the administrative record.

At this time, no interest is anticipated in public meetings or open houses about this project.

- **Park Visitor Communication**

NPS has determined that the most effective ways to provide Site information to Park visitors will be to use the following methods:

- Park website, [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva)
- Informed Park staff at visitor center information desks (with sufficient information to address visitor questions)

- **Community Updates**

Community Updates are brief documents to inform the community about the Site and the environmental investigation and cleanup process. Community Updates present information about Site history; the nature and extent of Site contamination; public health and safety issues; investigation and/or cleanup plans, processes, and schedules; and local impacts during cleanup activities. Community Updates also provide contact information for public inquiries.

The NPS will prepare Community Updates at key milestones in the cleanup process.



NPS will distribute Community Updates to the public using the following means:

- Posting Community Updates on [parkplanning.nps.gov](https://parkplanning.nps.gov)
- Sending a notice to persons on the Interested Parties Mailing List
- Making Community Updates available at various Park locations (Stovepipe Wells Resort, Furnace Creek Visitor Center, Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station, and Death Valley Post Office).

- **Site Website**

NPS has established a Site website at [parkplanning.nps.gov](https://parkplanning.nps.gov) on which it will post general Site information as well as key cleanup and community involvement documents.

- **Contact Information**

NPS contact information will be included in Community Updates, public notices, news releases, and on the Site website. Contact information for NPS representatives as well as for other key individuals is provided in Appendix D, Contact Information.

- **Community Involvement Plan Revision**

To remain flexible and able to respond to the evolving needs of the community and changes to the Site, the CIP will be reviewed and revised as needed, and posted on the website. As the response action progresses, NPS staff may identify and use additional means or activities to inform and engage the community.

## 4.2 Community Involvement Activity Schedule

- The NPS selected the above methods and activities to engage and inform the community regarding the Site and Site activities. This section provides a schedule for when those activities will occur.
  - NPS will invite public feedback
  - Identifying community concerns and issues is a vital step in the CIP's development.
  - NPS has not conducted any community interviews to date. However, to identify community concerns and needs and to identify how and when citizens would like to be involved in the cleanup process, NPS will conduct a survey by posting a short questionnaire (no more than 3 questions) to the following website:
    - <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>
  - In addition, the questionnaire will be emailed to the DEVA's Partnership List to solicit inputs regarding the community concerns and needs. Depending on the results of the community survey, community interviews with local officials, community residents, and various environmental and special interest groups who represent a range of opinions and backgrounds. NPS may ask interviewees for suggestions of additional groups or individuals the NPS should interview, and NPS will contact those suggested additional groups and individuals and revise this CIP as well.



- **Ongoing Activities**
  - Respond to citizen inquiries and requests [TBD]
  - Maintain the administrative record file and information repositories [TBD]
  - Maintain the Interested Parties Mailing List [TBD]
  - Maintain park visitor communications [TBD]
  - Maintain the Site website[TBD]



## 5.0 REFERENCES

Environmental Cost Management (ECM). 2014a. *Preliminary Assessment 27 Abandoned Mineral Lands Sites Death Valley National Park Inyo and San Bernardino Counties, California and Nye County, Nevada*. November.

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NOREAS, Inc. 2016. *Site Inspections of Abandoned Mineral Lands (AML) Sites (Skidoo, Homestake, Journigan's, Starr, Tucki, Cashier and Gold Hill), California and Nevada*. October.

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United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook*. Apr. 2005. Available at [http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/pdfs/ci\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/pdfs/ci_handbook.pdf).

USEPA. *Community Involvement Toolkit*. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/toolkit.htm>.



## APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

**Definitions for CERCLA-related words found throughout the CIP are provided below.**

**Administrative Record File:** A file that contains all information considered or relied upon by the lead agency to make its decision on the selection of a response action under CERCLA. See Appendix B, Administrative Record File and Information Repository Details, for further information on the Site administrative record file.

**CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act):** A federal law, commonly known as “Superfund,” which Congress enacted in 1980 and amended in 1986 and 2002. The law provides broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or welfare or the environment; establishes the categories of persons who are liable for such releases; and outlines a framework for investigating and responding to releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances where the lead agency determines it is necessary. CERCLA generally authorizes three types of cleanup actions: emergency response actions, removal actions, and remedial actions.

**Cleanup:** Used in this document to describe actions taken to address a release or threat of a release of hazardous substances, pursuant to CERCLA, that could affect public health or welfare or the environment. The word “cleanup” is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action, remedy, remediation, or corrective action.

**Community Interview/Survey:** For most response actions, the NCP requires the lead agency to solicit input from the community to determine appropriate activities to ensure public involvement in Site-related decisions.

**Community Involvement Plan (CIP):** A plan that explains how NPS intends to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup process by specifying planned community involvement activities to address community needs, concerns, and expectations identified through community interviews and other means.

**Consent Decree:** A legally-binding, court-approved negotiated settlement in which a person or company agrees to take specific actions, to end or avoid litigation.

**Decision Unit:** A decision unit is the smallest volume of soil for which a decision will be made based on Incremental Sampling Methodology (see below).

**Feasibility Study:** A CERCLA term for the development and detailed analysis of cleanup alternatives for a contaminated site that will be addressed by a remedial action. The feasibility study follows the remedial investigation.

**Hazardous Substance:** Any one of the more than 800 substances defined under CERCLA and the NCP as potentially posing a threat to human health or the environment. Hazardous substances include materials defined as ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic under the Resource



Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as well as additional substances listed under the Clean Water Act and hazardous air pollutants listed under the Clean Air Act.

**Incremental Sampling Methodology:** a structured composite sampling and processing protocol that reduces data variability and provides a reasonably unbiased estimate of mean contaminant concentrations in a volume of soil targeted for sampling. Incremental Sampling Methodology provides representative samples of specific soil volumes defined as decision units by collecting numerous increments of soil (typically 30–100 increments) that are combined, processed, and subsampled according to specific protocols.

**Information Repository:** A location open to members of the general public where a collection of documents (including the administrative record file) relevant to a particular CERCLA Site is made available for public review and copying. See Appendix B, Administrative Record File and Information Repository Details, for the locations and addresses of the Skidoo Mill Site information repository.

**Lead Agency:** The government agency with the primary authority to investigate, plan and implement a response action under CERCLA and the NCP at a particular site. In this case, it is the National Park Service.

**National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP):** More commonly called the National Contingency Plan or NCP, it is the federal government's regulatory blueprint for responding to both oil spills and releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances. The NCP is the result of our country's efforts to develop a national response capability and promote overall coordination among the hierarchy of responders and contingency plans. The regulations, published at 40 C.F.R. Part 300, detail how CERCLA is to be implemented.

**Non-Time-Critical Removal Action:** A removal action conducted when the lead agency determines that there is a planning period of at least six months before on-site activities must be initiated.

**Notice of Availability:** A formal notice announcing the issuance and public availability of a document (e.g., proposed plan) or documents (e.g., the administrative record file or updates thereto). A Notice of Availability is also issued when the information repositories are established. The notice may also announce commencement of a public comment period.

**Operable Unit (OU):** A defined part of a site response that is managed separately from other parts of the response action. An operable unit is most commonly defined by geographic location, but it can also be defined by environmental media (e.g., water or air), a specific site problem, the phase of an action, or a set of actions performed at the same time on different parts of a site.

**Proposed Plan:** A document summarizing the cleanup alternatives analyzed in the feasibility study that also describes the lead agency's preferred alternative. This document is made available for public review and comment.





**Public Comment Period:** A period during which the public can formally review and comment on various documents and proposed response actions.

**Record of Decision:** The official decision document determining the remediation goals and remedial action selected for cleanup. The Record of Decision is the culmination of the remedial investigation, feasibility study, and proposed plan processes. The document includes a comprehensive background about the site and prior response activities, as well as the responsiveness summary, which provides the lead agency's responses to the significant comments received during the public comment period on the proposed plan.

**Remedial Action (RA):** A term used to refer to longer-term cleanup actions to address the release or threatened release of hazardous substances typically at larger, more complex CERCLA sites. Under CERCLA, the term refers to the entire process of the remedial investigation, feasibility study, proposed plan, Record of Decision, cleanup, monitoring, and even enforcement; but sometimes it is used to describe just the cleanup phase of the longer-term cleanup action.

**Remedial Design:** Remedial design follows issuance of the Record of Decision and consists of the engineered, technical, and detailed design for the cleanup action phase of a remedial action.

**Remedial Investigation:** The comprehensive study of a contaminated site conducted as part of a remedial action. This investigation includes the collection of data and other information necessary to fully characterize the nature and extent of contamination at the site, and to assess the extent to which the site contamination presents potential risks to human health or welfare or the environment. When the investigation is completed, it is documented in a remedial investigation report. The remedial investigation informs the feasibility study.

**Removal Action:** A type of CERCLA response action with a streamlined planning process. A removal action is conducted to address all or a part of a release or threatened release of hazardous substances when the release requires an expedited, time-critical response, or when the release is of limited size and complexity such that streamlined response planning is appropriate. There are two types of removal actions – time-critical and non-time-critical; sometimes emergency response actions (undertaken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) are referred to as removal actions. The term refers both to the entire removal response action, as well as just the cleanup phase of such an action.

**Response Action:** The most general CERCLA term used to describe any action taken to respond to a release or threatened release of hazardous substances to protect the public health or welfare or the environment. The term includes all phases of the response, from investigation through monitoring and even enforcement activities. There are generally three types of CERCLA response actions that may be undertaken by NPS as the lead agency: time-critical removal actions, non-time-critical removal actions, and remedial actions. The response action at Skidoo Mill Site is a non-time-critical removal action.

**Responsiveness Summary:** Document summarizing the significant comments received during a public comment period and documenting the lead agency's responses to the comments.



**Site:** The Skidoo Mill Site, which comprises the area contaminated or potentially contaminated by a release or threatened release of hazardous substances. The Site is located near the top of a broad ridge in the Panamint Mountains. The mill and process areas are located on a steep canyon wall and cover approximately 5 acres. To the east and west are steep to moderately sloped canyon walls.

**Time-Critical Removal Action:** A removal action conducted when the lead agency determines that there is not a planning period of at least six months before on-site activities must be initiated.



## APPENDIX B: ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FILE AND INFORMATION REPOSITORY DETAILS

Some records will be publicly available online at [www.parkplanning.nps.gov](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov). The full Site administrative record file is maintained at 2 locations, which may be reviewed at the following information repositories during the hours indicated:

Furnace Creek Visitor Center

271 Highway 190  
Death Valley, CA 92328  
Open seven days a week, 8:00am-5:00pm.  
760-786-3200

Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station

Highway 190  
Death Valley, CA 92328  
Open most days 9am – 3:30pm, as staffing allows.  
760-786-3240



## APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY FACT SHEETS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES

[Fact Sheet/Community Update Page 1]



[Fact Sheet/Community Update Page 2]



## APPENDIX D: CONTACT INFORMATION

For information about Site cleanup activities, please contact:

Abby Wines  
Public Information Officer  
PO Box 579, Death Valley, CA 92328  
Phone: 760-786-3221  
Email: [abby\\_wines@nps.gov](mailto:abby_wines@nps.gov)

In addition to Death Valley National Park's normal distribution list, the following will be contacted by the park:

California Governor's Office  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814  
<https://www.gavinnewsom.com/>

[State Senator Andreas Borgeas](#)  
State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814  
<https://borgeas.cssrc.us/>

[State Representative Devon Mathis](#)  
State Capitol, Suite #2111, Sacramento, CA 94249  
<https://ad26.asmrc.org/>

Inyo County Environmental Health Services  
[kbarton@inyocounty.us](mailto:kbarton@inyocounty.us)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Mike Stoker, Regional Administrator  
US EPA Pacific Southwest, Region 9, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Paul Souza, Regional Director  
Pacific Southwest Region Headquarters  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California, 95825

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)  
Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary of the Department  
P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

California Department of Health Services  
Karen L. Smith, Director  
PO Box 997377, MS 0500, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377







## APPENDIX E: NCP COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The NCP specifies the following community involvement requirements for the non-time-critical removal action, and remedy at this Site:

### Removal Actions

#### Non-Time-Critical Removal Action

Required When	Requirement	Citation– 40 C.F.R.
	Designate a Site spokesperson.	§ 300.415(n)(1)
No later than when the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Approval Memorandum is signed	Establish two information repositories (one at a central location and one at or near the Site), and establish an administrative record file and place in the information repositories.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i); § 300.800(a); § 300.805(a)
	Publish notice of availability of the information repositories and the administrative record file in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i); § 300.820(a)(1)
Prior to completion of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis	Conduct community interviews.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i)
	Prepare and issue a Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(i)
Upon completion of Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis and publication of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report	Publish notice of availability and brief description of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(ii); § 300.820(a)(1)
	Provide a public comment period of at least 30 days for submission of written and oral comments. Upon timely request during the public comment period, extend the public comment period by a minimum of 15 additional days.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(iii); § 300.820(a)(2)
	After the close of the public comment period, prepare a written response to significant comments received during the public comment period; consider and respond to significant comments submitted before the public comment period, as appropriate; place any such responses into the administrative record file.	§ 300.415(n)(4)(iv); § 300.820(a)(2)



## Remedial Actions

Required When	Requirement	Citation – 40 C.F.R.
Prior to commencing field work for the Remedial Investigation	Establish two information repositories (one at a central location and one at or near the Site), and establish an administrative record file and place in each of the information repositories; publish notice of availability in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.430(c)(2)(iii); § 300.805(a); § 300.815(a)
	Conduct community interviews.	§ 300.430(c)(2)(i)
	Prepare and issue a Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.430(c)(2)(ii)
Upon publication of the Proposed Plan	Publish a notice of availability of the Proposed Plan, including a brief analysis of the Proposed Plan, in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(A); § 300.815(b)
	Make the Proposed Plan and supporting analysis and information available in the administrative record file.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(B); § 300.815(b)
	Provide a public comment period of at least 30 days for submission of written and oral comments on the Proposed Plan, Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, and other supporting analysis and information. Upon timely request during the public comment period, extend the public comment period by a minimum of 30 additional days.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(C); § 300.815(b)
After the close of the public comment period on the Proposed Plan	Prepare a written summary of significant comments, criticisms, and new relevant information submitted during the public comment period and the NPS response to each issue (“responsiveness summary”) and make it available with the Record of Decision.	§ 300.430(f)(3)(i)(F); § 300.815(b)
After the ROD is signed and prior to the commencement of any remedial action	Make the Record of Decision available for public inspection and copying at or near the Site and in the administrative record file.	§ 300.430(f)(6)(ii); § 300.810(a)(4)



Required When	Requirement	Citation – 40 C.F.R.
	Publish a notice of availability for the Record of Decision in a major local newspaper of general circulation.	§ 300.430(f)(6)(i)
Prior to Remedial Design	Review the Community Involvement Plan and revise if further community involvement activities should be provided during remedial design and remedial action that were not addressed or provided for in the initial Community Involvement Plan.	§ 300.435(c)(1)
Prior to Remedial Action	Issue a Community Update on the remedial action.	§ 300.435(c)(3)