



# Tucki Mine and Mill Site, Death Valley National Park Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Fact Sheet

## Overview

The National Park Service (NPS) is investigating the abandoned Tucki Mine and Mill Site (Site) in the Death Valley National Park to evaluate cleanup options. The Site covers nearly three acres, with the bulk of the operation located on the south side of a wash (Figure 1). Access to the Site is from Emigrant Canyon via Telephone Canyon (Figure 2). During operation, the cyanide processing plant consisted of four steel-lined, concrete block tanks, two water reservoirs, crushing equipment, and a pump. Today only the concrete tanks remain. The rest of the processing setup was removed after the Site shut down in the early 1980s.



Figure 1 - View of cyanide processing area and crushed ore used for mill foundation looking south.

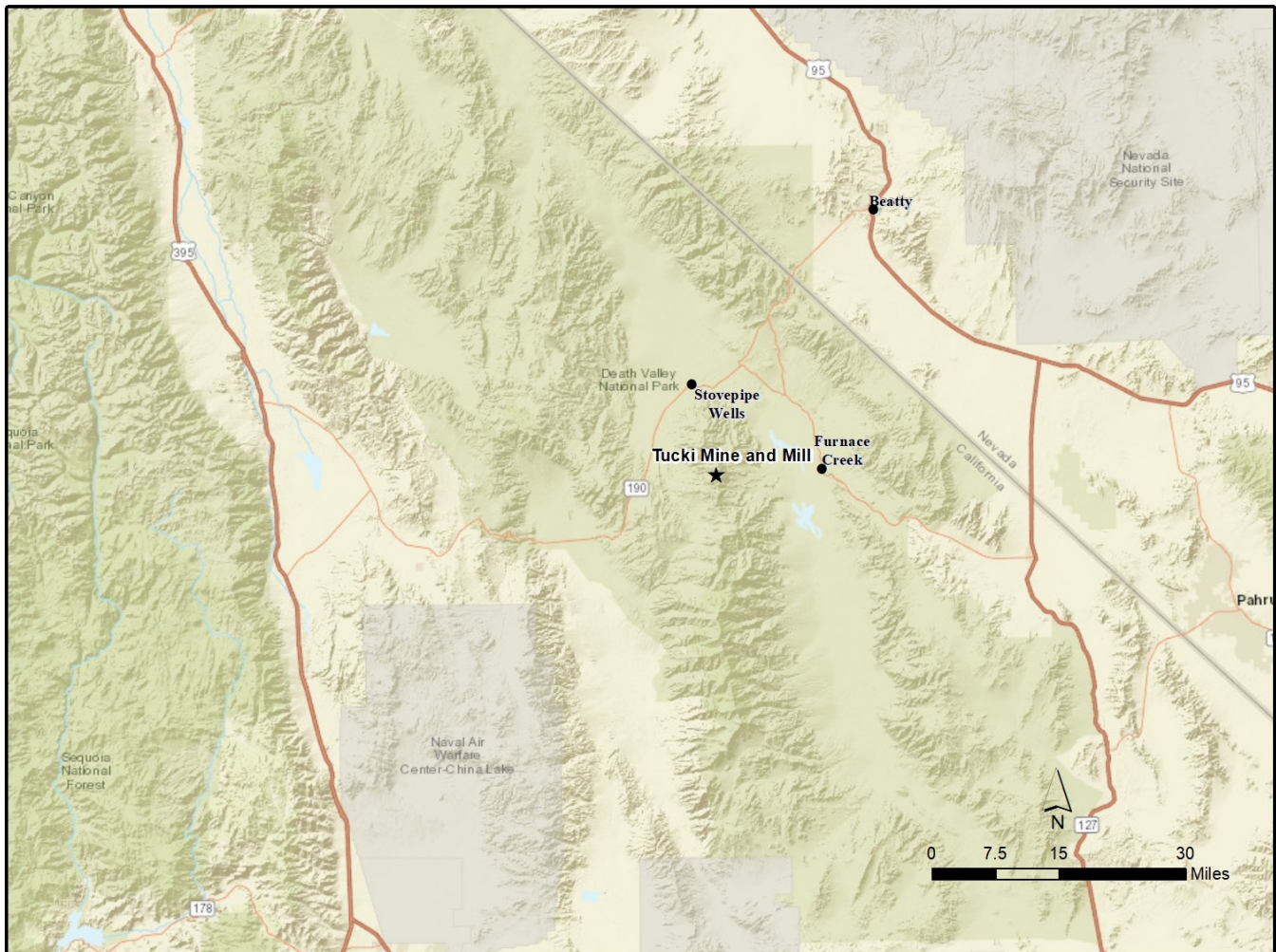


Figure 2 – Site Location Map



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## History of Tucki Mine and Mill

The Tucki Mine was first claimed in 1909 by Henry W. Britt, and changed hands and was leased several times. There is no record of significant activity in the mine's early decades. In the 1930s, ore was processed off-site, but a mill using cyanide began at the Site in 1940. The mine produced \$846 of gold per two weeks in 1940. The mine was dormant in the 1950s and 1960s. In the mid-1970s the mine operators constructed a gold recovery plant to use carbon filtration and sodium hydroxide (and later zinc) to leach oversized material from old tailing piles. Tucki Mine and Mill Site is no longer active.

## Environmental Investigations at Tucki Mine and Mill Site

### Contaminants of Concern

The milling operations left behind hazardous materials at Tucki Mine and Mill Site, such as mill tailings. The NPS is investigating Tucki to evaluate cleanup options, pursuant to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Congress enacted CERCLA, also known as Superfund, in 1980 to address releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances into the environment.

A preliminary assessment of the Tucki Mine and Mill Site was conducted in 2014. Based on operational history and information gathered during the preliminary assessment, the chemicals of concerns were cyanide and metals. During a site inspection in 2016, soil samples were collected and analyzed for metals, cyanide, and pH. Soil samples were analyzed for acid-base accounting, a measure of the potential for acid mine drainage from the Site.

Concentrations of several metals-including antimony, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium, silver, and zinc were found at levels elevated above natural background conditions. Several metals exceeded regulatory levels that require further human and ecological risk evaluations. Acid mine drainage is not considered a concern at the Site

### Upcoming Investigations and Cleanup

The NPS has determined that preparation of an engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) is appropriate for Tucki Mine and Mill Site, based on the chemicals of concern found there. The EE/CA is being prepared to evaluate associated potential risks to human health, safety, and the environment; identify relevant cleanup requirements; and develop a range of cleanup alternatives for Tucki Mine and Mill Site.

Once the range of cleanup alternatives are identified, NPS will request public feedback during a public comment period.

## Further Information:

- **Online:** <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Tucki>
- **Contact:** Abby Wines, Public Information Officer, 760-786-3221 or [abby\\_wines@nps.gov](mailto:abby_wines@nps.gov)
- **Full Documents Available to View:** [at Furnace Creek Visitor Center and Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station](#)