



## Update on Site Activities Caselton Mine Area, Pioche, Nevada

Greenfield Environmental Multistate Trust LLC, Trustee of the Multistate Environmental Response Trust (Multistate Trust), prepared this fact sheet in consultation with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to update the Pioche and Caselton Heights communities on the status of cleanup activities at the former Tronox/Kerr-McGee Corporation Caselton Mine Area (the Site) located near Pioche, Nevada, along Highway 93, approximately 125 miles north of Las Vegas. The approximately 3,400-acre Site has a history of metals production; it has been mined for silver, gold, lead, zinc, and copper. While mining operations have ceased, some aging structures remain along with legacy mining and milling waste products. For the purpose of investigating the different areas of the Site and developing cleanup goals and remedial strategies appropriate for these areas, the Multistate Trust and NDEP have divided the Site into five distinct geographic locations. These areas are called “operable units” (OUs) in order to identify the specific areas where environmental actions may occur.

### Quick Site Facts

- Caselton Mine has not been actively mined since 1957.
- As with many abandoned mines, past hard rock mining has left behind materials that could present environmental, health, and safety risks.
- NDEP and the Multistate Trust are working to identify whether any such materials present risks and, if so, will be developing and implementing remedial measures to address concerns.
- The Multistate Trust is an independent, court-appointed trustee tasked with investigating and cleaning up designated portions of the Site.

### Brief Site History

Ore was first discovered in Pioche in 1863. The Combined Metals Reduction (CMR) Company operated at the Site from 1924 to 1976. In 1941, Caselton Mill was constructed, and after 1953 it was used largely to process ore. In 1957, milling operations ceased. In the early 1970s, CMR filed for bankruptcy. In 1976, Kerr-McGee purchased the areas known as Treasure Hill, Caselton Heights, and the Caselton Mine Site, as well as certain other subsurface rights.

The Site has been divided into five operable units (OUs):

- OU-1 (Treasure Hill)
- OU-2 (Caselton Heights Residential Yard Soils)
- OU-3 (Caselton Mine Site)
- OU-4 (Caselton Mill Site and Adjacent Tailings)
- OU-5 (U.S. Bureau of Land Management [BLM] Tailings)

### 2016 Site Activities

In 2016, the Multistate Trust completed (1) the feasibility study (FS) to identify remedial alternatives for the area known as Treasure Hill (OU-1), located a quarter mile from Pioche’s Main Street, and (2) the remedial investigation (RI) of the former Caselton Mill Site (OU-4). Both the OU-1 FS and OU-4 RI were conducted to assess whether identified contaminants might pose a risk to human health or the environment. Major accomplishments included:

- OU1:
  - Initial sampling and analysis of residential yards for lead and arsenic to support a screening-level human health risk assessment (HHRA).
  - Development of remedial alternatives to manage OU-1 stormwater runoff, waste rock materials and, potentially, soils from residential yards.
- OU4 and OU-5:
  - Sampling and analysis of OU-4 tailings for metals of concern to support a screening-level HHRA.
  - Performance of a physical hazards and safety assessment for the Mill Site.
  - Aerial (drone) survey of OU-4, OU-5 and the Prince Mine to develop a topographic map with 1-foot contour intervals for the Caselton Mill Site for use in a remedial design.

### The Multistate Trust

The Multistate Trust is an independent, court-appointed trustee whose primary purpose is the protection of human health and the environment. The Multistate Trust was created as part of the 2011 Tronox bankruptcy settlement involving the United States, 24 states, the Navajo Nation and Tronox. Greenfield Environmental Multistate Trust LLC is the named Trustee, with responsibility for: owning and managing more than 400 former Kerr-McGee sites in 24 states, including the former Kerr-McGee Caselton Mine Area; cleaning up the sites using available funds from the settlement; and facilitating safe redevelopment and long-term stewardship of the sites. The Multistate Trust reports directly to the Caselton Mine Area’s beneficiaries—the United States and the State of Nevada.

### 2016 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Accomplishments

The OU-1 FS resulted in the selection of a preferred alternative to manage stormwater runoff from Treasure Hill. This alternative includes (1) consolidation of all “low-elevation” waste rock piles located below the viewshed into a single waste rock repository that is engineered to meet NDEP’s mine-closure requirements; (2) implementation of stormwater management features above Tank Road and Newark and Ely Streets; and (3) installation of a curb-and-gutter system on Newark and Ely Streets to limit potential sediment deposits on private parcels and, where appropriate, removal of soils with elevated lead concentrations in adjacent yards and replacement with clean soils.

Remedial investigation activities for the Caselton Mill Site (OU-4). Initial conceptual remedial alternatives will be included in the OU-4 FS to be prepared in 2017.

### Upcoming Activities

Planned 2017 RI and FS, and remediation activities for OU-1, OU-4 and OU-5, which will be performed by the environmental engineering and consulting firm, Brown and Caldwell, are as follows:

#### Treasure Hill (OU-1) Remedial Design and Actions

- Residential-Yard Sample Results and Soil Removal Action
  - Test results and the associated screening-level HHRA will be documented in a report. Results will be provided to the individual property owners.
  - To mitigate the potential for soils to enter yards along Newark and Ely Streets during storm events, curbs and gutters will be installed.
  - The Multistate Trust will request access from individual residents for those yards with soils above the cleanup levels. Excavated soil from the yards will be replaced with clean soil.
- Waste Rock Repository
  - Completion of a FS Report.
  - Perform design testing activities and prepare design documents.
  - Construction of the new waste rock repository is anticipated to begin in early 2018.

#### Caselton Mill Site (OU-4) Feasibility Study and BLM Tailings (OU-5) Investigation

- Perform stormwater runoff analysis of the OU-4 mill site and tailings impoundments.
  - Results will be used to manage stormwater around and downgradient of the Caselton Mill Site to limit the migration of tailings.
- The BLM Tailings (OU-5), located in Caselton Wash immediately below the Mill Site, is expected to be the subject of a University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) investigation to determine if water is flowing through the tailings and into the groundwater.

### Community Informational Meeting

The Multistate Trust and NDEP recognize the importance of informing the Pioche and Caselton Heights communities and stakeholders about the status of investigation and cleanup activities. The Multistate Trust and NDEP will hold a public meeting to discuss Site progress and activities on **April 11, 2017, at 6 p.m.** at the Thompson Opera House 644 Main Street Pioche, NV 89043. All members of the community are encouraged to attend.

**Please Contact Us for More Information about the Caselton Mine Area**  
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