

ROB BISHOP, UT
CHAIRMAN
DON YOUNG, AK
LOUIE GOHMERT, TX
DOUG LAMBORN, CO
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VA
JOHN FLEMING, LA
TOM McCLINTOCK, CA
GLENN THOMPSON, PA
CYNTHIA LUMMIS, WY
DAN BENISHEK, MI
JEFF DUNCAN, SC
PAUL A. GOSAR, AZ
RAUL R. LABRADOR, ID
DOUG LAMALFA, CA
JEFF DENHAM, CA
PAUL COOK, CA
BRUCE WESTERMAN, AR
GARRET GRAVES, LA
DAN NEWHOUSE, WA
RYAN ZINKE, MT
JODY HICE, GA
AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, AS
TOM MacARTHUR, NJ
ALEX MOONEY, WV
CRESENT HARDY, NV
DARIN LAHOOD, IL

JASON KNOX
STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

RAUL M. GRIJALVA, AZ
RANKING MEMBER
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, CA
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GU
JIM COSTA, CA
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, CNMI
NIKI TSONGAS, MA
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PR
JARED HUFFMAN, CA
RAUL RUIZ, CA
ALAN LOWENTHAL, CA
MATTHEW CARTWRIGHT, PA
DON BEYER, VA
NORMA J. TORRES, CA
DEBBIE DINGELL, MI
RUBEN GALLEGO, AZ
LOIS CAPPS, CA
JARED POLIS, CO
Wm. LACY CLAY, MO

DAVID WATKINS
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

December 10, 2015

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear General Bostick:

On August 5, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") caused the spill of approximately 3 million gallons of contaminated mine water from the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colorado. The contaminated plume traveled through the Animas and San Juan River systems in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona and caused an undetermined amount of damage to crops, local water systems, wildlife, and communities along the river.

In the aftermath of the spill, EPA asked the Department of the Interior ("DOI") to conduct an independent investigation into the Gold King Mine incident. The Bureau of Reclamation ("BOR") investigated on behalf of DOI and issued its *Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident San Juan County, Colorado* on October 22, 2015.

Although many of the details of the BOR report are still unclear, BOR did eventually enter into an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") for Dr. Richard Olsen, P.E., a Senior Geotechnical Engineer with USACE, to peer review the report.

The Committee on Natural Resources has broad jurisdiction over mining interests generally and has been conducting oversight of the Gold King Mine incident. So that the Committee may better understand the technical expertise and input that BOR incorporated into the report, please provide the following documents and information no later than 5:00pm on December 22, 2015:

- 1) A complete copy of the peer review comments Dr. Olsen provided to BOR;

- 2) All drafts, documents, contracts, photographs, or other materials Dr. Olsen received from EPA and/or DOI, including its bureaus, for the purposes of performing a peer review of the BOR report;
- 3) All communications between USACE and the Department of the Interior, including its bureaus, concerning the Gold King Mine;
- 4) All communications between USACE and the Environmental Protection Agency, including its contractors, concerning the Gold King Mine; and
- 5) All internal USACE communications concerning the October 2015 BOR report.

An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request. Please contact Rob Gordon or Megan Olmstead of the House Natural Resources Committee staff at (202) 225-7107 with any questions. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Louie Gohmert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight &
Investigations

Cc: The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable Debbie Dingell, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Natural Resources