

## **Atlantic Richfield settles acid mine drainage violations**

Jan. 23 -- The Atlantic Richfield Co. will treat acid mine drainage and resolve other liabilities at a cost of more than \$8 million at the Leviathan Mine Superfund site in Alpine County, Calif., near the Nevada border.

The settlement with the U.S. EPA calls for Atlantic Richfield to treat acid mine drainage for 5 years at an estimated cost of \$5.6 million. The company also will reimburse the EPA for \$1.7 million in past cleanup costs, pay \$90,000 in penalties, and spend \$400,000 on a restoration project along the Carson River, near Genoa, Nev.

Until a final cleanup plan is developed, seasonal treatment of acid mine drainage is necessary to prevent untreated releases of metals, including arsenic, as well as aluminum, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, nickel and zinc, according to the EPA.

The settlement complements a June 2008 EPA order that the company investigate long-term cleanup methods for the site.

The site, which was listed on the EPA's National Priorities List in 2000, was developed in 1863 as an underground mine for gold, copper and copper sulfate. From 1954 through 1962, Anaconda Copper Mining Co., which later was acquired by ARC, conducted open pit mining.

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