



BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM PROJECT FACT SHEET

Former Lackawanna Mill Ely, White Pine County

SITE BACKGROUND

The former Lackawanna Mill (also called Egan Mill) occupies a 32 acre portion of a 1,444 acre parcel owned by the City of Ely. The mill site comprises three distinct areas for processing, ore crushing, and the tailings pond.

The property was first developed in 1961 when the Lackawanna Mill was constructed to process silver ore from offsite mines. The mill operated more or less continually, processing silver, gold, and lead ore, until its closure in 1981. The site has not been used since that time.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the site as a potential Superfund location in 1980, and performed investigations on the site in 1987 and 2000. Upon completion of these investigations, the site was not placed on the Superfund list.

The City of Ely applied for Nevada Brownfields Program (NBP) funding to characterize the nature and extent of contamination on the site, with the long-term goal of remediating the site in preparation for residential or commercial development.

FUNDING

Activity	NBP Funding	Date
Phase I & Phase II Environmental Site Assessments	\$28,142	2012
Cleanup	\$14,180	2012
Phase II ESA	\$58,258	2014
SUM	\$100,580	

INVESTIGATIONS

A Phase I ESA was conducted in 2012. Remnants of a ball crusher, kiln, and other equipment remained on site. Several Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) were identified including illegally dumped debris that included electrical transformers containing PCB-contaminated dielectric fluids and 55-gallon drums of sodium cyanide. Former tailings pods, tailings deposits, and additional illegally dumped drums were also identified.

A limited Phase II ESA was conducted in 2012 on portions of the mill site west of Lackawanna Road. The ESA identified metal contamination in soils and confirmed the presence of PCBs in the capacitors and in small areas of soil adjacent to the capacitors.

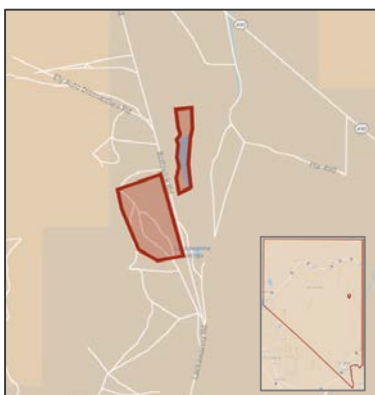
In 2014, another Phase II ESA was conducted at the tailings pond location west of Lackawanna Road to assess potential environmental impacts to the soil and groundwater in the area. Soil and groundwater samples were collected and analyzed, with the following conclusions:

- The tailings had remained within the bermed structures and were not being transported towards the lower portions of the valley
- With the exception of arsenic concentrations, the extent of contaminant of concern impacts above their NDEP RC only occurs within the tailing materials.

No further assessments were deemed necessary.

SITE LOCATION

- Bothwick Road, Ely, White Pine County
- APN: 010-420-06
- 40 acres



CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

Subsequent to the 2012 limited Phase II ESA, multiple PCB-containing capacitors and associated PCB-impacted soil were removed in 2013.



Abandoned capacitors

CURRENT STATUS

The property remains undeveloped and under City of Ely ownership.



Mill processing area



Remnants of a sodium cyanide drum



Mill processing area



Workers take soil borings at the mill site

RESOURCES

To learn more about the Nevada Brownfields Program, visit:

<https://ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/brownfields>



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