

Humboldt Smelter Project - Job Complete



View of project area looking east, upon completion in March 2022

WHO/WHAT/WHERE:

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is happy to report that the Humboldt Smelter Project (“the project”), which began on January 3, 2022, has been completed. The project was conducted in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the former Humboldt Smelter property, part of the Iron King Mine-Humboldt Smelter EPA Superfund site. The property is an approximate 31-acre area located 0.5 miles east of Highway 69.

The primary project activity was to safely and carefully dismantle the former smelter brick smokestack and the attached brick structure (converter flue) located on the property. Secondary activities included encapsulating the felled bricks from the structures, constructing a 900-foot long perimeter fence, and restoring the integrity of the existing protective dust-control cover (Posi-Shell®) in the project area.

WHY:

The smokestack and its attached building had deteriorated structurally, and suffered more extensive damage during the 2021 monsoon season. Therefore, to protect people and wildlife, it was critical to safely bring down the structures. ADEQ, working in coordination with the EPA, offered to take the lead in managing the project due to ADEQ’s ability to deploy resources to conduct the project quickly.

HOW:

ADEQ dismantled both the smelter smokestack and the attached brick structure utilizing high-reach and low-reach excavators, as well as utilizing a hydraulic driven water fan for dust control. Air quality monitoring conducted throughout the dismantling activities demonstrated particulate matter levels remained below the protective National Ambient Air Quality Standards. All debris was consolidated in place around the stack foundation and encapsulated utilizing shotcrete cement. Upon completion of the dismantling activities, ADEQ constructed 3,175 linear feet of fencing to deter access to this area of the Superfund site. Finally, ADEQ restored the integrity of the existing protective dust-control cover (Posi-Shell®) in the project area.

More detailed information about the work completed during the project will be made available on ADEQ’s website at azdeq.gov/dh-stack-project upon completion of the final report in April 2022. ADEQ’s website also includes drone/timelapse footage filmed of the smokestack takedown which is available for viewing.

HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS:

ADEQ was able to recover a number of steel and metal items from the project that were of historical significance to local mining enthusiasts. Coordinating with the EPA, the property owner, and representatives of the Dewey-Humboldt Historical Society (DHHS), ADEQ safely transferred these salvaged items to the DHHS in March 2022.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

Before, during, and after completion of the project, ADEQ was committed to keeping the community informed. Numerous means of outreach, including flyers, handouts, website updates, and verbal communication were used to keep residents and town officials informed throughout the project. In the coming weeks, ADEQ’s Humboldt Smelter Project will wind down, as ADEQ completes work to ensure safety concerns at the property are addressed.

Going forward, EPA will continue to inform the community on future activities related to the Iron King Mine-Humboldt Smelter Superfund site and ADEQ will continue to support and coordinate with EPA.

If you have questions regarding the activities related to the Humboldt Smelter Project, please contact:

ADEQ Project Manager:
Joey Pace
pace.joey@azdeq.gov
602-771-4818 or

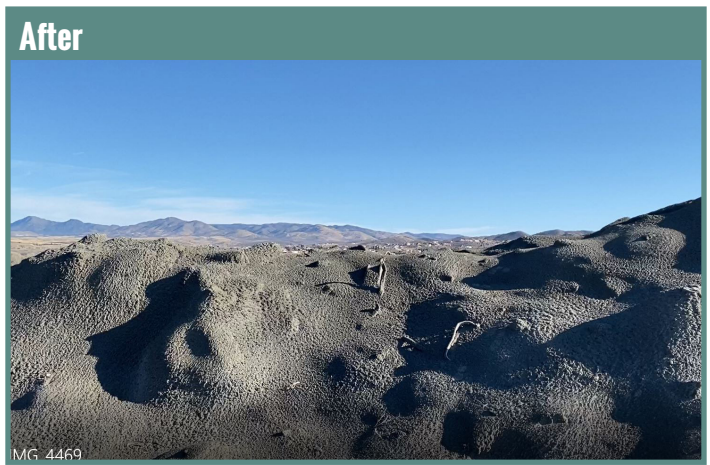
ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator:
Barbara Boschert
boschert.barbara@azdeq.gov
602-292-0218

If you have questions regarding the Iron King Mine-Humboldt Smelter Superfund site, please contact:

EPA Site Manager:
Jeff Dhont
dhont.jeff@epa.gov
415-972-3020



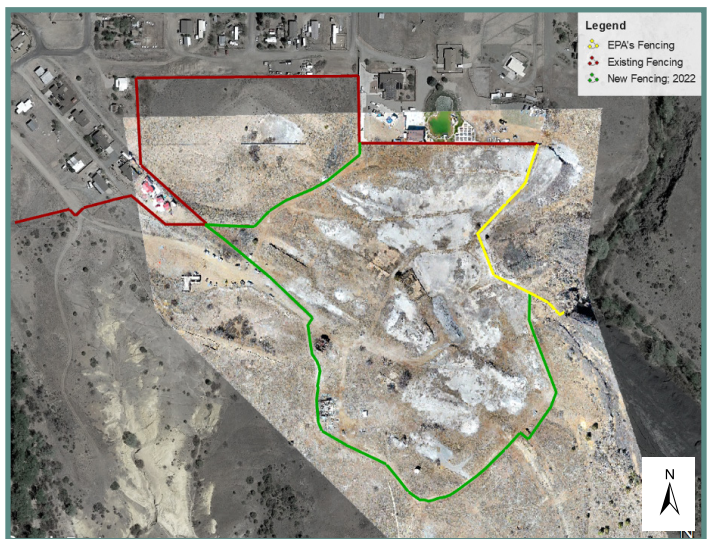
Before (January) and after (February) images showing encapsulated bricks



MG 4469



ADEQ and Dewey-Humboldt Historical Society (DHHS) work cooperatively to salvage historical items



Map of fenced area at the former Humboldt Smelter property

ADEQ gives thanks to the Community of Dewey-Humboldt, the Mayor, Council, and other town officials, for their cooperation and support throughout this project, which was critical to its success.