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Sunnyside rejects EPA work order

**Company insists it
is being 'wrongly
targeted' by agency**

Sunnyside Gold Corp. has rejected an Environmental Protection Agency order to carry out various projects on the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, July 9, Sunnyside insisted the company has "no liability in the Silverton Caldera" and the company "declines to undertake the work illegally ordered in EPA's Modified Statement of Work."

Kevin Roach, director of Reclamation Operations for Sunnyside, accused the EPA of trying to "dilute and evade its responsibility" for the August 2015 Gold King Mine spill.

And he pointed to several projects Sunnyside has implemented over the years to improve water quality in the basin.

Sunnyside Gold Corp. operated the Sunnyside Mine from 1985 to 1991.

Roach suggested the EPA has a conflict of interest in being the "lead agency" in charge of the Superfund site, since it was "the party responsible for the Gold King spill."

And he complained that the EPA has "failed to run its Gladstone water treatment plant at capacity over the past three

years, instead routing hundreds of millions of gallons of acidic, metals-laden water around the plant and into Cement Creek.

Roach complained that Sunnyside Gold is being "wrongfully targeted" by the EPA.

Cynthia Peterson, community involvement coordinator for the EPA, said Wednesday that "EPA has not yet received the complete letter and attachment from Sunnyside Gold Corporation. When we do we will review the document and consider options for completing this important work."

But Roach said Sunnyside Gold has done a lot to improve water quality in the upper Animas.

"Enough is enough," Roach said. "EPA has a clear conflict of interest and has wrongfully targeted SGC. SGC will no longer be a pawn in this never-ending science project."