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Local officials want state to lead

Concerns raised over local input on interim Superfund actions

Town and county officials are expressing concern that state officials are reluctant to take the lead role in managing the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site, despite "good-faith assurances" to that effect made in 2016 when Gov. Hickenlooper requested the Superfund listing

in the wake of the Gold King Mine spill.

In an Oct. 2 letter to the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Silverton Mayor Chris Tookey and San Juan County Board Chairman Ernie Kuhlman said that it has "come to our community's attention" that the state is "resistant to taking the lead" in the

BONITA PEAK MINING DISTRICT SUPERFUND SITE

actions related to the interim record of decision.

County Administrator Willie Tookey said on Monday that the town and county prefer DRMS to be the lead agency on the interim actions because local contractors are already familiar with working with the state agency.

"It makes it easier for local

contractors to get work," Tookey said.

Town and county officials are asking state agencies "to keep our community apprised of these discussions."

Tookey and Kuhlman said they also "expect a meeting" with state officials "prior to a determination which would foreclose the State of Colorado serving as the lead on the BPMD NPL site project."