

# Minnie Mine



Minnie Mine – General Cap Condition from the North

**Comments Accepted:**

March 1 – April 1, 2024

**Submit Comments:**

**Online at:**

<https://tcp.ecology.commentinpu.com/?id=3KispfHkA>

**Or by mail to:**

Rhonda Luke  
 Public Involvement Coordinator  
 1250 W. Alder Street  
 Union Gap, WA 98903  
 509-406-6931  
 Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov

**Site Information:**

**Facility Site ID:** 426  
**Site Cleanup ID:** 4356

**Document Review:**

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4356>

Twisp Public Library  
 201 S Methow Valley Hwy, Rm 1  
 Twisp, WA 98856  
 509-997-4681

WA Department of Ecology  
 1250 W. Alder Street  
 Union Gap, WA 98903  
 509-575-2490

**Proposed Removal from the Hazardous Sites List Available for Review and Comment**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to remove the Minnie Mine site, located in Leecher Canyon near Carlton, from the Hazardous Sites List.

The Hazardous Sites List is a list of sites Ecology reviewed for their potential threat to human health and the environment. This review is based on how much contamination is present, how toxic it is, and how easily it can come in contact with people and the environment. Sites must go through cleanup and meet state standards before Ecology can remove them from the list.

You are invited to:

- Review the No Further Action Letter, dated October 20, 2021

Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted from March 1, 2024 through April 1, 2024.

**Site Background**

Mining claim activities consisted of cyanide heap leach operations until the 1980s. Cyanide heap leaching is a process in which a cyanide solution is sprayed over heaps of crushed ore. The solution dissolves the gold from the ore and is recovered.

During operation, the plant consisted of three process ponds, two leach pad liners, a process plant building, and the open pit mine itself. The process ponds consisted of one containing dissolved ore, one containing leaching solution, and one freshwater pond.

Approximately 8,000 tons of gold-bearing ore were mined from the open pit.

## What Has Been Done?

In the early 1990s, the discovery of dead birds and livestock prompted Ecology to issue a series of enforcement orders. An enforcement order is a legal document issued by Ecology requiring remedial actions to be conducted at the site. Remedial actions are construction work done to clean up contamination.

Cleanup activities included the removal of sludge and fluid from the ponds, pond liner removal, filling the ponds with clean soil, capping of contaminated soil, and the recording of an environmental covenant. Soil capping is a barrier that prevents exposure to contaminated soil and must be monitored long-term to ensure it's still effective. An environmental covenant is a legal agreement that outlines terms and restrictions of activities that may impact or threaten the continued protection of human health and the environment.

## Why This Matters?

Ecology has determined the cleanup activities performed meet state cleanup standards and recommends removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List.

## What Happens Next?

After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and respond to comments received during the comment period. Ecology will hold a public meeting if requested by 10 or more people. If no changes are necessary, the site will be removed from the Hazardous Sites List.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement, such as meetings, hearings, open houses, and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>.



**Rhonda Luke**  
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**509-406-6931**



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 509-406-6931 or email at [Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.