

# DRAFT

## Subtopic F4: Water Quality – Historic Mining

Twelve public and agency comments were received on the subtopic of F4: Water Quality – Historic Mining. From those 12 comments, 6 common concern statements were developed. Themes for the F4: Water Quality – Historic Mining subtopic include:

- The Draft PEIS does not provide enough information to ensure that mine waste will not affect the public water supply. As a result, a more detailed analysis, by alternative, to fully evaluate the impacts on water quality and the mitigation costs should be performed.
- Contamination of surface water is unavoidable because of the numerous mine waste piles located in Clear Creek County.
- Cut-and-fill activities near Clear Creek will adversely affect downstream water supplies.
- Highway alternatives would have the greatest impacts on mine tailings, thereby resulting in impacts on the water quality in Clear Creek.
- The Draft PEIS acknowledges that there are numerous CERCLA sites in the vicinity of Central City and Black Hawk but incorrectly states that the sites are not in the Corridor area.

CCS No.	Environmental Sensitivity Common Concern Statements (CCSs)
<b>Subtopic F4: Water Quality – Historic Mining</b>	
F 4 - a	<p><b>Alternative Comparison</b> Because the Draft PEIS does not provide a ranking and quantification of impacts by alternative based on disturbance of mine waste, an effective evaluation of impacts on water quality cannot be made.</p>
F 4 - b	<p><b>Analysis of Mitigation Costs Needed</b> The PEIS should include an analysis of mitigation costs associated with mine waste and water quality anti-degradation requirements by alternative.</p>
F 4 - c	<p><b>Water Quality Impacts on Clear Creek</b> Alternatives evaluated in the Draft PEIS would have impacts on water quality in Clear Creek. Of specific concern are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of the Highway alternatives would have the greatest impacts on mine tailings and mineralized rock zones, resulting in water quality impacts on Clear Creek.</li> <li>• The preferred group of alternatives would require large amounts of cut-and-fill activities in heavily mineralized zones and historic mining areas near Clear Creek that would adversely affect downstream water supplies.</li> </ul>
F 4 - d	<p><b>Adequacy of Analysis</b> The Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) does not provide enough information to ensure that heavy metals released as a result of mine waste disturbance would not affect major public water supply sources such as Clear Creek or to ensure that anti-degradation requirements for water quality-impaired stream segments will be met. The Draft PEIS should include a more thorough analysis of impacts on water quality and water supplies from disturbance of mine waste. These impacts have not been adequately evaluated for Tier 1 decision-making.</p>
F 4 - e	<p><b>Contamination of Surface Water</b> Because Clear Creek County is saturated with mine waste piles, contamination of surface water cannot be avoided if alternatives are constructed through these areas, even with mitigation measures in place.</p>

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F4-f	<p><b>Superfund and CERCLA Sites</b></p> <p>The federal and state governments are spending more than \$25 million on the Clear Creek/Central City National Priorities List (NPL) site. Best management practices (BMPs) will have to be designed to prevent metals from highway runoff and metals from mines and adits. Tier 2 documents, if not the Final PEIS, should address this.</p> <p>The Draft PEIS acknowledges that there are numerous Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites in the vicinity of Central City and Black Hawk but incorrectly states that the sites are not in the Corridor area. The Big Five mine adit and waste rock pile was remediated by CDPHE, and EPA is working with CDOT and CDPHE on remediation of the mine tunnel water and pond this year.</p>