



December 10, 2024

## **State Terminates Centennial Cleanup Agreement Due to Non-Payment**

Did you know that in 2019, Rise sidestepped an EPA Super-fund reclassification of the Centennial site by committing to clean up the site under a voluntary agreement? But after making some progress towards that goal, they failed to take necessary steps and failed to pay their bills, so the state terminated the agreement.

The “Voluntary Agreement” (VA) contract between Rise and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to clean up the toxic mine tailings on the 56 acre Centennial site in Grass Valley was terminated by the DTSC, as confirmed in the “[SVA Termination Letter](#).” Cancellation was due to non-payment of \$94,566.40 in delinquent project administration fees and a failure to take actions to continue the project. (See [cea-nc.org/documents/idaho-maryland\\_mine/SVA-termination-letter-10-23-2024.pdf](http://cea-nc.org/documents/idaho-maryland_mine/SVA-termination-letter-10-23-2024.pdf). )

A draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was first prepared by Rise in 2020 describing how the site would be cleaned up. The RAP assumed that the site would be used for dumping mine waste over most of the 56 acres, impacting wetlands and mixed woodlands. CEA Foundation and other parties commented on the RAP, citing issues regarding unnecessary impacts on wetlands and other concerns. No further progress was been made on the RAP after Jan 2021.

In February of 2024, the Idaho-Maryland Mine Use Permit application and EIR were denied by the Board of Supervisors, eliminating the planned usage of the site for mine waste dumping. As a result, the RAP then required additional revisions to reflect a different end use. Rise, however, had not paid DTSC for past work done, nor responded to DTSC’s requests to reaffirm its plans to complete the RAP. By Nov 22, 2024, the deadline to avoid cancellation of the Voluntary Agreement by the DTSC was passed and the cancellation took effect.

Note: This article was originally published on Sept 22, 2024 and has been updated to reflect subsequent events.