

## S 2063

### Gold King Mine Spill Recovery Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Environmental Protection

**Introduced:** Sep 22, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sep 22, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2063>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Sep 22, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 22, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 22, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2950	Related bill	May 18, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
114 HR 4483	Related bill	Feb 5, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
114 HR 3602	Identical bill	Oct 5, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

## Gold King Mine Spill Recovery Act of 2015

This bill entitles persons to compensation for allowable damages (i.e., property, business, or financial losses) under the Federal Tort Claims Act if they were injured by the spill into Cement Creek from the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado. The spill occurred on August 5, 2015.

The bill establishes an Office of Gold King Mine Spill Claims within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to process and pay compensation claims.

The EPA must work with affected states and Indian tribes to develop, fund, and implement a long-term monitoring program for water quality of the Animas and San Juan Rivers in response to the spill.

The bill amends the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 by requiring certain agencies to work with affected states as well as research universities to: (1) identify the most dangerous abandoned and inactive mines, (2) establish a priority plan for cleaning up those mines, (3) update the plan as new information becomes available, and (4) develop a long-term research initiative. That initiative must evaluate the physical, chemical, and geological attributes of closed, abandoned, and inactive mines and pursue technological developments to aid in the cleanup of those mines.

Prior to carrying out mine remediation activities, agencies must: (1) provide affected tribal, state, and local governments notice of such activities; and (2) develop a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures plan for avoiding and mitigating the impacts of a spill.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Sep 22, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 22, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.