

HR 3602

Gold King Mine Spill Recovery Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Sep 24, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. (Oct 5, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3602>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1] | D · CO | | Sep 24, 2015 |
| Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1] | D · NM | | Sep 24, 2015 |
| Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7] | D · CO | | Sep 24, 2015 |
| Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2] | D · CO | | Sep 24, 2015 |
| Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1] | D · AZ | | Oct 23, 2015 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Energy and Commerce Committee | House | Referred to | Sep 25, 2015 |
| Judiciary Committee | House | Referred to | Oct 5, 2015 |
| Transportation and Infrastructure Committee | House | Referred to | Sep 25, 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 S 2063 | Identical bill | Sep 22, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |

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

- **Oct 5, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Sep 25, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Sep 25, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.
- **Sep 24, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 24, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.