

HR 4483

Gold King Mine Spill Accountability Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Feb 4, 2016

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. (Feb 5, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4483>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Mar 1, 2016
Rep. Zinke, Ryan K. [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Mar 1, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 4, 2016
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 5, 2016
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 4, 2016
Rules Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 4, 2016
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 5, 2016

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 3602	Related bill	Oct 5, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
114 S 2063	Related bill	Sep 22, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Gold King Mine Spill Accountability Act of 2016

This bill requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to appoint a special investigator to investigate: (1) who was at fault for the discharge of contaminated water from the Gold King Mine north of Silverton, Colorado, into Cement Creek; (2) which individuals were responsible for the decisions that led to the spill; and (3) what downstream environmental effects were caused by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) actions, or inactions, after the spill.

The bill: (1) entitles individuals to receive compensation for a claim filed, or civil action brought, under the Federal Tort Claims Act relating to an injury resulting from the spill, and (2) establishes within the EPA the Office of Gold King Mine Spill Claims for processing claims of allowable damages resulting from the spill. The EPA may provide compensation for a claim in an amount greater than \$25,000 without the prior approval of DOJ.

The EPA must fund the implementation of the long-term monitoring program developed by the Long-Term Impact Review Team of New Mexico, for the water quality of the Animas and San Juan Rivers.

The EPA may not finalize or work on any rules (including those not related to the spill) until all claims have been paid, except rules that are necessary to address an imminent threat to public health or safety, or other emergency.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 5, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.
- **Feb 5, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Feb 4, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 4, 2016:** Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Rules, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture, 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.