

Climax Unveils \$200 Million Water Treatment Plant



Buses shuttled 50 people at a time to walking tours of the Climax Water Treatment Plant, which is located at an elevation of 10,500 feet.

August 2014 - The continuing legacy of excellence in environmental stewardship by Climax Molybdenum Co. was celebrated in August with the unveiling of a \$200 million water treatment plant at the Climax operations in Colorado. Climax completed construction of the Climax Mine Water Treatment Plant to replace the Mayflower Pond as Stage 2 metals removal. Extensive safety and environmental controls have been built in to the plant to assure compliance with state and federal discharge requirements. The treated water is discharged into Ten Mile Creek which flows into local fisheries and recreation areas. The grand opening ceremony and tour drew more than 400 people and included speeches by U.S. representatives, state and municipal officials and Climax leadership.

"This today is another example of Climax going above and beyond, and doing more than that by creating this advanced system to treat our surface water for reuse and ensuring that that discharge actually protects and improves water quality," said Dr. Larry Wolk, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The water treatment plant, a stand-alone, high-density sludge system that will treat as much as 14,000 gallons per minute, demonstrates Freeport-McMoRan's long-term commitment to the state and local community, said Dave Thornton, former President of Climax Molybdenum Co.

"This project is good for the region, in that it provides employment and economic benefit by enabling the production of molybdenum to continue well into the future," Thornton told attendees. "And it's good for the state of Colorado because it assures the long-term protection of the recreational aquatic resources here in the state." The new facility puts Climax "at the forefront of modern water treatment technology," said U.S. Rep. Jared Polis. Fellow U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton told the crowd that the plant's design and standards are consistent with the excellent track record Climax has for environmental stewardship.

"In the state of Colorado, we are all environmentalists," Tipton said. "There isn't one of us who doesn't appreciate clean air and clean water, and I want to really applaud Climax for the efforts that they make in demonstrating that with technologies and with methods of working with the community, you can create wetlands, create great jobs, and make sure that you're providing for the future." The opening of the treatment plant hit particularly close to home for Climax General Manager Erich Bower, who grew up in Summit County and joined Climax as an environmental engineer.

"It's been extremely rewarding to be a part of this project that's going to help ensure the future of the Climax mine and also ensure that we live up to our commitment to the environment going forward," Bower said.



Climax employees answer questions about the water treatment facility and the Climax mine.