
Environmental Fact Sheet



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

January 2003

Preliminary Assessment of Bellingham Mines

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of eleven mines in and around Bellingham, Washington. The purpose of the Preliminary Assessment is to determine whether the mines pose a threat to public health or the environment, and to determine whether environmental cleanup is needed. To do the assessment, EPA will review existing files and information, conduct site visits and interview local government agencies and other parties who are knowledgeable about the mines. EPA does not plan to collect soil, water or air samples as part of this work.

Mines Included in the Preliminary Assessment

- Sehome Mine
- Bellingham Coal Mine Company, Mine No. 1
- Whatcom Creek Mine
- Prospect Mine
- Dellestra Mine
- Glen Echo Mine
- John Manning Mine
- Manley's Camp Mine
- Blue Canyon Mine
- Rocky Ridge Mine
- Geneva Mine

The site map on page 2 shows the mine locations. The Prospect and John Manning mines are not identified on the map, as EPA has not yet identified their exact locations.

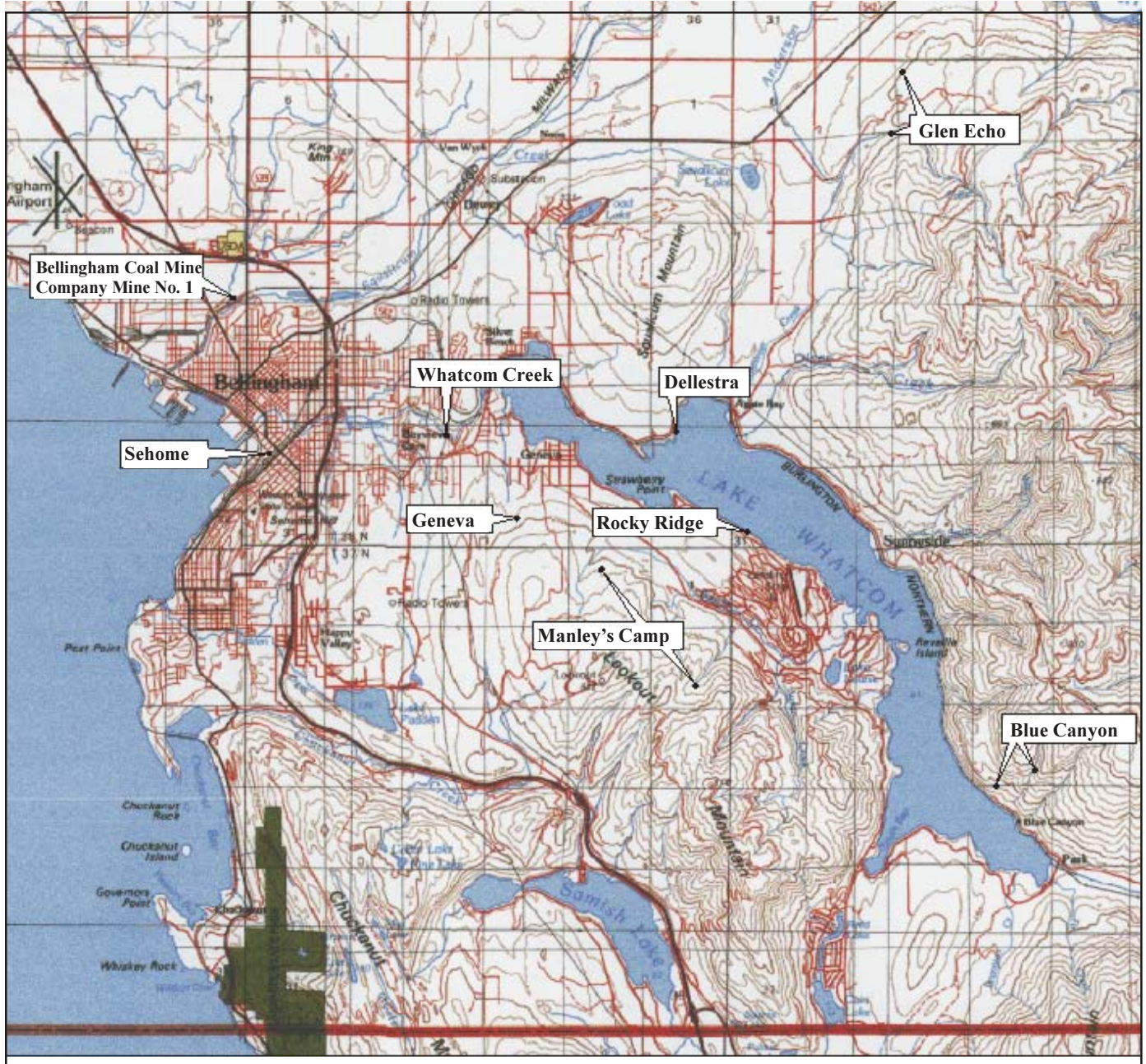
Why Is EPA Doing This Work?

EPA is doing this work in response to a request from two environmental groups in Bellingham – the Environmental Exposure Network and the Clean Water Alliance. These groups believe the mines may contain pollutants such as mercury and heavy metals. EPA believes an assessment is warranted to determine whether environmental problems exist.

What Happens After the Assessment Is Completed?

If the Preliminary Assessment shows that hazardous substances may be present and may pose a threat to public health or the environment, EPA will quickly determine next steps to resolve the problem. Naturally, if hazardous substances aren't present, no further action will be taken. EPA will release a report summarizing conclusions and next steps in about nine months. The report will be available to the public and on our website.

Location of Bellingham Mines



Site Contacts

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