

1872 MINING LAW

FACT

*This Calls for
More Than
a Spoonful
of Sugar*

The second in a series on the 1872 Mining Law, highlighting impacts on taxpayers, community health, and water resources and the need for meaningful reform. To learn more, go to www.miningreform.org



It's pretty tough to swallow the poison pill of toxic mine waste — no matter what method you use.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rates hardrock mining as the nation's top toxic polluter—based on pollution levels reported by the industry itself. Hardrock mining releases more toxics than any other industry, according to the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory.

Yet there are no environmental standards for hardrock mining under the 1872 Mining Law. Multinational mining companies released 1.2 billion pounds of toxic chemicals in the U.S. in 2005—including 172 million pounds of arsenic, 395 million pounds of lead and 3.7 million pounds of mercury.



Toxic drainage from the Summitville Mine Superfund site.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EPA

For more information, go to www.miningreform.org
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