

**Testimony of Trish Coppolino
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Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
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SEC. 10 APPROPRIATIONS: AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1.G. State Share (10%) of Capital Construction Costs for Remediation Systems at Federal Superfund Sites

SUMMARY:

	SFY20	SFY21	SFY20-21
Elizabeth Mine	\$59,713		\$59,713
	\$59,713	\$0	\$59,713

Under federal law, the U.S. EPA has authority to designate hazardous waste sites as eligible for Superfund monies. Vermont has entered into agreements with the U.S. EPA to designate fourteen locations as Superfund sites in Vermont, and to cost-share 10% of the total capital costs for remediation at these sites where there is no viable responsible party. One Superfund site in Vermont is continuing the remediation implementation phase during FY20-21, which requires the state to pay a 10% share.

Elizabeth Mine, Strafford/Thetford/Norwich VT (Superfund Site) FY20: \$59,713

Elizabeth Mine is the largest of the three former copper mines in Vermont. Mine tailing piles have created acid mine drainage that have impacted surface water, affected stream biota and threaten public health in the Lord Brook Watershed. The State of Vermont executed a Superfund Contract with EPA in 2015 to address the Lord Brook Watershed. The total project costs are estimated to be \$11M.

In a letter dated December 12, 2018, EPA requested an amendment to the SCC that raises the total cost of the project and consequently raises the amount of State will have to contribute for our 10% cost share from \$11M to \$12.4M, which is an increase in our potential contribution by \$300,000. Savings from the Commerce Street Superfund Site have been directed towards Elizabeth Mine. The additional funding request for this project is \$59,713.

The Elizabeth Mine remediation consists of measures that reduce acid mine drainage. These measures include surface and groundwater diversions, relocating mining waste, and covering waste with an impermeable cover system. This work is on schedule and all tasks are expected to be completed by 12/31/2019.