

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-2471
Fax (303) 866-2003



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2015-014

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Extending the Disaster Emergency Due to the Gold King Mine Incident and Resulting Impacts to Downstream Waters

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to relevant portions of C.R.S. § 28-3-104 and relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state disaster emergency due to the release of water containing potentially dangerous contaminants from the Gold King Mine.

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting dangers to the state and its people presented by disasters. The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damages, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to . . . hazardous substance incident, . . . or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage . . .” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

Since the date Executive Order D 2015-007 was issued declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the Gold King Mine release and subsequently extended by Executive Order D 2015-011, response and recovery operations related to the release continue. La Plata and San Juan Counties, the Southern Ute Tribe, the City of Durango, and Town of Silverton are still operating under local disaster emergency declarations and have requested that Executive Order D 2015-007 be extended.

II. Declaration and Directives

The the Gold King Mine release continues to constitute a Disaster Emergency under C.R.S. §§ 24-33.5-701, *et. seq.* The declarations and directives found in Executive Orders D 2015-007 and D 2015-011 are hereby extended an additional 30 days from October 5, 2015.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from October 5, 2015, unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this fifth day of
October, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor