Tar Creek Update

October 12, 2004
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Tar Creek Projects

- Restoration of Abandoned Mines Program.

- Watershed Management Plan for the Tar Creek and Spring River watershed – Reconnaissance Phase.

Tar Creek Projects
Restoration of Abandoned Mines

- Restoration of Abandoned Mines Program – Corps of Engineers Authority.
- Two open mine shafts were closed August 2004.
- $30,000 available for work in 2004.
Tar Creek Projects
Watershed Management Plan

- Watershed Management Plan
- Comprehensive plan for the Tar Creek and Spring River watershed
- Plan for holistic solution to area problems
- Framework for actions to be implemented by various agencies.
- Draft plan completed 1 August 2004.
Geographic Area of Focus

- Spring River Watershed
- Tar Creek Watershed
- Neosho River downstream of Tar Creek
Watershed Problems

Health Effects

Subsidence

Mine Shafts

Chat Use

Drainage/Flooding

Water Quality

Native American Concerns

Natural Resource Damages
Plans implemented by other federal agencies, Tribal, state and local entities, and non-governmental interests are taken into account in the development of the Watershed Management Plan.

The Oklahoma Plan for Tar Creek Activities

- Environmental Protection Agency Activities
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Activities
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and other activities
- Activities Needed to Address Remaining Concerns

= Watershed Management Plan
The Draft Watershed Management Plan includes candidate concept solutions and/or strategies for the remaining watershed problems:

- Mine hazards – Open mine shafts and subsidence potential
- Health hazards – lead exposure
- Poor drainage and flooding
- Mine drainage
Tar Creek Projects
Section 111 Demonstration Projects

- Land Reclamation Projects
- Open Mine Shaft Closures
- Subsidence Potential Evaluation
Tar Creek Projects
Section 111 Demonstration Projects

- Land Reclamation Projects
- Boys and Girls Club Reclamation Project, Picher, Oklahoma
- Approximately 5.5 acres capped with clay and topsoil
- Prevent air dispersion of fine-grained soil containing lead at concentrations up to 5,200 parts per million
Tar Creek Projects
Section 111 Demonstration Projects

- Open Mine Shaft Closures
- Open mine shafts being prioritized according to safety risks
- Over 30 mine shafts have been identified for immediate closure
- Closure will begin in early November on both private and BIA-managed properties
Tar Creek Projects
Section 111 Demonstration Projects

- Subsidence Potential Evaluation
- Multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team
- Assess relative potential for subsidence
- Populated areas and transportation corridors
Thank You.