Water Quality at Inactive and Abandoned Mines in Nevada

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The upper photograph is locality PE-419, on the east side of Majuba Hill in Pershing County. Here a small amount of water flows from an adit and then disappears into the ground a few meters away. Iron-oxide cemented rock, which attracted the miners to dig this adit, is evidence of naturally occurring acid-rock drainage. The lower photograph is locality EL-13, near Mountain City in Elko County. Water flowing from this adit meets drinking water standards, supports the growth of watercress, and is drunk by wildlife and livestock.