

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #26

August 2, 2007

For More Information:

Russ Forba, EPA
457-5042
forba.russ@epa.gov

Diana Hammer, EPA
457-5040
hammer.diana@epa.gov

Keith Large, MT DEQ
841-5039
klarge@mt.gov

Doug Martin, MT NRDP
444-0234
dmartin@mt.gov

Peter Nielsen, Missoula Co.
258-4968
NielsenP@ho.missoula.mt.us

Websites:
[http://www.epa.gov/
region8/superfund/sites/
mt/milltown](http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltown)

<http://www.cfrtac.org>

Status: The Milltown Reservoir cleanup project is going well and is now on schedule for powerhouse removal between mid-November 2007 and April 2008.

Currently:

- Envirocon conducted air monitoring last week; results should be available next week.
- Excavation of the **bypass channel** continues. Last week, workers removed 31,000 cubic yards (yd³), bringing the total volume removed to 325,000 yd³. Excavated is being stockpiled on-site until it is sent by rail to the repository beginning in late September or early October 2007.
- Work on the **rail road bridge** over the bypass channel has begun. A crane is on site to erect the bridge. This project should take about 6 weeks to complete.
- **Dewatering wells** are producing approximately 3400 gallons per minute (gpm), of which, 2695 gpm is being discharged into the Clark Fork River and 725 gpm is being discharged to the Blackfoot River via the **Sedimentation Pond**. The water pumped from the lower wells is coming from the contaminated aquifer and testing has showed much higher levels of copper, arsenic and iron than in the upper wells. EPA asked Envirocon to run the water from the lower wells through the Sedimentation Pond before discharging it to improve water quality. Since the project has been meeting its performance standards, Envirocon was not *required* to go this extra step, but did with good results. The arsenic level in discharged water is an order of magnitude lower than the pumped water, e.g., dropping from 343 ppb to 33.2 ppb arsenic. The water coming out of the upper wells and discharging to the Clark Fork is cleaner (drawing more water from the river and not as much from the contaminated aquifer) so there are no plans to pipe this water through the Sedimentation Pond before discharge. More results will be reported as they become available.
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is continuing the **I-90 bridge stabilization** work. This week workers are installing H-pile on the west side abutment underpinning of the west bound bridge for additional stability. When this is complete in 2 weeks, both traffic lanes will reopen.
- USACE is placing "flexifloats" (barges) in the Blackfoot River in anticipation of the upgrades on the I-90 Bridge center piers.
- USACE is removing timber crib piers from the Blackfoot River upstream of the Stimson Mill. This work will continue for the next couple of weeks.

Milltown Reservoir Community Office

(315 Anaconda St., Milltown, MT)

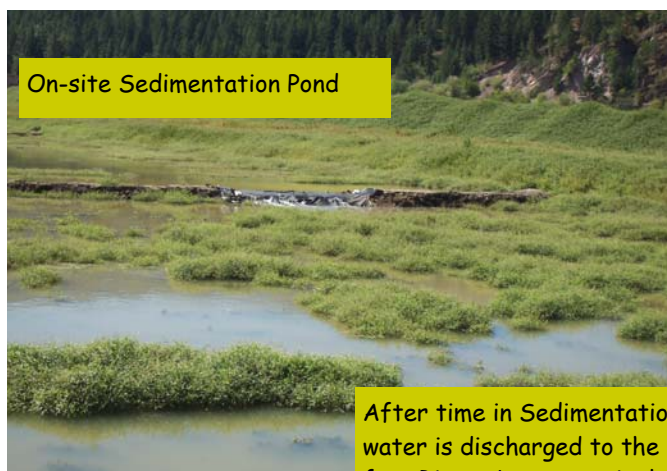
Office hours:

Tuesdays 12:30-3:30 pm
EPA and DEQ staff are available
— stop by to talk or just say hi!

These weekly updates are intended to provide you with the latest information about remediation, restoration and redevelopment activities at the Milltown Reservoir.



US EPA Montana Office
10 W.15th St., Ste.3200
Helena, Montana 59626
1-800-457-2690



On-site Sedimentation Pond



Pumped water flowing into Sedimentation Pond.
Note iron-stained rocks.



After time in Sedimentation Pond,
water is discharged to the Blackfoot River. Less arsenic, less iron!

Upcoming Meetings

- **Tuesday, August 28**
Community Health and Safety Committee meeting 10 am at the Piltzville Fire Station.
- **Tuesday, August 28**
Milltown Reservoir Redevelopment Working Group meeting at the Lutheran Church in Bonner, 6:30-9:00 pm.
- **Thursday, August 30**
Montana Department of Transportation public meeting about the Highway 200 bridge replacement project. 5:30-7:30 pm at the Bonner School.
- **Thursday, Sept. 6 & Tuesday, Sept. 12**
Public meetings to gather future land use ideas for the Milltown Reservoir cleanup area
Public open space?
Trails? Share your ideas with your neighbors from 6:30—9:00 pm on 9/6 and 9/12, Bonner School.

Upcoming work:

- Continue bypass channel excavation
- Continue rail road bridge construction
- Continue rail spur construction from the main rail line to the BP/ARCo repository at the Anaconda Superfund Site
- USACE continues I-90 bridge stabilization work (jet grouting and abutment underpinning)
- In mid-August, begin hauling rock for the "reno mattresses" to line the bypass channel and then begin installation of the bypass channel liner
- In late August, USACE plans to begin micro-pile wall installation once abutment underpinning work is complete.
- Late September or early October, begin rail hauling sediments to the BP/ARCo repository



Installation of the rail bridge over the Bypass Channel



Timber cribs being removed from BFR



PROJECT SCHEDULE

- 2007** Build haul roads
Build flood berms
I-90 bridge mitigation
MRL bridge mitigation
Build bypass channel
Build pedestrian trail
Construct rail lines
Rail hauling sediment
Stage 2 drawdown
Build coffer dam
Powerhouse removal
- 2008** Spillway removal
Sediment removal
Replace Hwy 200 bridge
Restoration
Redevelopment
- 2009** Sediment removal
Raul hauling sediment
- 2009** Restoration
Redevelopment
- 2010** Restoration
Redevelopment
- 2011** Restoration
Redevelopment



PEDESTIRAN TRAIL

Work continues on the trail from the Piltzville Fire Station to the Bonner School. The trail should be complete in mid-August.

Milltown Reservoir Public Meeting held August 1, 2007

About 100 area residents gathered Wednesday night at an Open House and Public Meeting to ask questions and hear presentations about the cleanup progress and community involvement opportunities at the Milltown Reservoir, the Site Trustees' plans for restoration, and the recent University of Montana area groundwater study (available on the EPA web page—see contacts).

At the meeting, EPA announced its intention to change the sequence of dam and powerhouse removal to take out the powerhouse first, possibly this fall, and the dam and spillway later, possibly before high flow but more likely in late 2008.

EPA also announced that it is expanding its well response in the Milltown-Bonner area to include: hiring a liaison, analyze existing data, identify data gaps, offer to replace "at risk" wells, continue service calls and keep the public informed. For details call EPA at 457-5000 or 1-866-457-2690.

KIOSKS describing the Milltown Reservoir cleanup, restoration and future land use ideas have been installed:



- EPA Community Office in Milltown
- Start of the Kim Williams' Trail along the Clark Fork River, and at the
- Weigh Station Fishing Access on the Blackfoot River.

A 4th informational kiosk is planned for the viewing area on the bluff overlooking the dam.

SAFETY REMINDER

DURING CONSTRUCTION, THE CLARK FORK AND BLACKFOOT RIVERS ARE CLOSED TO RIVER RECREATION ABOVE AND BELOW THE MILLTOWN DAM AND RESERVOIR AREA. Clark Fork River users must exit at the Turah fishing access; Blackfoot River users must exit at the Weigh Station access point.

VIOLATORS WILL BE FINED.

For more information, call MT FWP at (406) 542-5500.

