

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #52

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

<http://www.cfrtac.org>

Status: Diversion of the Clark Fork River into the bypass channel is planned for *this Friday*. Breaching of the Powerhouse coffer dam is planned for March 28, 2008. Project personnel have worked 147,168 hours without time lost to injury.



The outlet of the bypass Channel was opened yesterday, March 18, 2008, allowing water from the Blackfoot River to flow into the channel. It took 14 hours and approximately 44 million gallons of water and now the water level in the bypass channel is filled.

Milltown Reservoir Community Office

(315 Anaconda St., Milltown, MT)

Winter Office Hours:
Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 pm
EPA and DEQ staff are available.
Stop by to talk
or say hi!

Currently:

- Bypass channel outlet has been opened and filled with water.
- Right abutment has been removed.
- Remove remaining soil "plug" at outlet of bypass channel this week.
- Remove the remaining 12" of the gravity wall foundation this week.
- Dewatering continues but the pumps on the northside of the bypass channel have been turned off. Currently pumping 1520 gallons per minute and discharging to the Clark Fork River. Also pumping 365 gpm from the 5 newly installed Powerhouse coffer dam dewatering wells.
- Excavation of contaminated sediments continues between the bypass channel and rail line.
- Continue loading 45 rail cars each day with excavated sediment for transportation to the repository at the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site. 611,239 tons (531,512 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for site reclamation.
- This will be the last week for hauling rip rip for site construction work.
- Highway 200 Bridge: MDT and its contractors continue to make good progress and are ahead of schedule; The new bridge should be in place late this summer/early fall.
- Pedestrian Bridge: Missoula County has removed the pedestrian bridge. The new pedestrian bridge should be in this fall.

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

Upcoming Events

- **Friday, March 21**
Diversion of the Clark Fork River into the bypass channel
- **Tuesday, March 25**
Milltown Redevelopment Working Group 6:30-9:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner. The public is welcome.
- **Friday, March 28,**
Breach Milltown Dam. The public will be able to view this event by either going to the bluff overlooking the site or watching the "Milltown Dam Cam" via the internet at www.envirocon.com or www.clarkfork.org

Upcoming work:

- Continue sediment excavation and hauling
- Continue removal of the head wall—1 foot to go!
- Monday, March 24 remove sheet piling from the Powerhouse coffer dam and dewatering wells.
- Excavate fill from around coffer dam and construct pilot channel for dam breach next week
- Finish installation of erosion protection for new river channel
- Friday, March 28, breach Milltown Dam
- MDT continues work on the Hwy 200 bridge
- County continues work on the Pedestrian bridge
- EPA continues its local well programs and is schedule with well upgrades.

Bypass Channel Opened and Channel Filled

Late Tuesday morning (3/18/08), the *outlet* of the bypass channel was opened, allowing water from the Blackfoot River to flow into the bypass channel. It took 14 hours and 44 million gallons to fill the channel to a level even with the Blackfoot River. This Friday, the project team expects to open up the *inlet* of the bypass channel and divert the Clark Fork River. Next Friday, March 28, the plan is to breach the coffer dam upstream of the Milltown Dam. This will be an historic event — the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers will flow freely for the first time in a century.



The photo to the left shows the excavator removing the final barrier to open the bypass channel outlet to the Blackfoot River. (March 18, 2008)

The photo below (taken near the bypass channel inlet, looking downstream) shows the filled bypass channel. On Friday, the Clark Fork River will be diverted into the bypass channel. The CF River will stay in that temporary channel at least until site cleanup is complete in 2010.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2008 | Sediment removal
Rail hauling sediments
Build coffer dams
Powerhouse removal
Stage 2 drawdown
MRL bridge mitigation
Replace Hwy 200 bridge
Replace walking bridge |
| 2009 | Spillway removal
Sediment removal |



- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 2010 | Restoration
Redevelopment |
| 2011 | Restoration
Redevelopment |



For safety reasons, the **PROJECT AREA**, including the nearby rivers, is **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**. A posted guard will allow only authorized personnel on site. **PLEASE RESPECT POSTED SIGNS**

For your own safety, please **stay off the river on March 28 when the dam is breached**. The Clark Fork River level will rise slightly and debris (e.g., logs) will likely be in the river.

To view on-going activities, visit:

<http://www.clarkfork.org/> and click on the webcam

Brought to you by the Clark Fork Coalition
Made possible by donations from Envirocon, MRL, and Modern Machinery

