

## Weekly Update

# Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #54

April 9, 2008

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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:** The Milltown Project continues to go very well and is on schedule. Project personnel have worked **153,833 hours** without time lost to injury.



Tuesday, April 8, 2008: Looking downstream at the new river channel and the combined Clark Fork and Blackfoot River flow. Excavators shown on the right (south) bank are pulling sediments away from the channel to keep them from eroding downstream during high flows this spring. Sediments on the banks continue to dry out and it is now possible to walk from the dam to the sediments exposed as the reservoir drained. The water level behind the dam has now dropped a total of approximately 24 feet (12 foot draw down began in June 2006; 12-14 foot draw down 2 weeks ago). The next and final draw down of 3-5 feet will occur when the spillway is removed later this fall.

### 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!

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

### Currently:

- **Building the diversion dike upstream of the bypass channel.** This substantial dike is needed to keep the Clark Fork River flowing into the bypass channel (and out of the old channel). Deer Creek is also directed into the bypass channel. The diversion dike, constructed of compacted fill and rock, is designed to withstand a 100-year flood and will be complete this week.
- **Former Clark Fork River channel is nearly dry** as flows are re-routed into the bypass channel.
- **Sediment excavation continues.** So far, 81,000 cubic yards have been excavated from the new excavation area (Cell 4).
- **Continue loading 45 rail cars each day.** To date, 704,956 tons (613,005 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for use in site reclamation.
- **Sediment de-watering continues.** Pumping 185 gallons per minute from 6 wells on the south side of the bypass channel to keep sediments dry for excavation and handling. Pumped water is discharged into the Clark Fork River; pumping will be discontinued after high flows this spring.
- **Construction of the coffer dam upstream of the Milltown Dam spillway began Monday.** This coffer dam will protect the sediments upstream of the spillway from erosion during high flows and provide a dry work environment for the upcoming spillway removal. In preparation, some rip rap from the Blackfoot River flood berm has been removed. Construction of this coffer dam should take about 2 weeks to complete.
- Work continues on schedule for replacement of the **State Highway and pedestrian bridges.**



US EPA Montana Office  
10 W.15th St., Ste.3200  
Helena, Montana 59626

## Upcoming Events

- **April 19-26, 2008**  
Bike, Walk, Bus Week  
**Saturday, April 19,** Milltown Bluff tour, 3:15 - 5:15 pm; **Weds., April 23,** 6-8 pm, walking tour of Piltzville; **Sat. April 26,** Bonner to Marshall Grade tour 3:15-5:15 pm. For more information, please call 258-6335.
- **Tuesday, April 22**  
Milltown Redevelopment Working Group monthly meeting 6:30-9:00 pm at Bonner Lutheran Church.

### Upcoming work:

- Continue sediment excavation and hauling
- Continue building the diversion dike upstream of bypass channel
- Continue building the coffer dam upstream of spillway area
- Work continues on Hwy 200 (MDT) and Bonner Pedestrian bridge (Missoula County)
- EPA continues its local well program

To view on-going activities, visit:

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

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

To watch a time-lapsed video of the Milltown Dam breach produced by American Whitewater:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISLInzprz3M>

If you have questions or concerns about your residential well, please call Tony Berthelote at 207-5856.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>2008</b> | Sediment removal<br>Rail hauling sediments<br>Build coffer dams<br>Powerhouse removal<br>Stage 2 drawdown<br>MRL bridge mitigation<br>Replace Hwy 200 bridge<br>Replace walking bridge |
| <b>2009</b> | Spillway removal<br>Sediment removal<br>Raul hauling sediment  |



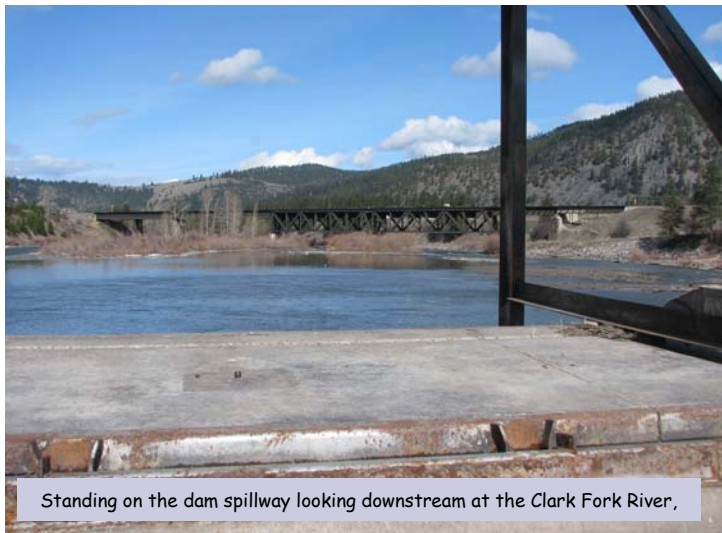
- |             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
|             | Restoration<br>Redevelopment |
| <b>2010</b> | Restoration<br>Redevelopment |
| <b>2011</b> | Restoration<br>Redevelopment |

### On-going Monitoring

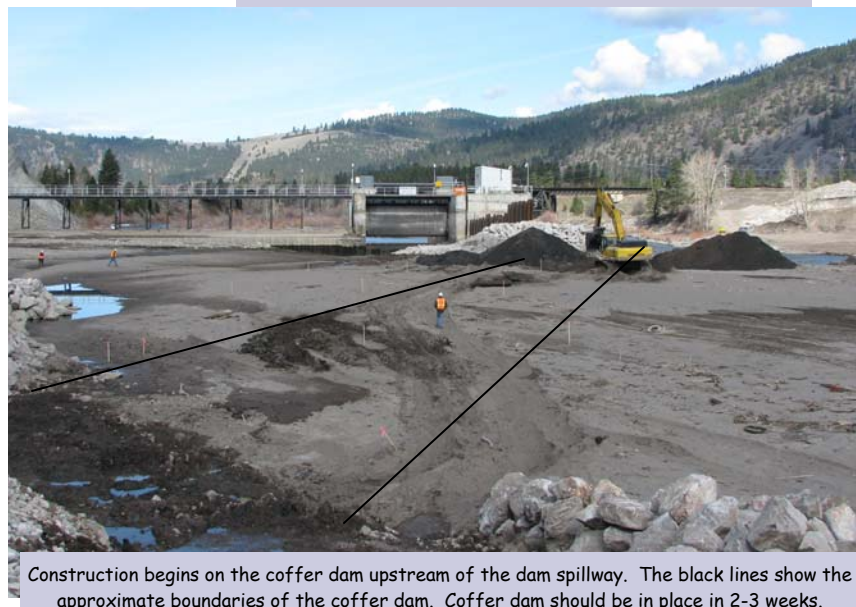
The Milltown Project has on-going monitoring programs. Funded by EPA, Missoula County and the U of M are monitoring area groundwater. Although the Blackfoot River has dropped considerably (about 8 feet at the I-90 bridges), preliminary data show that area ground water levels have dropped less than 12 inches. More extensive monitoring data will be available shortly. USGS (EPA funded) is monitoring surface water for suspended sediment transport. Envirocon monitors for water quality daily. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is continuing to monitor its caged and radio-tagged fish and has seen no mortalities in the study area downstream of the Milltown Project area.



Construction of the coffer dam upstream of the bypass channel.



Standing on the dam spillway looking downstream at the Clark Fork River,



Construction begins on the coffer dam upstream of the dam spillway. The black lines show the approximate boundaries of the coffer dam. Coffier dam should be in place in 2-3 weeks.