

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #59

May 28, 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 **174,048 hours** without time lost to injury.



View of the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers. Workers are beginning to remove items located on top of the Divider Block in preparation for removal of the remainder of the Milltown Dam. Photo taken May 28, 2008.

- **The Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers had peak flows last Wednesday of 17,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) below the Milltown Dam.** Site infrastructure (e.g., bypass channel, flood control berms) held up well and functioned as designed.
- **Sediment excavation continues from cells 2 and 5.** Most of the material is coming from cell 5, with a total of approximately 58,000 cubic yards (yd³) has been excavated from this cell.
- **Continue loading 45 rail cars each day. To date, 922,503 tons (802,177 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for use in site reclamation.**
- **Currently pumping 150 gallons per minute (gpm) from 2 wells.** One-half of the water (75 gpm) is discharged into the Clark Fork upstream of the site (near Deer Creek) and the other half (75 gpm) is discharged at the confluence.
- **Finished hauling 15,000 (yd³) of landfill material to Tunnel Pond for disposal.**
- **Finished hauling tires to landfill for disposal; hauling steel to Missoula for recycling.**
- **Beginning to take items off the divider block of the Milltown Dam in preparation for its removal.** Pending EPA and DEQ approval of the workplan, demolition of the Divider Block could early next week. Removal of the Divider Block, Radial Gate, and Spillway will take about five months to complete. **The Milltown Dam should be completely out this fall!**
- **Work continues for replacement of State Highway 200 and Pedestrian bridges over the Blackfoot River in Bonner.** Hwy 200: MDT contractor is now drilling shafts and installing cassettes (concrete supports) on the east side of the Blackfoot River. Completed installation of the cassettes on the west side bridge last week. The new bridges should be in place this fall.
- **Fish studies continue.** Fish, Wildlife, and Parks continues its caged fish and telemetry (radio-tagged) fish studies to monitor fish health and movement as a result of dam removal activities. **Mortality is significantly less than expected below the dam;** even with the increased sediments from the dam breach. The radio-tagged fish are beginning to move. This may have more to do with changing habitat than trying to escape turbid waters.
- **Fish continue to migrate upstream of the dam site.**

Milltown Reservoir Community Office

(315 Anaconda St., Milltown, MT)

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.



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

Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, June 3**
Design Review Team tour of the Project Site
- **Tuesday, June 17**
Monthly meeting of the Milltown Redevelopment Working Group, 6:30–9 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner. The next working group meeting will be September 23, 2008.

Upcoming work:

- Continue sediment excavation and hauling.
- Completion of work plan for dam spillway removal; removal should begin next week and take about 5 months to complete.
- Work continues on Hwy 200 bridge (MDT)
- Work continues on the Bonner Pedestrian bridge (Missoula County).

To view on-going activities, visit:

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

REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE: The Milltown Redevelopment Group is putting the finishing touches on its *revised Conceptual Redevelopment Plan*. The revisions are based on the design workshop and public input collected last summer and fall. Initially, redevelopment activities are likely to focus on the "Milltown Gateway" area along the Blackfoot River.

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
Spillway removal
- 2009** Sediment removal

- Restoration
Redevelopment
- 2010** Restoration
Redevelopment
- 2011** Restoration
Redevelopment



Look for more about redevelopment and restoration activities in future site updates!



Upstream of the cleanup area the Clark Fork River is changing as stream material is eroded and re-deposited. The former river channel is drying up behind the diversion dike.

Safety Reminder

DURING THE MILLTOWN CLEANUP, THE CLARK FORK AND BLACKFOOT RIVERS ARE CLOSED TO RIVER RECREATION ABOVE AND BELOW THE PROJECT AREA.

Clark Fork River users must exit the river at Turah Fishing Access; Blackfoot River users must exit at Weigh Station.



VIOLATORS and TRESPASSERS WILL BE FINED.

For more information, contact Montana FWP at 542-5500.



Note the clearer Clark Fork River water flowing from the bypass channel, mixing with the sediment-laden water from far upstream on the Blackfoot River.



Workers begin removing items from the Divider Block of the Milltown Dam.