

Cleanup Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #69

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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 **210,328 hours** without time lost to injury.

- **Two project milestones achieved.**
 1. **October 2 marked the 1 year anniversary** of beginning to haul excavated sediments from the Milltown Superfund Site to the Anaconda Superfund Site for use in reclamation.
 2. **The project has now surpassed the halfway point — over 50% of the contaminated sediments have been excavated, loaded onto trains and hauled off-site.** The 2.2 million cubic yards of sediments were slated for removal because they are the most highly contaminated and the source of the arsenic that polluted the local drinking water supply (arsenic) and that would periodically kill fish (copper). We estimate that the local groundwater will be safe to drink less than a decade after the pollution source is removed. Excavation should be complete next fall.
- **Preliminary EPA data** indicated that from the time the powerhouse coffer dam breach (3/28/08) through the 2008 high flow season, a total of 371,000 tons of suspended sediment was scoured out of the entire site. The data also shows that of this amount, about 208,000 tons originated from the reservoir areas upstream of Duck Bridge.
- **State of Montana completed its LIDAR survey.** This information is used to document changes to the restoration areas (upstream of Duck Bridge) before and after this year's high flow. Preliminary analysis of the data indicates that about 127,000 cubic yards (about 150,000 tons) of material was scoured from the former reservoir area above Duck Bridge. An additional 50,000 cubic yards (about 59,000 tons) of alluvium was transported downstream.
- **Continue excavating sediments and loading 45 rail cars each day. To date, 1,471,647 tons (1,132,000 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for reclamation.**
- **Continue demolition of the Milltown Dam.** The circled areas in the photo to the right show what remains of the dam. Those sections (spillway base and divider block) are temporarily surrounded by a work pad and coffer dam. The project is still on track to remove the work pad and breach the coffer dam upstream of the old spillway in early to mid-November 2008.
- Work continues to go well for replacement of **State Highway 200 and Pedestrian bridges over the Blackfoot River in Milltown.** Both bridges should be in this fall.
- Missoula County continues to work on the **pedestrian loop trail** along Highway 210 E up to the Turah interchange and back, linking up with the trail that was built in 2007.



**Milltown Reservoir
Community Office**
(315 Anaconda St., Milltown, MT)

EPA/DEQ Office Hours:
Every other Tuesday
1:00-3:00 pm

(406) 258-5155

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, October 7**
Design Review Team tour of the project
- **Tuesday, October 14**
4–5:30 pm EPA staff will be on the **Bluff** and offer a “visual” tour of the project and answer questions.
6:30–8:30 pm EPA will host a public meeting in the **Bonner School Gym** to provide an update on project activities and report on recent studies. There will be plenty of time for discussion.
- **Weds. October 15**
EPA will host an **Open House** (6-7 pm) and **Public Meeting** (7-8:30 pm) in the **Thompson Falls High School Gym** in Thompson Falls. There will be plenty of time for discussion.

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

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

Upcoming work:

- Continue sediment excavation and hauling.
- Continue removal of the remainder of the Milltown Dam; removal should take another 6 weeks to complete.
- Continue monitoring surface and groundwater.
- Continue hauling rock off-site (next 4 weeks)
- Work continues on Hwy 200 bridge (MDT)
- Work continues on the Bonner Pedestrian bridge (Missoula County).
- Work continues on the Turah loop trail (Missoula County)
- This week, the State of Montana will begin removing logs (done by Lloyd Bache Co., Plains) and timber cribbing (done by Cattracks of Stevensville) from the Blackfoot River



Logs on the Blackfoot that the State of Montana will have removed beginning this week.

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

To view on-going activities, please visit:
<http://www.clarkfork.org/>
and click on the webcam.



View of the Milltown Project area showing bypass channel, cells of excavated sediment, and the rail cars being loaded for transport. (Photo taken September 30, 2008.)