Cleanup Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

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For More Information:

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

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

Doug Martin, MT NRDP
444-0234
dougmartin@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.cfrtac.org

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

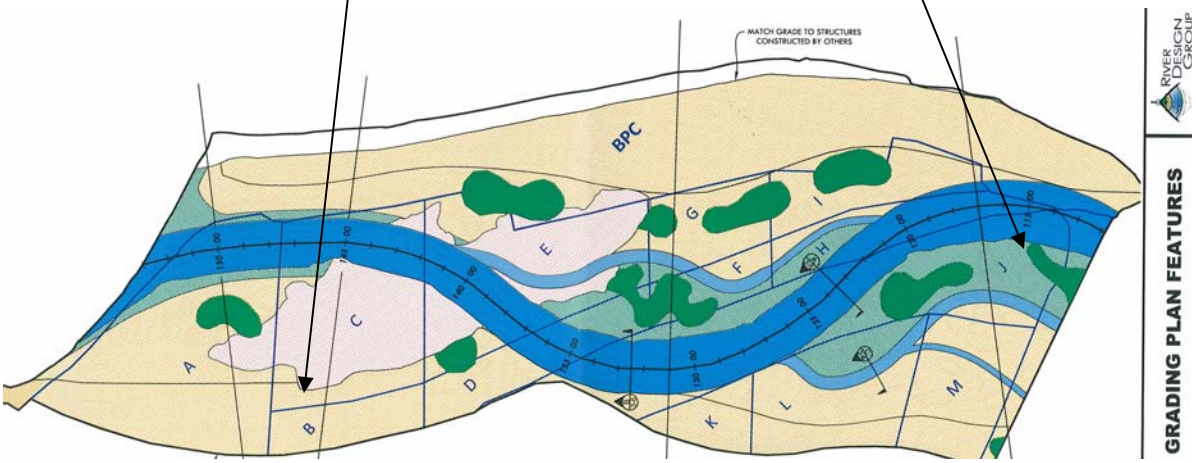
These updates are intended to provide you with the latest information about remediation, restoration and redevelopment activities at the Milltown Reservoir Superfund Site.

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

Status: The Milltown Project continues to go very well and is on schedule. Project personnel have worked 313,027 hours without time lost to injury.

Remediation and Restoration

- As of Monday, 2,933,472 tons (~ 2,256,517 cubic yards) of sediment have been excavated, loaded and hauled off-site. This portion of the project should be complete by the end of September 2009—almost exactly two years from the start of sediment hauling by rail.
- **Continuing to excavate sediments from under the former rail spur area.**
- **Last week, removed 350 feet of rail and shortened the train to just 8 cars.** Crews are now switching out trains six times/day and so far have been able to avoid switching out trains during the busy school arrival and departures times. Sediment hauling should be completed by the end of September so there should only be a short overlap with the school schedule. Please bear with us as this phase of the project nears completion.
- **As reported in the last update, EPA coordinated with the State and Mineral, Missoula, and Sanders Counties to select locations of sediment samples along the Clark Fork River from Sha-Ron Fishing Access downstream to Thompson Falls.** The results are in and the levels of arsenic are well below levels considered to be safe for recreational use (levels that were low enough to even be considered safe under residential exposure scenarios).
- **Recently, Governor Schweitzer approved the agreement between the State and ARCO (and its representatives) to remove approximately 230,000 cubic yards of material from the area known as SAA IIIb** and deposit the material in the Tunnel Pond repository. This action will result in a wider Clark Fork River floodplain. Work in this area began on Monday, 8/31, and should be complete by December 2009. The Clark Fork Coalition received a grant from the MT Natural Resource Damages Program for this removal in 2007.
- **Installed seven new dewatering wells along the old Milwaukee Rail road grade** on the south side of the Remedial Project Area. De-watering this area will facilitate construction of the buttress along Tunnel Pond and storage of SAA IIIb sediments in that repository.
- **Implementation of the Restoration Grading Plan continues**— Area J: excavation of material; hauling material to Area B; construction of river channel and side channels, wetlands, and planting swales. Work continues in the Remedial Project Area and upstream.



Upcoming Events

- **Weds., September 9 NOTE NEW DATE Milltown Redevelopment Working Group** regular meeting 6:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner. Please join us!
- **Monday, September 14 Bonner Community Council meeting** 7 pm Bonner School Library.
- **Last train load of sediment leaves the Milltown project area** (exact date TBD)
- **Sept. 30-October 2** ***Waters that Cross Divides***—Joint Conference of the Montana Section of the American Water Resources Association and the University of Montana Center for Riverine Science. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula. For more information and to register, please visit: http://water.montana.edu/awra/registration/default.asp
- **October 2009** Milltown Project Update on the 3Rs: Remediation, Restoration, and Redevelopment. Public meeting and open house in Bonner (exact date TBD).

<u>On-going and Upcoming work</u>:

- Continue sediment excavation, hauling, and disposal of contaminated sediments;
- Week of 9/7, remove another 200 feet of rail spur to allow excavation
- Envirocon, USGS, U of M, and Missoula Co. continue surface and groundwater monitoring of Clark Fork River and wells;
- NRPD continues to monitor surface water for turbidity from upstream activities;
- FWP continues fish monitoring (caged fish and radio-tagged fish) on sections of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers;
- USGS continues to monitor scour and flow conditions on the Blackfoot River;
- Restoration work continues excavating new river channel and stockpiling Buried A-horizon soils for later use;
- Continue restoration work in the very upper end of the reservoir (above former Duck Bridge) in SAA- IV and V; creating a new channel. Access will be off Rustic Road.
- Redevelopment/Park planning continues;
- September 2009: Complete removal and rail hauling of over 2.2 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the former Milltown Reservoir area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

2009 Sediment removal
Rail hauling sediment
Restoration
Redevelopment
2010 Restoration
Redevelopment
2011 Restoration
Redevelopment

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.

9/1/09 Photo at left showing the view along old Milwaukee railroad grade with new dewatering wells installed. Rail road berm will be re-shaped and re-enforced to make it more stable as the SAA IIIb sediments are added to the Tunnel Pond repository (area to left of roadway). Removal of these sediments should be complete by De-

Stakes shown in this photo (/1/09) taken in the upstream Restoration Area CFR3 mark the new Clark Fork River Channel. The bank of young willows seen at the right will be preserved. Work in this area will be complete later this fall (2009).