



Annual Project Update Libby Asbestos Superfund Site

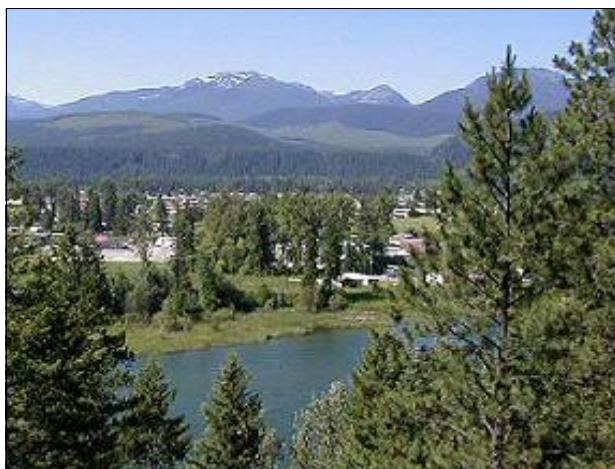
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EPA Information Center; 108 E. 9th Street; Libby, MT 59923; (406)293-6194
DEQ Troy Information Center; 303 N. Third Street; Troy, MT 59935; (406)295-9238
Environmental Resource Specialist – (406)291-5335

May 2011

Introduction

The Libby Asbestos site in northwest Montana includes the towns of Libby and Troy as well as an inactive vermiculite mine seven miles



northeast of Libby. In 2010, EPA completed its 10th year addressing Libby Asbestos Amphibole (LA) contaminated properties in Libby and Troy, Montana. This fact sheet provides an update of cleanup activities that took place in 2010, where we're going in 2011 and other EPA site specific information that may be of interest to the community.

Risk Assessment Process Presentation

In February and March of this year, EPA held numerous public presentations on EPA's risk assessment process. If you know of a group, organization or business that would be interested in hearing the Risk Assessment Presentation, please contact Libby Faulk at 1-800-227-9441, ext. 3126083.

EPA Wants To Hear From You

EPA has recently released draft cancer and non-cancer toxicity values for Libby Amphibole asbestos (LA). While the toxicity values move through the Integrated Risk Information System process, EPA would like to discuss what the draft values mean to the residents of Libby and where we go from here. **Please let us know how we can best share this information with you and ways in which we can have an open dialogue to discuss how we can move forward together.** To share your ideas, please do one of the following: email Libby Faulk at faulk.libby@epa.gov, call Libby at 1-800-227-8917, ext. 6083, or write to

Libby Faulk, CIC
US EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street (8OC-PAI)
Denver, Colorado 80202

Have You Noticed Any Change?

EPA is updating the Libby Superfund website. We have developed an entire webpage of the most frequently asked questions EPA receives about the Libby Superfund site. We've also created a webpage for site documents that make it easier to find the documents you're looking for. Visit the website at www.epa.gov/libby.

Operable Units (OUs) 1, 2, 5, & 6 – Processing Areas

In May 2010, EPA selected remedies for OUs 1 and 2 in Records of Decision (RODs). At OU1, EPA is working closely with the City of Libby to design the remedy to complement the City's planned use of the property as a park. Remediation is expected to take 8 to 10 weeks and could begin as early as this summer. At OU2, EPA completed the remedial action in the fall of 2010 and is now working to prepare the operation and maintenance and institutional control plans. Since waste was left in place, effectiveness of the remedy will be evaluated at least every five years.

EPA is continuing Remedial Investigation at OU5. We are currently working on the Feasibility Study, planned for summer of 2011. Sampling data along the rail lines, OU6, are being evaluated.

OU3 – Investigations continue at the Mine

OU3, the former vermiculite mine, encompasses the mine property and areas impacted by releases from the mine including creeks, ponds, the surrounding forest, and Rainy Creek Road. W.R. Grace is the lead for the investigation phase of the project at OU3 with EPA oversight. The 2010 field program included Activity Based Sampling to characterize exposure to hikers, campers, ATV



riders, firefighters digging fire lines, and wood harvesters. EPA expects to oversee the collection of additional surface water samples and amphibian and fish toxicity testing in 2011.

OU4 – Libby home and businesses

Over 1,460 residential and commercial properties have now been cleaned up in Libby. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in early May this year. EPA tentatively plans on completing over 150 properties in Libby.

EPA continues to refine its cleanup approach as we get new information. For example, last year EPA began to address alleys that adjoin properties scheduled for removal activities. This year we will be transitioning to neighborhood cleanups as well. Activity Based Sampling in OU4 for indoor air, outdoor residential, occupational and recreational will also continue this year.

OU7 – Troy home and businesses

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), lead agency for OU7, has inspected 1,282 parcels in the Troy area. Of those inspected, 114 parcels meet the current removal criteria and 84 received removal actions in 2010. Ambient air sampling continued throughout the OU and a Remedial Investigation Report was published for OU7. For more details on the project in Troy, please contact the MDEQ Troy Information Center at (406) 295-9238.

OU8 – State Highways

EPA has designated the state highways that fall within the boundary of the Superfund Site as Operable Unit 8. OU8 includes highways 37 and 2 as well as Pipe Creek Road, Farm to Market Road, and Kootenai

River Road. EPA has developed sampling plans and investigations tailored to the unique characteristics of the roadways. Soil samples were collected and Activity Based Sampling was conducted in 2010. Those data are being used to prepare the Remedial Investigation report, planned for the spring of 2011. In addition, EPA will initiate air monitoring adjacent to the Montana Department of Transportation's road repair work along Highway 37 this construction season.

Did you know?

EPA is conducting a study of LA background levels in the Libby valley. Quantifying soil background levels in the Libby area will help inform risk management decisions for the site.

Best Management Practices Fact Sheets

It is possible that you might unexpectedly find vermiculite while digging in your yard, when performing work on your home or as part of your job activities. If you do, EPA strongly

cautions you not to disturb it further and cause LA to become airborne.

Call the Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) at **no cost to you** if you see ANY vermiculite on your property or while working, even if you are unsure. If the ERS determines that there is vermiculite on your property that needs to be addressed, it will be removed **at no cost to you**.

ERS for the Libby area — 406-291-5335

ERS for the Troy area — 406-291-6201

EPA has recently updated best management practices fact sheets covering various activities one may perform in the Libby and Troy area. The information in these fact sheets provides precautionary steps one should take to reduce exposures to LA. These fact sheets are available at the Libby and Troy Information Centers or can be found on EPA's Libby Superfund website at www.epa.gov/libby.

The CAG, the LATAG and the NEW EPA Q&A Session

The Libby Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the Libby Technical Assistance Group (LATAG) continue to work with EPA on community concerns and interest about the Libby Superfund site. To learn more about EPA's activities in Libby, please attend both or one of the following:

- Monthly CAG meetings are held the second Thursday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Flathead Community College
- Monthly LATAG meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 at the Flathead Community College

NEW EPA Q&A Session

EPA has recently started holding a question and answer public availability session. This session is open to the public and is held on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Flathead Community College.

You can read meeting minutes from the CAG meeting on EPA's Libby Superfund website at www.epa.gov/libby or visit the LATAG website at www.latag.org.

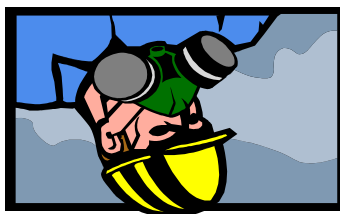
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1-800-227-8917 x6083

Mike Cirian
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406-293-6194

Victor Ketellapper
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1-800-227-8917 x6578

Questions? Please visit or call the EPA Information Center, at 108 E. 9th Street in Libby
(406-293-6194), or call the following EPA staff toll free:

**Before working on your property call
ERS for the Libby area: 406-291-5335
or for the Troy area: 406-291-6201**



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