

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #53

April 2, 2008

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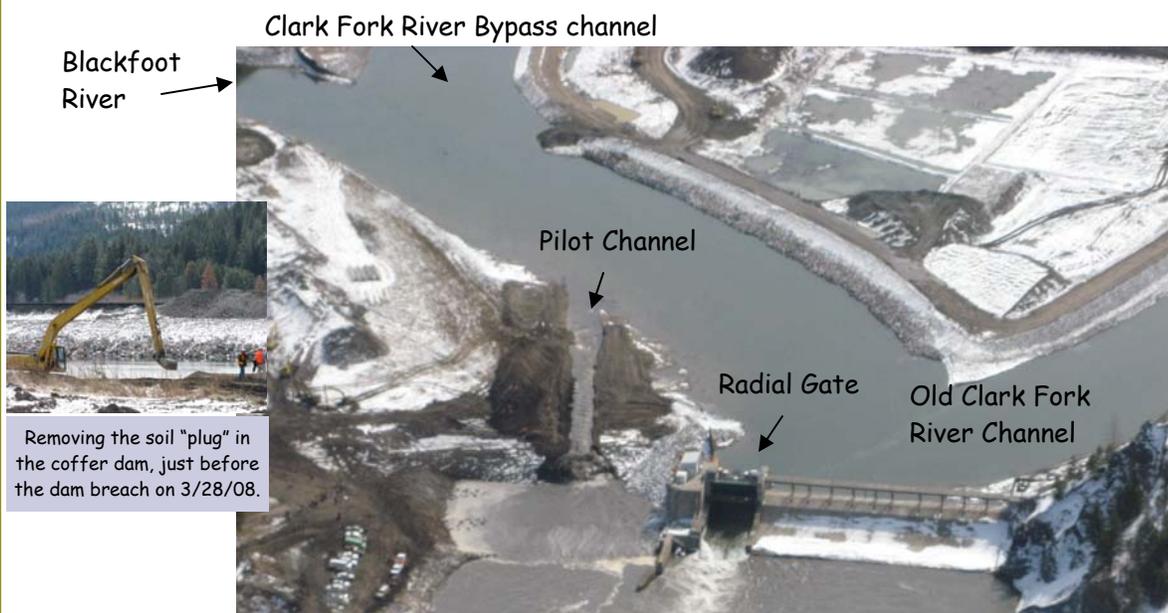
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Websites:
[http://www.epa.gov/
region8/superfund/sites/
mt/milltown](http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltown)

<http://www.cfrtac.org>

Status: The Milltown Dam was breached according to plan on March 28, 2008. Project personnel have worked 153,833 hours without time lost to injury.



The dam was officially breached on Friday, March 28, 2008. Following Governor Schweitzer's cry of "Let 'er run", a crowd of approximately 1000 people (on the bluff and adjacent to the dam) watched as the final soil "plug" was removed and water from the Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers began to flow freely downstream — for the first time in a century.

Currently:

- **Milltown Dam was breached on March 28, 2008 (photo above).** The breach began about noon on Friday and slowly gained momentum. By late afternoon, the channel had widened and large areas of the bank were eroding into the widening chasm. Around 9 pm Friday, the breach channel had cut down enough to capture the flow from the Blackfoot and the flow over the radial gate ceased. A peak flow of about 2500 cubic feet/second (cfs) occurred at about 10 pm at the Deer Creek Bridge. This raised the Clark Fork River about one foot at Deer Creek and about five inches at confluence with the Bitterroot River. The CFR rose only about half of the "reasonable expected maximum" rise in river level that had been predicted and publicized. By Saturday morning, March 29, there was a dry-looking sand bar between the new channel and old Clark Fork River bed. Turbidity and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) measurements peaked on Saturday following the breach but never exceeded allowable construction standards. As the sediments drained, arsenic and copper concentrations rose briefly on Saturday; these levels have dropped to allowable levels. Monitoring of upstream and downstream water quality continues.
- **Flow from Deer Creek has been diverted into the bypass channel** with the Clark Fork River. Workers are constructing a more substantial dike that should withstand a 100-year flood. The dike should be complete in about 2 weeks.
- **Sediment de-watering continues.** Pumping 365 gallons per minute from 17 wells and discharging into the Clark Fork River. The northside wells will be shut down. Continue to pump from southside wells, dewatering contaminated sediments before excavation and rail hauling.
- **Continue loading 45 rail cars each day. To date, 671,839 tons (584,208 cubic yards) of sediment** have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for use in site reclamation.

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.



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
- Build diversion dike upstream of bypass channel
- Build coffer dam upstream of spillway area
- MDT continues work on the Hwy 200 bridge
- County continues work on the Pedestrian bridge
- EPA continues its local well programs and is schedule with well upgrades.

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

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, please visit:

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

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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



Restoration
Redevelopment

2010 Restoration
Redevelopment

2011 Restoration
Redevelopment

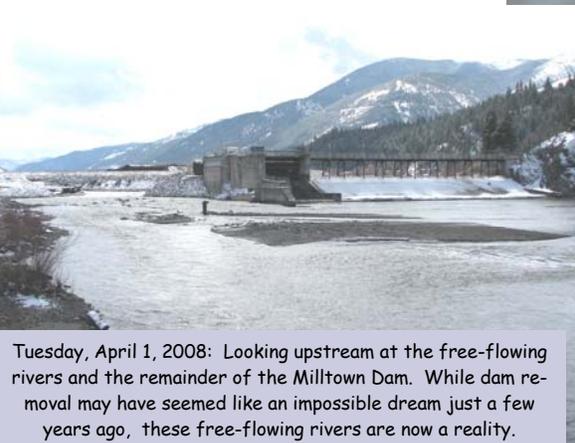


March 28, 2008: Water flowing in the breached channel. Remnants of an older coffer dam created a temporary waterfall before the timber cribbing was dislodged and the river continued to cut upstream toward the Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers.



By dark on Friday night, the Blackfoot River and Clark Fork River flows were fully captured by the new channel. This photo, taken by Gary and Judy Matson of West Riverside on Sunday, March 30, 2008, shows the newly incised channel. Both the Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers are flowing through the gap in the dam created by the removal of the Powerhouse and right abutment.

Notice the dry reservoir sediments and the old Clark Fork River channel in the lower right of this photo. Another earthen berm will be built to keep these sediments from eroding during spring high flows and create a dry work area for removal of the rest of the Milltown Dam. Removal of the divider block, radial gate, and spillway is set to begin later this summer and take several months to complete.



Tuesday, April 1, 2008: Looking upstream at the free-flowing rivers and the remainder of the Milltown Dam. While dam removal may have seemed like an impossible dream just a few years ago, these free-flowing rivers are now a reality.