

## Cleanup Update

# Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #66

August 5, 2008

### For More Information:

Russ Forba, EPA  
457-5042  
[forba.russ@epa.gov](mailto:forba.russ@epa.gov)

Diana Hammer, EPA  
457-5040  
[hammer.diana@epa.gov](mailto:hammer.diana@epa.gov)

Keith Large, MT DEQ  
841-5039  
[klarge@mt.gov](mailto:klarge@mt.gov)

Doug Martin, MT NRDP  
444-0234  
[dougmartin@mt.gov](mailto:dougmartin@mt.gov)

Peter Nielsen, Missoula Co.  
258-4968  
[NielsenP@ho.missoula.mt.us](mailto:NielsenP@ho.missoula.mt.us)

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 **195,116 hours** without time lost to injury.

**Demolition of the Milltown Dam spillway continues.** The photo to the right shows the spillway and what remains of the radial gate and divider block areas. Dam demolition is going even faster than expected. The dam should be completely removed by fall.



Workers are installing rock fall protection this week to safeguard workers during removal of the left (south) abutment of the former Milltown Dam. Project personnel will be working right next to the bluff. For safety reasons, the Milltown bluff is temporarily closed to the public, probably until mid-August. We will announce its re-opening.

- Since June, **220 tons of rebar and steel removed from the dam were recycled.**
- Concrete from the spillway is being placed in Tunnel Pond.
- **Continue excavating sediments and loading 45 rail cars each day. To date, 1,228,021 tons (1,067,844 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for use in site reclamation. To date, 146,000 cubic yards have been excavated from cell #6; 48,000 cubic yards from cell #3, and 10,000 cubic yards from cell #5. The project is getting close to the halfway point for sediment excavation and hauling.**
- US Army Corps of Engineers is surveying the **I-90 bridge embankments** this week in preparation for pulling them back and installing final erosion protection; the Westside embankment will be designed so a **pedestrian/biking trail** can be installed there at a later date. The plan is to link the "Milltown Gateway" area to the Confluence area by a trail under the Highway 200, MRL, and I-90 bridges.
- Work continues for replacement of **State Highway 200 and Pedestrian bridges over the Blackfoot River in Milltown.** The concrete girders have been placed on the State Highway 200 Bridge piers and the piers and caps have been installed on the County's pedestrian bridge. Both bridges should be in this fall.

**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

- Weds., August 13  
Weed Pull Day!**  
 Do your part and help begin restoring of the Milltown project area. Help pull weeds!  
 If you are interested, meet at the east end of the Town Pump parking lot near the Blackfoot River at 6:30 pm. Bring work gloves and any other weed pulling tools you may have. Wear sturdy shoes.
- September 7-11, 2008  
National Summit of Mining Communities, Butte.**
- Sunday, Sept. 16  
Community Day at the Confluence — food, fun and friends! More details to follow.**
- Tuesday, Sept. 23  
Milltown Redevelopment Working Group resumes its monthly meetings. Join us from 6:30-9:00 pm at the Bonner Lutheran Church.**

### Upcoming work:

- Continue sediment excavation and hauling.
- Continue removal of the remainder of the Milltown Dam; removal should take about 3 more months to complete.
- Continue work on left abutment (2 weeks)
- Beginning preparations to remove triangle sediments; will send to the Anaconda Site.
- 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.

### Fish Update

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been studying fish survival and population changes in response to the Milltown Dam and its removal. This work has been going on for the past several years. Again this spring, FWP began its "caged fish study" with cages upstream and downstream of the Milltown Dam area. The spring/high flow phase for 2008 is now complete and the results should be available soon.

FWP also monitors fish movement using telemetry and studies changes in fish populations. Those results should also be available soon. Now that the Milltown Dam has been breached, we have already begun to see fish migrate upstream. *Stay tuned for more details!*



### 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



View of excavated dam spillway, 8/5. Note exposed sheet piling on upstream side of former dam.



Cross-section of removed spillway concrete.

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

At right, Ben Johnson of Envirocon, explains project work to the public representatives of the Design Review Team during its monthly tour.

