

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #40
Dec. 5, 2007

For More Information:

Russ Forba, EPA
457-5042
forba.russ@epa.gov

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

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

Doug Martin, MT NRDP
444-0234
dmartin@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.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltown)

<http://www.cfrtac.org>

Status: The Milltown Reservoir cleanup project is going well and is on schedule for powerhouse removal in 2008 before spring high flow.

To date, project personnel have worked **99,214 hours** without any time lost to injury.

Currently:

- Recent snow and ice have slowed construction work down but the project remains on schedule.
- December 4, 2007, the **Design Review Team** was given a briefing and tour of the Powerhouse area and the plans for coffer dam construction and Powerhouse demolition.
- Continue loading rail cars with excavated sediment for transportation to the repository at the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site.** 211,350 tons (183,783 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for disposal.
- Continue work on the bypass channel berm;** however, recent snowy and wet conditions have slowed construction progress. Crews expect to complete the bypass channel berm in December 2007.
- Continue to line the Bypass Channel.** Reno mattress installation is about 50% complete. Turf Reinforcing Mat (TRM) is 50% installed. The bypass channel should be completely lined and finished by the end of December 2007.
- Trucks continue to haul 12-15 truckloads of rock per day** to supply materials for lining the bypass channel. Rock is now being hauled in larger trucks (a "belly dump" towing a "pup") so please watch for these vehicles (they will be looking for you too!) as they travel from Missoula and through Milltown to the site entrance off Rustic Road. Hauling will continue through December.
- Last week, workers completed the "toe drain"** on the south side of the bypass channel berm.
- Twenty five dewatering wells** are producing 2800 gallons per minute (gpm), of which, 2235 gpm are discharged into the Clark Fork River, 165 gpm are discharged to the Blackfoot River directly. 400 gpm are discharged first to the **sedimentation pond** and then to the Blackfoot River.
- USACE and its contractors continue to strengthen and **stabilize the I-90 bridge center piers.** All the drilled shafts and caissons have been installed. Crews will be working on the foundation, tying the new columns into the existing piers. Mitigation will be done in January 2008.
- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) continues its work on the **State Highway 200 Bridge;** the detour bridge will be in place and the current Highway Bridge removed by April 2008.
- Missoula County has awarded the contract to remove and replace the **Bonner Pedestrian Bridge.** The County expects to have the bridge removed by April and the new bridge installed next fall.



Milltown Reservoir Design Review Team tour and discussion of the Powerhouse area, 12/4/07

Milltown Reservoir Community Office

(315 Anaconda St., Milltown, MT)

Office hours:
Tuesdays 12:30-3:30 pm
EPA and DEQ staff are available.
Stop by to talk
or just 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
1-800-457-2690

Upcoming Events

- **TUESDAY, DEC. 11**
Health and Safety Meeting, 10 -11 am,
Piltzville Fire Station
- **TUESDAY, DEC. 11**
EPA and the State of Montana will host a public meeting/open house to discuss progress on the Milltown Reservoir Cleanup, Restoration, and Redevelopment.
Open House 5:30-6:30 pm; Public Meeting 6:30-8:30 pm in the Bonner School Community Room.
- **The Milltown Redevelopment Working Group** is not meeting in December. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 22, 2008 from 6:30-9:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner.



Local Well Inventory

EPA is implementing a pro-active program to identify and replace wells at risk of going dry because of the reservoir draw downs.

If you have questions about your well, please call Tony Bethelote:
(406) 207-5856 (cell)

There will be no weekly updates for the weeks of December 17 and 24, 2007. Project work will continue. Regular Weekly Updates will resume in January 2008.

Upcoming work:

- Continue bypass channel berm construction
- Continue reno mattress and TRM installation
- Continue hauling rock for the "reno mattresses" to line the bypass channel through December
- USACE continues I-90 bridge stabilization work
- MDT continues work on the Hwy 200 bridge

Milltown Reservoir Design Review Team

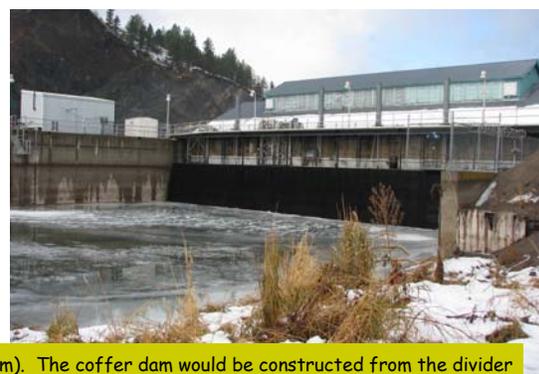
Envirocon and EMC² presented the Draft Final Design Report to the Milltown Reservoir Design Review Team (DRT) on December 4. This Design Report covers Stage 1E — Powerhouse Removal — and Stage 2A — Stage 2 Reservoir Draw Down and Scour Mitigation.

Powerhouse removal is set to begin in late January or early February 2008. Cofferdam breaching would occur in mid-late March, which will lower the reservoir water level by an additional 12-14 feet. To prepare for the removal, workers will construct a coffer dam upstream of the Powerhouse. It will be built on remnants of the coffer dam built by the Montana Power Company when it upgraded the dam in 1988.

More details about this will be discussed at the upcoming EPA/DEQ public meeting on December 11. (See meeting notice at left.)



View of the Powerhouse Forebay area (views from upstream). The coffer dam would be constructed from the divider block north towards the right abutment. The coffer dam keeps the area "dry" for workers and equipment.



This shows the Carefully deconstructed "office" from within the Powerhouse. The Milltown Redevelopment Working Group is working with NorthWestern Energy to preserve this and other historic Powerhouse items for future interpretation and display.



This is the now-lead paint free interior wall of the Powerhouse. Workers completed removal of the lead-based paint from this wall the Powerhouse floor.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2007 | Build haul roads
Build flood berms
I-90 bridge mitigation
Build bypass channel
Build pedestrian trail
Construct rail lines
Rail hauling sediment |
| 2008 | Build coffer dam
MRL bridge mitigation
Powerhouse removal
Stage 2 drawdown
Sediment removal
Rail hauling sediment
Replace Hwy 200 bridge
Replace walking bridge |
| 2009 | Spillway removal
Sediment removal
Raul hauling sediment |
| | Restoration
Redevelopment |
| 2010 | Restoration
Redevelopment |
| 2011 | Restoration
Redevelopment |

