

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #56

May 6, 2008

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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 Project continues to go very well and is on schedule. Project personnel have worked **166,900 hours** without time lost to injury.



Excavation of the North and South Bank Power House Channel Over-Bank Sediments as a "Best Management Practice"

Currently:

- **Completed the upstream spillway coffer dam on April 21st.** This coffer dam will protect the sediments upstream of the spillway from erosion during high flows and provide a dry work environment for the upcoming spillway and radial gate removal.
- **Sediment excavation continues.** Excavation from Cell 4 has been completed (115,220 cubic yards). Excavation from cells 2 and 5 continue.
- **Continue loading 45 rail cars each day.** To date, **837,000 tons** (728,000 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for use in site reclamation.
- Work continues for replacement of **State Highway 200 and pedestrian bridges.** The installation of the pier caissons for the Hwy 200 Bridge has been slower than expected but the project is still on schedule overall.
- **The 8" high pressure gas line** crossing the Blackfoot River became exposed and has been replaced by Northwestern Energy. Excavated embankments are currently being backfilled.
- **Removal of Powerhouse channel over-bank sediments** should be completed this week with an estimated 41,000 cubic yards removed (13,000 from the south bank & 28,000, from the north bank). The north bank flow deflector will be installed once erosion patterns are observed as flows rise. This removal of clean material is a "Best Management Practice" (BMP) employed by Envirocon to minimize impacts to aquatic life downstream of the dam.
- **The Clark Fork River outlet road/dike-base** should be completed this week. This road will allow access to the spillway and tunnel pond from the SAA-1 point.
- MRL has placed rip rap on the shore-side of the Montana Rail Link (MRL) west side bridge pier. Additional excavation and rip rap placement will be done on both piers after high flow.

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

- **Monday, May 12** Bonner Milltown Community Council meeting, 7:00 pm, at Bonner School Library.
- **Tuesday, May 27** Milltown Redevelopment Working Group monthly meeting 6:30-9:00 pm at Bonner Lutheran

Upcoming work:

- Continue sediment excavation and hauling.
- Continue geotechnical drilling on dam left abutment near cliff.
- Move stockpiled tires, scrap, timber etc. off-site from old on-site landfill for recycling or disposal.
- Removal of steel superstructure on dam spillway should begin in the next 2 weeks.
- Work continues on Hwy 200 (MDT) bridge and Bonner Pedestrian bridge (Missoula County).
- EPA continues its local well programs.

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: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISLIInzprz3M>

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 Sediment removal Raul hauling sediment
	Restoration
	Redevelopment
2010	Restoration Redevelopment
2011	Restoration Redevelopment



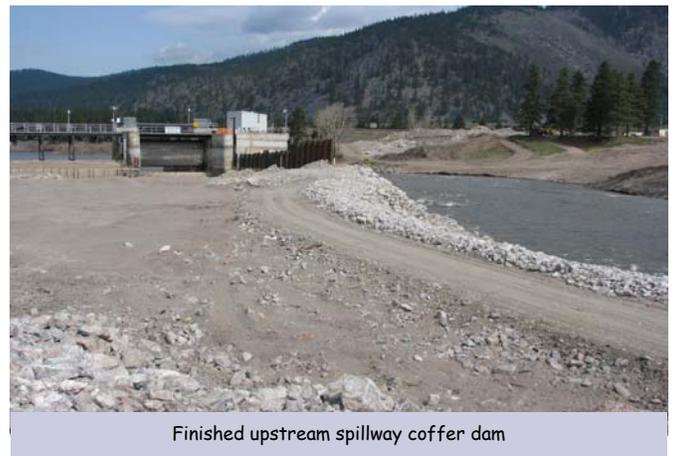
On-going Monitoring

The Milltown Cleanup Project has on-going monitoring programs. Funded by EPA, Missoula County and the U of M are monitoring area groundwater. Although the Black-foot River has dropped about 8 feet at the I-90 bridges after the powerhouse coffer dam breach; preliminary data shows that area ground water levels have dropped less than 12 inches. USGS (EPA funded) is monitoring surface water quality for suspended sediment transport. Envirocon monitors for water quality daily. Water quality data can be found at <ftp://milltown.envirocon.com>. MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks is monitoring its caged and radio-tagged fish and has so far seen no increased mortality in the study area downstream of the Milltown Project Area .

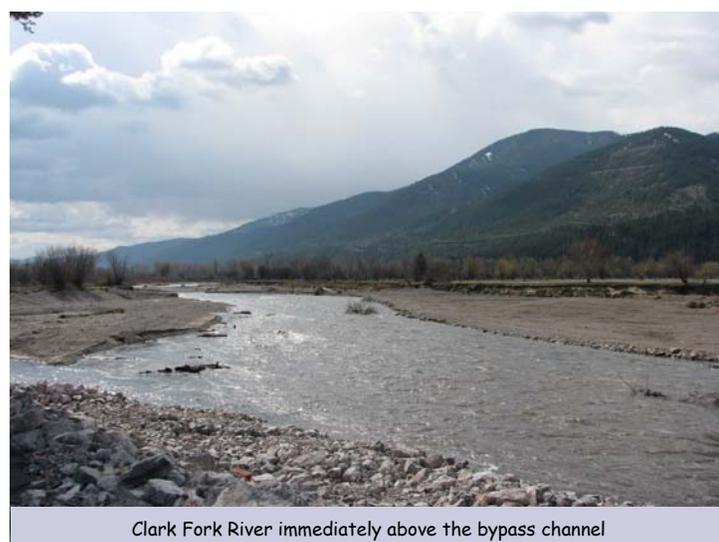
If you have questions or concerns about your residential well, please call Deb Clevenger at 406-457-5004

Watch for Logs

When recreating on the river below the dam, please be aware that numerous logs will be moving downstream as flow increases. This movement of logs should stop after high flow.



Finished upstream spillway coffer dam



Clark Fork River immediately above the bypass channel