

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #37

Nov. 7, 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>

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!

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 **84,467 hours** without any time lost to injury.

Currently:

- **Air monitoring** results from sampling conducted in the Powerhouse during the lead-paint abatement did not detect lead in the area outside the work area. Levels of lead inside the work area were below the OSHA limit of 50 mg/m³. Workers inside the containment area are required to wear respirators. We will continue to report air monitoring results as they become available.
- **Continue removal of the lead-based paint from the Powerhouse** which began on October 29. Workers were removing the lead-based paint using dry ice but have now switched to a faster method using grinders and needle hammers. The work zone is isolated and workers wear respirators. The lead-based paint removal is about 30% complete.
- **Continue loading rail cars with excavated sediment for transportation to the repository at the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site.** The 45 car trains haul sediments 7 days per week. One train is loaded and unloaded daily. Each rail car carries 100 tons of sediment (4500 tons total per trainload). So far, **116,646 tons** (81,652 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Superfund Site for disposal. Over the next 2 years, trains will haul 2.2 million yd³ of sediments from the Milltown Superfund Site, leading to a restored aquifer and trout fishery.
- Workers recently surveyed the project site and report that, **to date, 578,000 (yd³) of sediments have been excavated from the site.** (Previously reported totals were estimates.)
- **Workers began excavating near the outlet channel of the bypass channel.** The area behind the sheet piling will be backfilled with clean materials. This work sets the stage for breaching the outlet and diverting the Clark Fork River into the bypass channel in winter/early spring 2008.
- Continue to work on the **Bypass Channel Berm**, mixing native alluvium (rockier soils) with original topsoils. The anticipated completion date is mid-December 2007. The berm is built using clean materials which will later be re-configured into a more natural Clark Fork River flood plain.
- Workers continue to line the bypass channel with "**reno mattresses**" and are now lining the bottom and south sides of the bypass channel. Installation should be complete in early December.
- **Trucks continue to haul rock** to fill the "reno mattresses" for the bypass channel. The number of trucks is between 14-15 truckloads per day. Hauling continues through November 2007.
- **Twenty five dewatering wells** are producing 3060 gallons per minute (gpm), of which, 2335 gpm are discharged into the Clark Fork River, 220 gpm are discharged to the Blackfoot River directly and 505 gpm are discharged to the Blackfoot River via the **Sedimentation Pond.**
- USACE and its contractors continue to work 24/7 to strengthen and **stabilize the I-90 bridge center piers.** Work has been going slowly as crews have encountered remnants of an earlier coffer dam (including 16" I-beams) while installing the bridge supports. All the drilled shafts in the center pier on the eastbound lane side should be in by the end of this week. Work continues on the west bound land center pier. I-90 Bridge mitigation should be complete in January 2008.
- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is busy **installing the work bridge on the downstream side of State Highway 200.** In about 2 weeks, workers will begin installing the detour bridge on the upstream side of the current Highway 200 bridge.



Train loaded with sediments ready for shipment

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 Meetings

- **TUESDAY, NOV. 27** Milltown Redevelopment Working Group meeting, 6:30–9 pm at the Lutheran Church in Bonner. Members of the public are welcome.
- **SUNDAY, DEC. 2** Community Christmas Celebration in Bonner 2-6 pm in House #60 (next to Credit Union). Sponsored by Friends of Two Rivers; Free and Open to the public.
- **TUESDAY, DEC. 4** Design Review Team Milltown Site Tour
- **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.

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)

Upcoming work:

- Continue bypass channel berm construction
- Continue reno mattress installation
- Continue hauling rock for the "reno mattresses" to line the bypass channel; through November
- Continue lead-based paint removal in Powerhouse
- Start installing boulder clusters in bypass channel to aid in fish passage.
- Continue excavation of the bypass channel outlet to the Blackfoot River.
- USACE continues I-90 bridge stabilization work
- MDT continues work on the Hwy 200 bridge



The Clark Fork River bypass channel — 4,000 feet long and built to withstand a 100-year flood event — is nearing completion. Workers are seen lining base and south side of channel. *Insert:* Anchoring the Turf Reinforcing Mat into the berm.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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



On Saturday, November 3, Governor Schweitzer officially dedicated 6.5 acres of land recently donated by the Plum Creek Timber Company to the Carpenters' Union Local #28. The land will be part of the "Milltown Bluff Overlook" public area. The dedication celebrated the collaborative effort among industry, the union, and state, federal and local governments. EPA is funding construction of a parking lot, trail, and a fenced viewing area with interpretative signage. Construction should be complete by spring 2008. In the meantime, tours can be arranged by calling Diana at 457-5040 or Peter at 258-4968.

Pictured (L to R): Eric Lathrops, Carpenters' Union President; Larry Anderson, Missoula County Commissioner; John Wardell, EPA Montana Office Director; Dennis Daneke, Carpenters' Union Representative; Governor Schweitzer; Jerry Sorenson, Plum Creek Timber Co.; and Zoe, sign holder extraordinaire.