

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #42

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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)

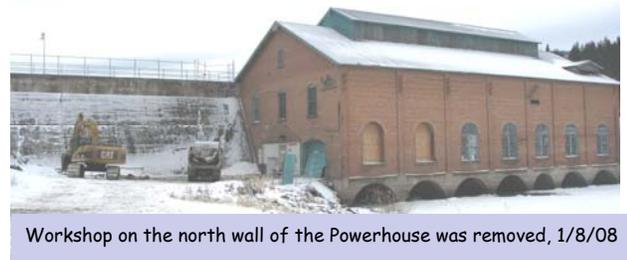
Office hours:
Tuesdays 12:30-3:30 pm
EPA and DEQ staff are available.
Stop by to talk
or just say hi!

These weekly updates are intended to provide you with the latest information about remediation, restoration and redevelopment activities at the Milltown Reservoir.

Status: The Milltown Reservoir cleanup project is on schedule for powerhouse removal this winter. Project personnel have worked **115,451 hours** without time lost.

Currently:

- **Tuesday, workers removed the 1980s era workshop adjacent to the Powerhouse.** The workshop came down quickly and without incident. Workers will now prepare an opening in the north wall of the Powerhouse and will use that opening to remove the 1906-era generators. Four of the five generators will be taken by NorthWestern to Butte; the fifth will become the property of the Milltown Redevelopment Working Group for use in future historic displays about the area.
- **Continue loading rail cars with excavated sediment for transportation to the repository at the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site.** 327,313 tons (284,620 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for disposal.
- **Continue work on the bypass channel berm;** prolonged cold and snowy conditions have slowed progress. Only approximately 11,000 cubic yards of material are needed to complete the berm; construction should be completed in the next few weeks.
- **Continue to line the Bypass Channel.** Installation of the reno mattress and Turf Reinforcing Mat or TRM are about 65% complete. The lining should be completed in the next few weeks.
- **Trucks continue to haul 12-15 truckloads of rock per day** to supply materials for lining the bypass channel and rip rap for the upstream coffer dam. Rock is now being hauled from the east and the west. These are larger trucks (a "belly dump" towing a "pup") so please watch for these vehicles (they will be looking for you too!). Hauling will continue for a couple more weeks.
- **Placing fill on the north slope at the west end of the bypass channel,** creating a "turn-around pad" for equipment while the bypass channel is in use. Pad should be done this week.
- **At the end of this week, workers will begin removing and replacing the sheet piling at the bypass channel outlet.** "Walers" are metal beams used to brace the sheet piling. This work should take about one week to complete.
- **Twenty five dewatering wells** are producing 2590 gallons per minute (gpm), of which, 2195 gpm are discharged into the Clark Fork River, 195 gpm are discharged to the Blackfoot River directly. 200 gpm are discharged first to the sedimentation pond and then to the Blackfoot River. In the next couple of weeks, pumped water from the west end of the bypass channel wells will be discharged directly into the Blackfoot River, bypassing the sedimentation pond. This change is necessary because water from the sedimentation pond has been seeping back into the bypass channel and making completion of the bypass channel more difficult. The sedimentation pond will continue to function as a storm water retention basin for the project area.
- **Completed fill on the coffer dam at the inlet of the bypass channel.** Rip rap will be completed this week. The coffer dam at this location allows workers to remove the small amount of contaminated sediments remaining at the upstream (east) end of the bypass channel.



Workshop on the north wall of the Powerhouse was removed, 1/8/08



(Looking downstream from just upstream of Duck Bridge)
Newly constructed Cofferdam at the bypass channel inlet.



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Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, January 22** Milltown Redevelopment Working Group monthly meeting, 6:30-9:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner.
- **Tuesday, February 5** Design Review Team Site Tour
- **Tuesday, February 26** Milltown Redevelopment Working Group monthly meeting, 6:30-9:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner.

The Highway 200 and Pedestrian Bridges in Bonner are active construction zones. For your own safety, please obey posted signs.



Update on Area Bridges

I-90: USACE and its contractors have completely finished work on the eastbound lane center pier. On the westbound lane, the final concrete work will tie the new drilled shafts to the old center pier. I-90 bridge work should be complete this month.

Highway 200: MDT and its contractors continue to make good progress; workers have begun removing the decking on the old bridge. Traffic is now routed completely on the detour bridge. Speed limit is 25 MPH. The new bridge should be in place this fall.

Pedestrian Bridge: Missoula County and its contractor have begun work on the pedestrian bridge. The new "hybrid" bridge should be in place this fall.

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
- Continue opening up the Powerhouse north wall
- Preparation for generator removal next week
- Plan to begin removal of right abutment (of the dam) later this month
- Next week, USACE will begin removing center pier foundation forms and coffer dam
- USACE begins removal of "flexi-float" barges in Blackfoot River week of January 21.
- USACE will re-configure the slope along the I-90 embankment this summer.
- MDT continues work on the Hwy 200 bridge
- County continues work on the Pedestrian bridge
- EPA continues its local well program

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 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 |



Monthly Milltown Design Review Team Site Tour, looking at bypass channel and coffer dam progress. Tuesday, 1/8/08.

EPA responds to East Missoula wells

In the last month, EPA received some two dozen reports of well problems in East Missoula. Based on predicted impacts of drawing down the Milltown Reservoir, EPA initially thought this area was out of the area of impact. EPA took a closer look and found that the drop in groundwater in that area is actually closer to 1-2 feet. While there may be other factors involved besides the reservoir draw down, EPA is taking responsibility for well problems in East Missoula, and will pay (and reimburse) to have those problems corrected. EPA is arranging service calls to resident's wells checked and will lower pumps and drill new wells as needed.

This is an extension of EPA's on-going well program in areas closer to the Reservoir such as Milltown, Piltzville, and West Riverside.

If you have concerns about your well, please call EPA at 457-5000.



(Looking upstream) This photo shows construction of the Bypass Channel. Later this winter, this channel will be opened and the Clark Fork River diverted into this channel, away from contaminated site sediments.