

Weekly Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #58

May 21, 2008

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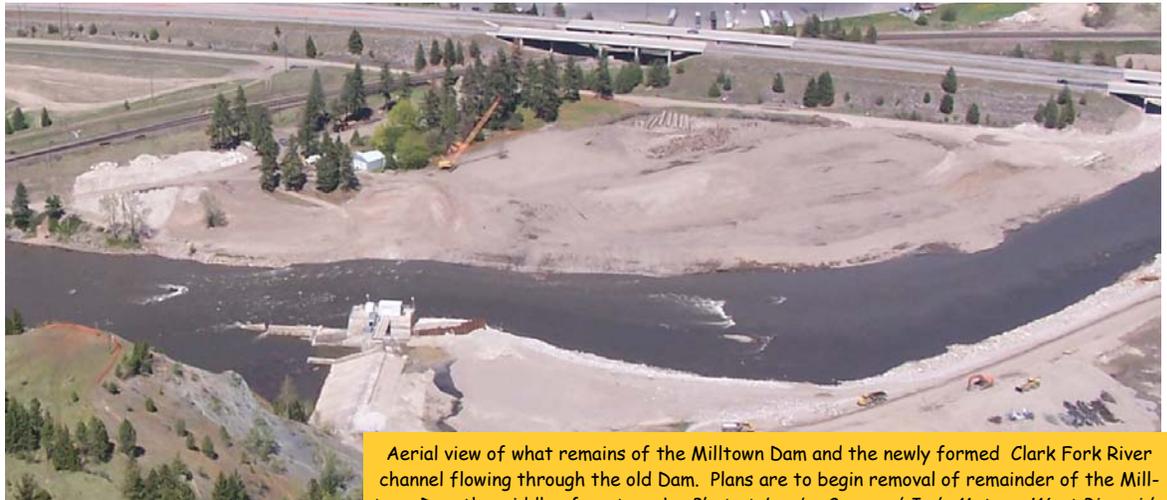
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Websites:
[http://www.epa.gov/
region8/superfund/sites/
mt/milltown](http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltown)

<http://www.cfrtac.org>

Status: The Milltown Project continues to go very well and is on schedule. Project personnel have worked **171,870 hours** without time lost to injury.



Aerial view of what remains of the Milltown Dam and the newly formed Clark Fork River channel flowing through the old Dam. Plans are to begin removal of remainder of the Milltown Dam the middle of next week. Photo taken by Gary and Judy Matson, West Riverside,

Currently:

- So far, the combined peak flow of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers below the Dam was 17,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) on Wednesday, May 21 with the Blackfoot River at 10,600 cfs and the Clark Fork River at 6,900 cfs. River flows are expected to peak this weekend. Predicted flow for the Clark Fork River below the Dam is 19,000 cfs. Site infrastructure (e.g., bypass channel, flood control berms) are holding up well and are monitored daily.
- Air monitoring results from samples taken May 5 and 6 were all well below the OSHA limits for arsenic, copper, and lead. Lead and arsenic were not even detected. Copper was detected but at very low levels (500 times below the OSHA limit). The air samples were collected at 3 locations each day. Areas and activities monitored include: dust control, sediment excavation, haul roads, maintenance yard, hauling sediments, and dozer operation. Air monitoring will continue periodically. Envirocon maintains dust control with on-site water trucks.
- Tuesday and Wednesday, began and completed construction of a "flow deflector" to further protect sediments on the north bank of the confluence channel. Preventing these sediments from eroding during spring flows reduces the impacts to aquatic life downstream.
- Sediment excavation continues primarily from cell 5.
- Continue loading 45 rail cars each day. To date, 903,286 tons (785,466 cubic yards) of sediment have been hauled to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site for use in site reclamation.
- Currently pumping 110 gallons per minute (gpm) from 2 wells. Tried pumping water from tunnel pond but it quickly filled up as Clark Fork River water infiltrated through the banks. With the Stage 3 draw down this fall, the pond will no longer be re-charged from the Clark Fork.
- Continue hauling approximately landfill material to Tunnel Pond for disposal. Of the 15,000 cubic yards (yd³) of material, 9,000 (yd³) have been deposited; should finish later this week.
- Continue sorting and sending steel to Missoula for recycling; tires to landfill for disposal.
- Remnants of an old train were found in Tunnel Pond on May 9; details to follow.
- Work continues for replacement of State Highway 200 and Pedestrian bridges over the Blackfoot River in Bonner. The new bridges should be in place this fall.

Milltown Reservoir Community Office

(315 Anaconda St., Milltown, MT)

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

- **Tuesday, May 27**
Milltown Redevelopment Working Group monthly meeting 6:30-9:00 pm at Bonner Lutheran Church.
- **Tuesday, June 3**
Design Review team tour

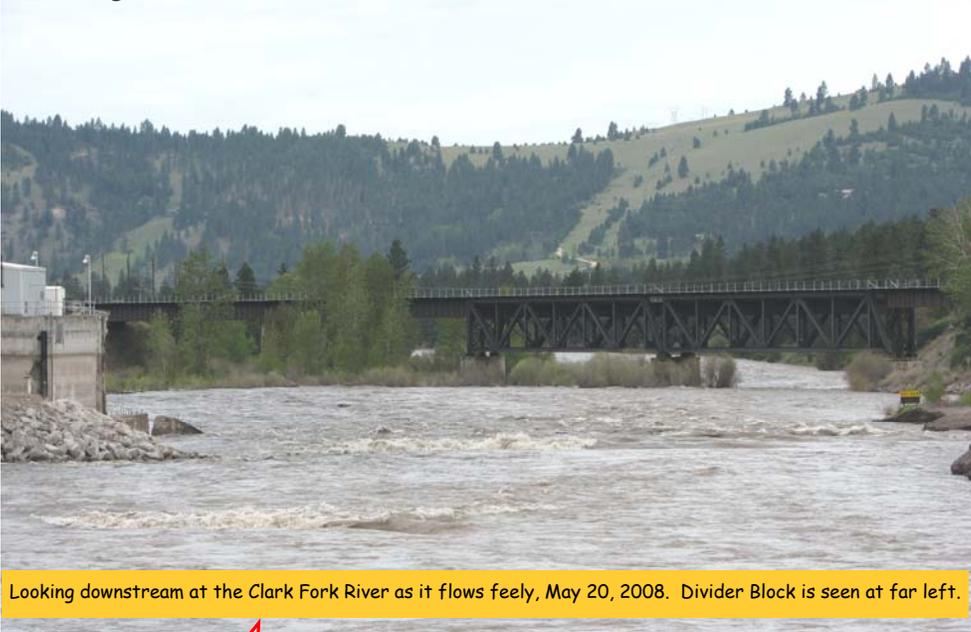
Upcoming work:

- Continue sediment excavation and hauling.
- Completion of work plan for dam spillway removal; removal should begin next week and take about 5 months to complete.
- Continue hauling tires and steel for disposal.
- 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.

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



Looking downstream at the Clark Fork River as it flows feely, May 20, 2008. Divider Block is seen at far left.

Have a fun
and safe
Memorial Day
weekend!



5/21/08: Building the "Flow deflector" to keep clean soils from eroding from north side of the Clark Fork River above the Dam.



Sorting steel from the spillway bridge that was removed last week. The steel will be recycled.



Remnants of an old train and rail found in Tunnel Pond. Investigations continue into its historical significance.

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.



VIOLATORS and TRESPASSERS WILL BE FINED.
For more information, contact Montana FWP at 542-5500.

Please Watch out for Logs!



When recreating on the Clark Fork River below the dam, please be aware that numerous logs will be moving downstream as flow increases. The logs should stop moving after high flow.
Be careful, be safe!