



CFRTAC
CLARK FORK RIVER
Technical Assistance Committee



Clark Fork River
Operable Unit of the Milltown Reservoir Clark Fork River
Superfund Site

River Review

May 2015

For more information:

Brian Bartkowiak, DEQ
Clark Fork River
Project Lead
bbartkowiak@mt.gov
(406) 444-0214

Katie Garcin, DEQ
CFR Project Officer
kgarcin@mt.gov
(406) 444-6429

Ben Quinones
CFR Project Officer
BEquinones@mt.gov
(406) 444-6593

Jeni Flatow, DEQ
Public Information Officer
jgarcin2@mt.gov
(406) 444-6469

Tom Mostad, NRD
Restoration Manager
tmostad2@mt.gov
(406) 444-0227

Darryl Barton, CFRTAC
darrylbarton@yahoo.com
(406) 846-1628

Websites:
www.deq.mt.gov
www.doi.mt.gov
www.cfrtac.org

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Phases 5 and 6- Construction Continues

Construction on Phases 5 and 6 of the Clark Fork River cleanup began in July 2014. These phases are located between Galen Road and Gemback Road, near Racetrack, Montana. The project area covers 4.5 river miles on two private ranches. To date, 257,963 cubic yards of contaminated material (53% of the Phase 5 and 6 total) has been removed from the Clark Fork River floodplain and over 18,263 linear feet (-3.5 miles) of stream banks have been built. In addition, internal haul roads have been completed and on-site borrow areas have been developed. This project will continue through winter 2015 with an anticipated completion date of spring 2016.



Contaminated material from the Phase 5 and 6 project is loaded into an over-the-road truck for transport to the repository.

Please be aware that there may be heavy machinery working along Galen Road at various times. Watch for increased signage on these roads notifying motorists of haul activities.

Eastside Road Additional Revegetation Project

DEQ began performing additional revegetation activities in March of 2015 on pasture areas south of Deer Lodge that were historically irrigated with contaminated Clark Fork River water. The project involved mixing in sugar beet lime.

compost and clean cover soils, seeding and straw crimping for erosion control. The goal of the project is to establish self-sustaining vegetation and reduce blowing dust.



Sugar beet lime is added to the soil and tilled under at the Eastside Road pasture.

Other activities

- Bids for the cleanup of Phase 2, which covers ~1.9 miles of river just upstream of Perkins Lane, were received on April 30, 2015. Cleanup is going to start this summer. Please stay tuned for updates on this project.
- DEQ hosted a Design Review Team (DRT) meeting for Phase 15 and 16 on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch in April 2015. Stakeholders met to discuss the Preliminary Design Plan for these phases, with the goal of finalizing the cleanup plans and beginning work in late 2015 or early 2016.
- Sampling and characterization of the Phases 3 and 4 project areas, located between Perkins Lane and Galen Road, was completed winter 2015.

Stakeholder and Landowner Tour

DEQ will hold a Phase 5 and 6 stakeholder tour on May 19, 2015, at 1 p.m. Private landowners and the public are invited to attend. Please meet at the Phase 5 and 6 construction trailer. The trailer is located on the north side of Galen Road before you reach the main project site. If you plan on attending or need more information, please contact Brian Bartkowiak at BBartkowiak@mt.gov or 461-3070 by **May 17 at 5 p.m.** **You must contact Brian by the 17th if you plan on attending. Please wear long pants and closed toe shoes for the on-site tour.** DEQ plans on continuing these tours on the 3rd Wednesday of month.

The Clark Fork River Operable Unit (CFR OU) is part of the Milltown Reservoir/Clark Fork River Superfund Site. The CFR OU includes the Clark Fork River from its headwaters near Warm Springs Creek to Milltown Reservoir just east of Missoula. The heavy metals (Cadmium, Copper, Zinc, and Lead) and arsenic in the Clark Fork River are from historic mining, milling, and smelting processes linked to the Anaconda Company operations in Butte and Anaconda.

The majority of the cleanup will occur along a 43 mile stretch of the river from Warm Springs in Anaconda/Deer Lodge County downstream to Garrison in Powell County. This is known as "Reach A." The primary sources of contamination are tailings mixed with soil in the stream banks and historic floodplain. These sources threaten human health and animal and plant life.

Montana DEQ Remediation Division
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901