

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

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NEW **NEW**

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



River Review

June 2013

Phase I Construction Update

The Clark Fork River Reach A, Phase I cleanup has been underway for just over 3 months, beginning on March 4, 2013. Hauling of tailings began on April 4th, and to date, over 64,620 cubic yards of mine waste has been removed from the floodplain of the river and placed in the BP Waste Management Area. Crews have already completed work on several sections of the river, including dewatering activities in order to remove contamination, internal haul road construction, and approximately 4,850 linear feet of streambank stabilization.

Even with spring weather in Montana and higher water, workers stayed busy on site. The site has been prepared for the increase in water levels that typically occur at the end of May or June in order to prevent additional sediment from entering the river. With an increased chance of rain, weather delays are still a possibility as work progresses and hauling of tailings is dependent on road conditions. Haul trucks will continue to move tailings from on-site to the BP Waste Management Area. Certain streambank treatments will continue during high water but are dependent on river conditions.

Public safety is our number one concern on this project. Please be aware of traffic laws and remember that haul trucks cannot see you if you are following too closely. There will be increased patrols for traffic violations. DEQ apologizes for any delays and inconveniences that have been caused by this project and we appreciate your assistance and patience during hauling activities on public roads.



Preserved vegetation with a brush trench streambank treatment—May 2013



Stabilized streambank on both sides of the river—May 2013

ATTENTION!

Stakeholder Meeting

DEQ will hold the first stakeholders meeting on June 19. The meeting will consist of a site tour of Phase I and will start at 1:00 pm. This meeting is an opportunity for the various agency officials and other stakeholders to get an on-site update and tour of the current construction work. Please meet at the Eagle Entrance to the Warm Spring Ponds wildlife management area, located off Morel Road. If you plan on attending or need more information, please RSVP to Katie Garcin at KGarcin@mt.gov or 841-5042. Meetings will continue on the 3rd Wednesday of every month during construction.

Landowner and Public Meeting

DEQ will hold the first landowner and public tour of the Phase I construction site on Saturday, June 22, at 11:00 am. We encourage any interested members of the public and landowners along the river to attend this tour session. Please meet at the Eagle Entrance to the Warm Spring Ponds wildlife management area, located off Morel Road. If you plan on attending or need more information, please RSVP to Katie Garcin at KGarcin@mt.gov or 841-5042. Meetings will continue the 3rd Saturday of every month during construction.

Remediation Developments—Continued

Reach A, Phase I Construction Photos Cont'd



Recently reconstructed stream-bank, using live willow cutting. Willow were collected from locations in the Upper Clark Fork Basin—May 2013



Berming along the river in preparation for high water. Tailings were previously removed from the floodplain—May 2013



Recently reconstructed point bar (front) and double vegetation soil lift (back) - May 2013



Contaminated Material being excavated from the floodplain and being transported to the BP ARCO Waste Management Area—May 2013

River Closure Notice

An emergency closure of 1 ¼ miles of the Clark Fork River, ten acres of the Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and a portion of the road within the WMA has been issued due to Superfund construction cleanup activities. The closure will allow construction crews to safely perform the cleanup without risk of potential incidents with recreationists in the river or on the stream-banks or adjacent lands. The emergency closure is in effect for 120 days. A formal process asking FWP to extend the closure beyond the 120 days has been initiated as the project will take approximately one year to complete. The remaining portions of the WMA will remain open for bird watching, fishing, and other activities. Closure signs have been posted notifying the public of the prohibited areas. For more information contact Brian Bartkowiak, Upper Clark Fork River DEQ Project Officer, at (406) 841-5043, (406-461-3070 (cell), or bbartkowiak@mt.gov.



Check out the CFR webpage on the DEQ website for updates and information throughout construction!

<http://deq.mt.gov/fedsuperfund/cfr.mcpX>

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.