

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

For more information:

Brian Bartkowiak, DEQ
Clark Fork River
Project Officer
bbartkowiak@mt.gov
(406) 841-5043

Katie Garcin, DEQ
CFR Project Technician
kgarcin@mt.gov
(406) 846-5042

Jeni Garcin, DEQ
Public Information Officer
jgarcin2@mt.gov
(406) 841-5016

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

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

Websites:

www.deq.mt.gov
www.doj.mt.gov
www.cfrtac.org



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



River Review

July 2013

Phase I Construction Update

Governor Bullock Visits the Clark Fork River

There are several Superfund sites in Montana, but it isn't every day that they receive a visit from the Governor. On July 17, Montana Governor Steve Bullock visited the Clark Fork River Superfund project for a site overview and tour. Bullock was joined by DEQ Director Tracy Stone-Manning, project officer Brian Bartkowiak, and many federal, state, and county partners, stakeholders and landowners.

Following an introduction by Stone-Manning and a project overview by Bartkowiak, Governor Bullock discussed the importance of the cleanup.

"It's important for the agricultural heritage of this valley, it's important for the fishery which is one of three rivers that was talked about in (the movie) 'A River Runs Through It,'" Bullock said. "It's important for our economy not just today as we have people moving dirt but long term for what this area is."

The weather was perfect and Helena Sand and Gravel did a great job of accommodating the tour while continuing construction. The day was a huge success and a big thank you goes out to those that attended. Please visit the Clark Fork Cleanup website at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/fedsuperfund/cfr.mcp> for more pictures from the Governor's visit.



Montana Governor Steve Bullock, DEQ Project Officer Brian Bartkowiak and DEQ Director Tracy Stone-Manning provide information regarding the project and cleanup.



The group looks on as a streambank is being reconstructed by Helena Sand and Gravel backhoe operator Myron Belgarde and the Stream Team.



Stakeholders discuss the project as Governor Bullock talks with the media.



Brian Bartkowiak describes to Governor Bullock the details of the cleanup.

Project 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, as of June 30, over **102,000** 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. Activities have included dewatering in order to remove contamination, internal haul road construction, and approximately **6,000** linear feet of streambank stabilization.

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.



A river bank on the Clark Fork River in Phase I pre-cleanup.



The same river bank after cleanup. The contamination was removed, the floodplain was lowered and the decadent and decaying willows were replaced with bio engineered streambanks and native vegetation.

Stakeholder Meeting

DEQ will hold the next stakeholders meeting on August 21. 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 by August 19 at 5:00 PM. Please wear long pants and closed toe shoes for the on-site tour. Meetings will continue on the 3rd Wednesday of every month during construction.

Landowner and Public Meeting

DEQ will hold the landowner and public tour of the Phase I construction site on Saturday, August 24, 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 by August 22 at 5:00 PM. Please wear long pants and closed toe shoes for the on-site tour.

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 47 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.