

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

For more information:

Joel Chavez, DEQ
Project Officer
jchavez@mt.gov
(406) 841-5031

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

Mary Ann Dunwell, DEQ
Public Information
mdunwell@mt.gov
(406) 841-5016

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

Kris Edwards, EPA
Remedial Project Manager
edwards.kristine@epa.gov
(406) 457-5021

Darryl Barton, CFRTAC
darrylbbarton@yahoo.com
(406) 846-1929

Websites:

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

Montana DEQ
Remediation Division
1100 N. Last Chance
Gulch
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901



River Review

Cleanup Update

June 2009

Remediation and Restoration Developments

Remedial/Restoration Design Work Plan

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Parks Service (NPS) for cleanup activities at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch, are designing the remediation and restoration work to be done along 43 miles of the Clark Fork River (CFR) from Warm Springs in Anaconda/Deer Lodge County downstream to Garrison in Powell County. Cleanup will start in late 2009 or early 2010 and is expected to take 10-12 years.

Consent Decree and Settlement Money

In 2008, 25 years after the state sued the Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO) for natural resource damages (NRD) in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin, a final settlement was reached and the judge signed the CFR consent decree. The state received \$123 million from ARCO for remediation and restoration of mining pollution in the Clark Fork River Operable Unit. (The state received a total of about \$400 million in the settlements involving this NRD lawsuit.)

Deer Lodge Trestle Sampling and Public Meeting

In the fall of 2008, Powell County residents and others interested parties attended a public meet-



*Soil sampling at the Deer Lodge Trestle area,
October 2008*

ing coordinated by the Clark Fork River Technical Advisory Council (CFRTAC). DEQ project officers discussed soil sampling taking place in the trestle area. Sampling results showed that, in general, surface contamination is below acceptable levels but there were areas that had high levels of contamination at depth. The DEQ is currently determining an appropriate design for this area and is coordinating the design with Powell County's future plans for a trail system. DEQ expects construction to begin in summer 2010.

Upcoming 2009 Activities

East Side Road Sampling

The DEQ is meeting with East Side Road property owners, surveying vegetation and identifying properties to be included in further investigation. The agency requests information from property owners of areas where things won't grow or changes in land use, which could require sampling and/or cleanup activities. The DEQ greatly appreciates landowners granting access for sampling and their cooperation during this process. East Side Road properties include residential and agricultural lands that extend from Sager Lane to the city limits of Deer Lodge and encompass the area

between the East Side Ditch and historic floodplain.

Remedial River Sampling and Remedial Action

The DEQ plans to sample 3.7 miles of river just downstream of Warm Spring Ponds. Tailings, soils and stream banks will be tested. The DEQ plans to perform sampling in late summer, complete the design in early 2010 and implement construction in summer 2010. This construction will also include implementation of the NRDP restoration plan for this area. The public will be offered a tour by the DEQ to find out what to expect from the river sampling.

Public Meeting

Join CFRTAC, the DEQ, NRDP, EPA and others for a public meeting, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23rd at the Deer Lodge Community Center. Bring your questions and concerns.

Agency Coordination

With the DEQ as the lead agency under the consent decree, the DEQ and NRDP are coordinating in the remediation and restoration of the Clark Fork River Operable Unit. The EPA and NPS have oversight roles and CFRTAC is giving input, technical assistance and working with community involvement.



Upcoming 2009 Activities— (Continued from page one)



Cross-section surveying of the Clark Fork River at the Deer Lodge Trestle to prepare for remediation.

Deer Lodge Residential Sampling

Residential yards within the historical floodplain or historically irrigated from the river have the potential to pose a risk to human health. The DEQ plans to sample yards in Deer Lodge this summer. If unacceptable levels of contamination exist, the DEQ will remediate these yards in summer 2010 (if necessary).

Access Agreements

The DEQ is requesting property owners to sign access agreements to allow the agency on the property to conduct sampling and cleanup. A cover letter will explain the work contemplated. These access agreements are concise, easy to understand documents. Landowner cooperation for sampling and cleanup is appreciated.

Attention Contractors

To be considered during an invitation for bid, a contractor must meet several criteria, including but not limited to, being bonded and insured, a registered contractor with the State of Montana and trained (40 hours) in emergency hazardous waste operations (HAZWOPER). The DEQ will develop designs for various stages of the work. When the design is complete, the construction project will be put out for bid on the DEQ website at www.deq.mt.gov. Typically, the bid is open for 30 to 60 days. The DEQ will respond to questions and hold a pre-bid conference. Bids are sealed and opened at once in public. The DEQ selects the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.



Public meeting in Deer Lodge, October 2008

**Coming soon!
DEQ's new
Clark Fork River
Operable Unit website at
www.deq.mt.gov**

Site History

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.

The 2004 Record of Decision describes the cleanup approach, or Selected Remedy. In addition to the ROD, the NRDP developed a Restoration Plan to expedite the recovery time for injured aquatic and terrestrial resources in and along the Clark Fork River. To the extent practicable, the Restoration Plan will be combined with the Remedy to maximize the use of resources.