

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

For more information:

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, CFRAC
darrylbbarton@yahoo.com
(406) 846-1628

Websites:



NEW For Email updates join
our List Service:
[http://svc.mt.gov/deq/ListServe/
clarkforkRiverStepI.asp](http://svc.mt.gov/deq/ListServe/clarkforkRiverStepI.asp)

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



Cleanup Update

December 2010

Remediation and Restoration Developments

Fall 2010 Residential Yard Removals

Soil sampling in fall 2009 identified residential yards along the Clark Fork River in Deer Lodge and on Eastside Road in Powell County with elevated levels of arsenic and/or lead. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality removed approximately 5,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from six of the yards this past fall. The project started in mid-October 2010 and was completed in about two months. The top 6 to 24 inches of yard soil was excavated. The yards were replaced with clean soil and revegetated. DEQ plans to remove contaminated soil from the remaining dozen or so yards in spring 2011.



*Removing contaminated soil from residential yard,
fall 2010*

River Work

Although we haven't yet started cleanup activities along the Clark Fork River, we've been sampling at multiple locations along the river, including below Warm Springs and at Galen Road. Sampling started in fall 2009 and continued in fall 2010. We plan to sample downstream from Deer Lodge in fall 2011. Sampling is important work for developing the site-specific designs to clean up each section of the river, as well as the long-term plan for the entire river. Long-term planning helps ensure that remediation and restoration funding is used cost effectively.



*Same yard as above photo with clean soil, sod and
replaced trees, fall 2010*

Tributary and Terrestrial Prioritization Plans

The Montana Department of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program and Fish, Wildlife and Parks have been working to prioritize resource areas in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin and target these areas for use of some of the Restoration Funds that were obtained in the 1999 partial settlement of the state's natural resource damage lawsuit. This process has produced two documents, the Prioritization of Tributaries in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin for Fishery Enhancement, Draft Final and the Upper Clark Fork River Basin Terrestrial Wildlife Resource Prioritization, Draft Final, which have been the subject of numerous public meetings over the past few months. The 60-day public comment period closed on November 30, 2010. The agencies are reviewing comments and beginning to finalize the plans. Most folks agree that prioritization of resources is needed to determine where best to spend available funds. More information about the state's prioritization efforts is available from the NRDP website at:

<http://doj.mt.gov/lands/naturalresource/restorationroadmap.asp>

Remediation and Restoration Developments—Continued

Additional Fishery Studies

Also, FWP, NRDP and Montana State University are continuing to study fish movement in the Clark Fork River and Silver Bow Creek to better understand the full life cycle of the fish, such as, identifying spawning areas and areas of winter refuge, which will assist in decisions on how best to accomplish fishery restoration activities in the basin.

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 a 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. The sealed bids are opened together in public. The DEQ selects the lowest responsive and responsible bid.

Design Review Team

DEQ convened the first meeting of the Design Review Team in June 2010 to talk about the Trestle Area design. The meeting took place at the Penn Convention Center in Deer Lodge. The DRT provides technical advice for the Upper Clark Fork River Superfund cleanup. The meetings are an important step in the design process and are open to the public. The DRT reviews designs for technical adequacy, coordinates designs among agencies and informs the public and interested parties about design details. The DRT is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders, including state and federal agencies, local governments and technical assistance groups. Stay tuned for notice of upcoming DRT meetings.



Design Review Team meeting, June 10, 2010, at Penn Convention Center

Upcoming 2011 Activities

Deer Lodge Trestle Area

Excavation of contaminated soil, along with stream bank reconstruction and revegetation, is expected to get underway at the Deer Lodge Trestle Area after high water in 2011 subsides. This excavation will complement efforts by Powell County to clean up portions of the former Old Milwaukee Roundhouse facility.

Pastures

We are currently working on a plan to remediate large areas of pasture lands adjacent to contaminated residential areas (yards) discussed above, that were contaminated by historic flood irrigation from the Eastside ditch. These areas were sampled in spring 2010. Remediation will establish self-sustaining vegetation and reduce blowing dust and is tentatively set for spring 2011.

The Upper Clark Fork River Federal Superfund Operable Unit is the \$123 million, 43-mile remediation and restoration project to clean up arsenic and heavy metals mine waste contamination from Warm Springs in Anaconda/Deer Lodge County downstream to Garrison in Powell County. 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 and performing the remediation and restoration work. Cleanup started in 2010 and is expected to take 10-12 years



Clark Fork River with contamination in background

