

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

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Montana DEQ Remediation Division
P.O. Box 200901



River Review

Cleanup Update

December 2012

Remediation and Restoration Developments

Reach A, Phase I Remediation/Restoration To Begin

Cleanup is scheduled to begin on the Reach A Phase I project area in late winter/early spring. This area is within the first 1.6 miles of the Clark Fork River immediately below Warm Springs Ponds. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) began advertising this contract on December 9 as a formal bid solicitation process. The bid opening will occur on January 11, 2013.

The cleanup will remove over 300,000 cubic yards of contamination from the headwaters of the Clark Fork River. Stream banks will be reconstructed using bioengineering techniques and native vegetation.

During this project there will be increased traffic from haul trucks removing waste as well as importing clean back-fill on public roads. Public safety, traffic control and dust control are our paramount concerns for this project. DEQ will be keeping the public notified regarding project updates and increase in traffic information throughout construction. These updates will be posted weekly in the local newspapers and the DEQ website will be updated regularly. DEQ will be hosting a community information event after the contract has been awarded to answer any questions or concerns about the upcoming Phase I project. DEQ will host monthly stakeholder construction progress meetings when construction begins.

Please contact DEQ Project Manager Brian Bartkowiak at (406)841-5043 with any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming construction.

Public safety is our number one concern and we appreciate public support of this project.



Pastures

The pasture remediation project on 146 acres along Eastside Road began on November 11, 2012. The contractor for the project was selected through the formal bid solicitation process and was awarded to Ueland Western Reclamation, LLC. The contract included "deep till" of the soil, seed bed prep fertilization and drill seeding. The majority of the work was completed on December 13, 2012.

The pasture lands 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.



Deep Tilling Eastside Road Pastures Fall 2012

Post Construction-Eastside Road Pasture Remediation Fall 2012

Remediation Developments—Continued

The Trestle (Also known as Bum Bridge)

Cleanup at the Trestle Area located in Deer Lodge started in mid-October 2011 and was completed in mid-April 2012 with the planting of shrubs, trees, and native vegetation. The cleanup included removing approximately 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils with higher than acceptable residential levels of arsenic (150 mg/kg). The contaminated soils was replaced with clean soil. In addition, approximately 1,000 feet of stream bank was reconstructed and revegetated. Even with the warm summer and lack of precipitation, the vegetation is doing extremely well. DEQ has been actively controlling weeds in this area and will continue to do so.



The Trestle Post— Construction September 2012

Attention Contractors

To be considered 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 in public. The DEQ selects the lowest responsive and responsible bid.



Clark Fork River with contamination in background

Reach A, Phase I Design Review Team

DEQ, along with the Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosted a Design Review Team (DRT) meeting in May 2012. The focus of this DRT meeting was the Reach A, Phase I design (See Reach A, Phase I Remediation/Restoration). These meetings are an important step in the design process. Feedback on the design greatly assisted DEQ in evaluating this design for technical adequacy, coordinating the discussion of the design among agencies, and informed the public and interested parties about design details. This helped us to better understand and address concerns. DEQ will continue to host DRT meetings as each Phase develops into a design plan.



DEQ's Operations Manager, Brian Bartkowiak, leads a tour to look at a recently construction streambank pilot project as part of the recent DRT meeting.

DEQ will be providing construction updates available on the web throughout the duration of the project. Please visit <http://deq.mt.gov/fedsuperfund/cfr.mcp> for continuing information.



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.