

Mike Horse Messenger

Site Update

July 2013

Advertising for Construction Bids for the Repository

The design for the new repository is almost done. We anticipate advertising for repository construction bids in late July. The advertisement will be posted in the Blackfoot Valley Dispatch, as well as papers in Helena, Great Falls, and Missoula, with bid packages available for purchase the Monday following the advertisement. In addition, we will advertise for bids on the web at <http://svc.mt.gov/gsd/onestop/solicitationdefault.aspx>. There will be a mandatory pre-bid walk-through; the date and time will be announced in the advertisement. Contractors interested in bidding must attend.

Reports

We have organized the documents on the website so it is easier to find what you're looking for. Find them at <http://deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/UBMC/reports.mcp>. We have also added three new documents: the Design-Level Investigation for the repository; the Remedial Investigation, including data that shows continuous traces of contamination downstream to Hogum Creek; and the Ecological Risk Assessment, which explains how the contamination in soil, sediment, and surface water at the UBMC affects the ecology of the area. Please contact Dave Bowers at 841-5063 if you have any questions.

Recent Developments

Design-Level Investigation/Repository Design

The design-level investigation for the repository site turned out better than anticipated. The report can be viewed online at <http://deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/UBMC/reports.mcp>. The investigation revealed that there are two virtually impermeable layers in the area investigated (glacial till and a volcanic tuff). The footprint of the repository is designed to take advantage of these layers. Additionally, the design's drain layer will provide another level of protection for the underlying aquifer and route any clean water encountered away from the waste. A controlled discharge point to a naturally low-lying area allows monitoring and treatment of all water captured by the drain layer. If no treatment is necessary, the water will then either evaporate in this area, or, if there is sufficient quantity, it will discharge to the Nora Gulch wetlands. If you have any questions about the design, please call DEQ's construction manager, Shellie Haaland, at 431-1401.



One of the test pits with the water treatment plant in the background.

Agency Coordination

The DEQ, DOJ/NRDP and USFS are coordinating the removal of the Mike Horse Dam and the remediation and restoration of the Blackfoot River.

Schedule for Summer/Fall 2013 Activities

We are currently on target with our previously published schedule for the clean-up. The preparation of the repository is a crucial piece to this process. We expect construction to begin in late August or early September. Advertising for bids takes at least three weeks. If there are no problems with the bids, the contract is generally awarded in a week. The contractor then must submit for approval their plans and specifications for the work and materials; write a site-specific health and safety plan; hire employees, if necessary; make sure all employees are properly trained; supply all necessary bonds and insurance; and mobilize to the site. In the best-case scenario, the entire process takes about 6 weeks. Any glitch in any part of the process can cause delays. We expect construction activity to start at the repository site in September 2013.

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Or visit the website at

<http://deq.mt.gov/>
[StateSuperfund/UBMC/](http://deq.mt.gov/statesuperfund/ubmc/default.mcp)
[default.mcp](http://deq.mt.gov/statesuperfund/ubmc/default.mcp)

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Training

Beginning in 2014, HAZWOPER training will be required to work at the UBMC. This is a required OSHA training for people who work in and around sites where hazardous materials may be present. Completing the training and having it on your resume may help give you an edge in competing for jobs at the UBMC. Montana's Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) brought SafetyFest to Lincoln June 10 – 14. SafetyFest is a FREE training opportunity that is normally held in larger towns, such as Great Falls, Missoula, and Billings. If you are interested, and missed the opportunity to get the training in Lincoln, please keep an eye out for other opportunities on the SafetyFest website (<http://www.safetyfestmt.com/>). Enrollment is first come, first serve.

**Employment Possibilities**

The cleanup work at the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex (UBMC) will provide for potential economic opportunities, including jobs. Most employment opportunities will be with the contractors who win the bid, or with supplying the contractor with necessary goods and services. After the bids are open, the apparent low bidder will be known and is public information. Contacting the contractor to find out if they will be hiring is recommended. The agencies do not participate in contractor hiring decisions, although we require 50% of the workforce to be Montana residents per state law (<http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/mca/18/2/18-2-409.htm>).

**Partners**

The Helena National Forest has partnered with the Blackfoot Challenge to document the construction and restoration process in photos and video in an effort to tell the story of the UBMC. They will also help organize educational tours for both kids and adults. You will find their work incorporated over time into the UBMC virtual tour at <http://deq.mt.gov/statesuperfund/ubmc/virtour/default.mcp> and on the Blackfoot Challenge website at <http://blackfootchallenge.org>. The agencies are very excited to be working with the Blackfoot Challenge on this project.