

MONTANA DEQ

# FISCAL YEAR 2011 REMEDIATION DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

It is the mission of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to protect, sustain and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations.

It is the mission of the Remediation Division to protect human health and the environment by preventing exposure to contaminants released to soil or water, and to oversee compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.

## REMEDIATION DIVISION

The Remediation Division is one of four divisions under the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Division is responsible for overseeing investigation and cleanup activities at state and federal Superfund sites, reclaiming abandoned mine lands, implementing corrective actions at sites with leaking petroleum storage tanks, and overseeing groundwater remediation at sites where agricultural and industrial chemical spills have caused groundwater contamination. The purpose of these activities is to protect human health and the environment; to prevent human and ecological exposure to hazardous or deleterious substances that have been released to soil, sediment, air, surface water, or groundwater; and to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal regulations.

The Division's Mine Waste Cleanup, Federal Superfund, and Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Bureaus and their respective sections and programs regulate site cleanup. Program staff includes bureau chiefs, section supervisors, environmental science specialists, reclamation specialists, and other technical program staff. The Division Administrator oversees and ensures program administration. The Division Administrator's Office includes the division administrator, the office manager and administrative professional staff, the fiscal officer and staff, the information technology systems analyst and the public information officer.

This annual report covers the period from July 2010 through June 2011, mirroring the fiscal year. Many of the projects started during the reporting period will be completed in the next reporting period (July 2011 through June 2011) and thus may appear incomplete in this report.



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## MINE WASTE CLEANUP BUREAU

**Purpose:** Montana's Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation (AML) program within the DEQ is responsible for cleanup and reclamation of historic (pre-1977) mining-related disturbances. In effect since 1980, Montana's AML program is regulated by federal and state statutes, and by Montana's Approved Abandoned Mine Reclamation State Plan published in the Code of Federal Regulations. The AML program is funded by a federal grant under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

**Program Highlights:** A wet spring caused an increase in subsidence near historic underground coal mines. Subsidence occurred at approximately 10% of sites since last visited during the 1990s. This year, subsidence sites also included the Lekvold-Shaw and McNamara-Parkhurst sites in Daniels County, two sites in Richland County, and the Gardner Residence in Fairview where five holes opened up in a residential yard. DEQ responded to these reports and initiated planning to conduct subsidence repairs using local contractors.

AML extinguished a number of coal outcrop fires in eastern Montana. A surface range fire ignited coal seams in the Johnson Creek drainage south of Miles City. Eight fires were mitigated under this Miles City Coal Fires project. An outcrop fire grant funded work that began on the O'Neill Coal Fire project in Prairie County. This fire burned within 800 feet of a farmhouse that was homesteaded in 1898. The fire appears to have started in a small surface stripping operation that took place years ago. The project was expected to continue into early FY 2012.

The Highland Mine project in Butte/Silver Bow County was completed in October 2010. This project protected the City of Butte's water supply from heavy metals contamination by removing mine wastes located in and adjacent to Basin Creek, upstream of the city water intake. As a part of this project, AML coordinated with the land owners and the Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest to maintain access to public lands. Coordination included traffic control, seeding and revegetation, and trail construction to connect to the Continental Divide Trail. The project was well received by the public and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) personnel.

Reclamation construction continued on the McLaren Tailings Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project at Cooke City, Park County. The McLaren project is the largest construction contract awarded to date by the Montana AML program with a projected cost in excess of \$20 million and a projected completion date of October 2015. The tailings overlie an artesian aquifer which contains the historical channel of Soda Butte Creek. This condition requires an extensive construction dewatering system, a water treatment system, and physical stabilization of wet tailings in order to construct the mine waste repository in the seismically-active project area near Yellowstone National Park. The site elevation is 7,650 feet, limiting construction activities to approximately four months each year. This second year of construction involved excavation and lime stabilization of the southern portion of the tailings impoundment, repository construction, and placement of approximately 35,000 cubic yards of stabilized tailings in the repository. Construction continued on the water treatment plant and sediment detention basin with a goal of completing the work by the end of the 2011 season so that the plant can go on line at the start of the 2012 construction season.

DEQ continued to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Bald Butte Mine and Mill Site and the Great Divide Tailings projects near Marysville. This work was designed, bid, and awarded during the spring of 2010 with a project completion date of October 2012. Work progressed on the Dog Creek Tailings cleanup and started on the Great Divide Tailings cleanup. Waste rock from the Albion and Devon-Sterling mines was placed in the site repository. Earthquake activity in the winter and spring of 2010-2011 caused mine collapses and vertical openings that posed a serious risk to skiers and recreationists. Therefore, AML added a mine hazard protection component to this project in order to fix these openings and mitigate danger.

## MINE WASTE CLEANUP BUREAU—CONTINUED

The community of Sand Coulee is surrounded by abandoned coal mines developed during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Most of these underground mine workings are flooded with acidic mine water which discharges to local seeps and streams and the underlying groundwater with elevated concentrations of metals and sulfate. The presence of contaminated surface water and groundwater limits options available for the supply of potable water for residents. DEQ directed a water supply assessment to identify and evaluate alternatives for a new source of potable groundwater for the community of Sand Coulee, and then convened a public meeting to present investigation results and solicit comments.

DEQ is responsible for administering a Trust Account established under the Asarco Bankruptcy Settlement to reclaim the Black Pine Mine in Granite County. DEQ operates a series of collection sumps and a pump back system to keep mine runoff from discharging to USFS property. Work continues on a long-term plan to remove wastes at the site to an engineered repository.

Preconstruction work was finished on Forest Rose Mine and Mill in Granite County, Broken Hill Mine in Sanders County, and Garnet Mine and Mill in Madison County. The sites are ready for bidding depending on the availability of grant funds for construction from the Federal Office of Surface Mining Control, Reclamation and Enforcement.

## FEDERAL SUPERFUND BUREAU

**Purpose:** The Federal Superfund Bureau is responsible for administering remedial cleanup activities, in consultation with EPA, at federal Superfund, or National Priority List (NPL) sites in Montana. The Montana Pole NPL Site, the Clark Fork River Operable Unit (OU) of the Milltown Reservoir/Clark Fork River NPL Site, the Troy OU of the Libby Asbestos NPL Site, and the Streamside Tailings OU of the Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area NPL Site are “DEQ lead” sites. This means that DEQ is responsible for initiating and conducting remedial activities in consultation with EPA. Federal Superfund activities have brought hundreds of millions of remedial construction dollars and thousands of jobs to Montana’s economy.

**Program Highlights:** Streamside Tailings OU construction on Silver Bow Creek continued in the Fairmont to Opportunity area and in Durant Canyon west of Miles Crossing. The narrow canyon and logistics of working around two operating rail lines present challenges. Despite the difficulties, 75% of the 23 miles has been cleaned up. The numbers of trout returning to reclaimed portions of the creek continue to increase and deer and elk are using the reclaimed areas. A mink and a trumpeter swan were also seen in the remediated wetlands this year, further indicating the ecosystem is returning. The entire project, which extends from the I-15/I-90 bridges west of Butte to Warm Springs Ponds, is expected to be completed by 2014.

The CFR OU includes the Clark Fork River from its headwaters near Warm Springs Creek to Milltown Reservoir, just east of Missoula. Like Silver Bow Creek, the heavy metals (cadmium, copper, zinc, and lead) and arsenic in the Clark Fork River are from historic mining, milling and smelting processes. 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 cleanup is expected to take 10 to 12 years. The top 6 to 24 inches of contaminated yard soil, totaling approximately 13,000 cubic yards, was removed from 15 properties in 2010 and 2011. The yards were refilled with clean soil and then revegetated. Design has been underway to begin cleanup at the Deer Lodge Trestle area in fall 2011. This work will require removal of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils and reconstruction and revegetation of approximately 1,000 feet of stream bank. Cleanup plans are being coordinated with Powell County’s future land use planning for this area and with the EPA cleanup at the adjacent Milwaukee Roundhouse Site. A design review team including several representatives of local government and the public also provided the Bureau with input on the trestle design.

## FEDERAL SUPERFUND BUREAU—CONTINUED

The ACM Smelter and Refinery in Black Eagle officially became a federal Superfund site when EPA added it to the NPL in March 2011. Community members supported the listing. Sampling began at the Community Soils areas for removal activities to be conducted in FY 2012.

In Bonner, the Milltown Reservoir Sediments NPL cleanup has been nearing completion. The project is transitioning to restoration and long-term Operations and Management. Work on the nearby Milltown Bluff Overlook, in coordination with the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, was planned for initiation in 2012. The overlook is expected to open to the public in FY 2012. Also in Bonner, cleanup of PCB contamination and removal of the cooling ponds obstructing the Blackfoot River began at the site of the former Stimson Lumber Mill operation. The remediation is scheduled for completion in early FY 2012, which will provide opportunity for redevelopment and beneficial re-use of the site.

DEQ continued to provide technical assistance for investigations and vermiculite removal at the Libby Asbestos NPL Site. EPA released its draft toxicity report that indicates Superfund cleanup is addressing cancer risk, such as mesothelioma, yet potentially not preventing non-cancer health conditions, such as asbestosis. At the Troy OU, DEQ continued to evaluate residential properties for asbestos hazards. DEQ also conducted activity-based sampling in Troy that simulated activity in yards and outdoor recreational use of the community. DEQ also continues to oversee removal of asbestos from homes.

For the Libby Groundwater NPL, DEQ assisted with a large scale groundwater investigation to completely define the extent of the plume.

In Butte, work continued at the Montana Pole NPL Site to remediate groundwater and soil. DEQ worked with Butte Silver Bow and others to address challenges that occurred with the coordination of MT Pole cleanup work and the upgrade of the Butte/Silver Bow County waste water treatment plant. Work on the third Five-Year Review Report began with a final report scheduled for early FY 2012. At the Butte Priority Soils NPL, DEQ continued to work with EPA and the settling defendants towards a Consent Decree.

A feasibility report was developed for Community Soils OU at the Anaconda Smelter Site. The report will form the basis of a revised proposed plan and ROD Amendment for the cleanup of lead contamination. Remediation continued at Old Works for future development of commercial and industrial properties. DEQ, EPA and Anaconda/Deer Lodge County began looking at the economic viability of the Old Works Golf Course. At Regional Water Waste and Soils OU, planning continued with EPA and Anaconda/Deer Lodge County for institutional controls.

At BN Somers, DEQ conducted a large-scale investigation to determine the nature and extent of a previously unidentified contaminated groundwater plume. In response to concerns about potentially toxic vapors, or vapor intrusion, DEQ conducted vapor monitoring of several residential homes and found no problems at this point.

At East Helena Asarco, DEQ worked with EPA and the Montana Environmental Custodial Trust to continue monitoring of the selenium and arsenic groundwater plumes and removed the remaining contaminated residential soils. The third Five-Year Review began, with completion expected in FY 2012.

Repository design began for a site listed on the NPL in FY 2010, Flatcreek/IMM near Superior. At Lockwood Solvent Ground Water Plume, DEQ worked with EPA and the U.S. Department of Justice to lodge a Consent Decree and a Unilateral Order planned for early FY 2012. Both will provide for compliance with the ROD and initiate remediation of a contaminated groundwater plume.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE CLEANUP BUREAU

### Tank Cleanup Program

**Purpose:** The Petroleum Technical Section (PTS) and the LUST Brownfields Section (LBS) administer cleanup (corrective action) requirements for petroleum releases (leaks and spills) under the Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup Act and the Montana Underground Storage Tank Act. These sections both oversee the investigation of contamination and subsequent cleanup at release sites, including but not limited to service stations and convenience stores throughout Montana. PTS focuses on releases from known sources at petroleum storage tank facilities with solvent responsible parties; working with owners/operators who are either self-funded (pay for cleanup on their own) or receive reimbursement from the Montana Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board (PTRCB). LBS focuses on federally-funded cleanup work for releases with unknown sources, releases from underground storage tank sites with insolvent or recalcitrant responsible parties, and releases at federally-owned sites.

**PTS Highlights:** PTS closed (completed cleanup on) 61 releases, reviewed and assessed low priority releases, improved the closure process, addressed petroleum releases within Montana's tribal boundaries, and responded to numerous public questions. Project managers handled over 518 phone inquiries, some directly related to real estate transactions. Project managers respond to questions, provide data, and when appropriate, change work load priorities to facilitate a real estate transaction. They take time to explain remediation processes.

PTS received a small grant from EPA in September 2009 to review its low priority releases and determine the occurrence of Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA), the natural biological breakdown of petroleum. In the right locations, MNA can be an effective and efficient cleanup method. This work facilitated closure of several low-priority sites.

PTS conducted a groundwater monitoring "pilot" project to determine whether monitoring could be conducted more efficiently in order to increase funds available for cleanup work. Owner/Operators of several low-priority releases located relatively near each other volunteered to participate in the pilot study. The successful bidder, MSE, Inc., of Butte, sampled wells at a cost of almost one-third less than the cost that DEQ estimated would have been spent for eight separate mobilizations with eight different contractors. This monitoring would otherwise have been delayed until PTRCB funding became available.

PTS worked with PTRCB to identify funds obligated for workplans that had not been expended, and to reduce those outstanding balances. In instances where the work had not been completed, project managers reviewed the work plan and got the Owner/Operators to complete the work. Some outstanding balances were determined to be greater than actual costs and unexpended funds were de-obligated. The number of outstanding reports dropped from 266 to 83, and the outstanding balance was reduced by \$1,720,501. This in turn allowed these funds to be obligated to other needed cleanup activities.

DEQ focused more on cleanup and closure of releases within Tribal boundaries, completing groundwater monitoring at 10 old releases. Fourteen releases were resolved and two were transferred to EPA.

PTS created and implemented electronic data management practices for file naming convention, folder structure, and photo documentation. With the Digital Age, we realize the number of electronic files we handle is growing. During FY 2011, we issued 282 letters, responded to 45 suspect release calls, and had 38 confirmed releases.

**LBS Highlights:** The LUST Trust Program conducted work at 11 sites using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), LUST Trust core grant, LUST Trust supplemental grant, and special EPA Regional LUST Trust funding established for an emergency response site in Miles City.

The Phase III Electrical Resistance Heating project was completed at George's Conoco in Ronan. It was funded through ARRA. The work required an engineering feat involving installation of subsurface 49 electrodes, 50 soil vapor extraction wells, and 45 air sparging (injection) wells. Approximately 5,600 gallons of gasoline were removed from 12,000 cubic yards of soil.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE CLEANUP BUREAU—CONTINUED

In addition to the George's Conoco site, ARRA funded a significant amount of work at other sites. The extent and magnitude of the petroleum release was evaluated at the Roundup Farmers Union site. At the Sidney Trailside General Store site, additional semi-annual groundwater monitoring was completed. A new business is currently leasing the property. At the Pepco, Roundup site, groundwater monitoring wells were sampled and the related work areas were leveled and resurfaced with gravel for continued long-term use. At the Farmers Union Roundup site, four new monitoring wells were installed and sampled, and vapor intrusion sampling was completed at the former Farmers Union Building and two nearby businesses. At the Columbus Farmers Union, a new release was found and reported during repair work on the remediation system.

In October 2010, LBS responded to a report of gasoline vapors in Miles City at the Lewis and Clark Apartments located adjacent to the Conoco Short Stop convenience store. The emergency response included excavation and removal of two underground storage tank systems at the Conoco Short Stop site. It was determined that an unleaded dual-compartment tank was the source of the release. The release and its vapors forced the evacuation and temporary relocation of 18 residents who lived at the apartment building, and evacuation and relocation of the United States Post Office. Use of a positive-pressure, forced-air ventilation system prevented the upward migration of vapors at the apartments. Testing of area businesses determined that the extent of vapor intrusion impacts were limited. Six large soil vapor extraction systems mitigated vapors at the gas station, apartments and post office. We also installed 15 groundwater monitoring wells. Approximately 13,700 gallons of gasoline were recovered over six months.

The Defense Site Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA) Program reviewed a number of missile launch facilities statewide, reviewed and provided technical comments on corrective action work plans for the Havre, Del Bonita, and Malmstrom Air Force Base sites, and issued work plan request letters for a number of DSMOA sites requiring additional corrective action and groundwater monitoring.

### Site Response Section

**Purpose:** The Site Response Section (SRS) administers the state Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act (CECRA) and the Water Quality Act to investigate and clean up hazardous substances not addressed by other programs. Contaminant releases and waste disposal activities, spills, or other operations at these sites caused contamination of air, surface water, groundwater, sediments, and/or soils with hazardous or deleterious substances. Under CECRA, sites are ranked based on potential risks to human health and the environment.

**Program Highlights:** SRS prioritized available resources to focus CECRA activities on 36 of the 59 maximum and high priority sites on the list of the 209 listed sites in Montana. In addition to routine reviews and approvals of plans, reports and other documents, SRS completed significant major actions at several of the state's high and maximum priority sites.

DEQ issued the Bozeman Solvent Site proposed cleanup plan for public comment. The plan addressed risks posed by contaminated soils, risks from vapors present beneath the onsite building and in adjacent soils and utility corridors that may be excavated, and risks from contaminated groundwater.

Approximately 14,000 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil and 10,000 gallons of oil were removed from Milwaukee Roundhouse in Deer Lodge at the direction of EPA with SRS review and oversight. A trench was installed to remove petroleum from groundwater to prevent releases to surface water. EPA plans to install another trench at another area of the site in the fall of 2011.

As part of an interim action at the former Texaco-Sunburst Works Refinery site in Sunburst, lead-contaminated soils were removed from some residential yards. Field work continued for the Phase II Remedial Investigation which will define the nature and extent of contamination at the over 300-acre facility so that final cleanup options can be evaluated. Approximately 730 gallons of petroleum have been removed from below ground since December 2007.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE CLEANUP BUREAU—CONTINUED

As an interim action at Carter Oil in Cut Bank, approximately 7,000 tons of lead and petroleum-contaminated soils were removed. Groundwater monitoring is ongoing.

More than 28,000 gallons of petroleum have been removed from the groundwater and soil at the Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex. Soil vapor extraction (pulling fumes from the ground) is now being conducted beneath two large rail yard buildings with residual chlorinated solvents in the soils. High concentrations of solvents are being removed and the indoor air quality of the buildings is now protective of rail yard workers.

Final cleanup began at the Kalispell Pole and Timber, Reliance Refinery, and Yale Oil Corporation facilities, which are collectively referred to as the "K.R.Y. Site." Approximately 1,190 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soils were excavated and loaded into railcars for offsite disposal. Another 1,075 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soils were stabilized onsite before being loaded into railcars for offsite disposal. SRS is overseeing remedial design-related investigations and reviewing remedial design-related documents associated with other final cleanup activities at the site.

Controlling significant spring runoff to prevent potential breaching of the impoundment dam was the focus of work efforts at the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex. Upgrades were made to the water treatment plant (WTP) that allow for more efficient treatment of contaminated water. Approximately 39 million gallons of contaminated water were treated between July 2010 and the end of June 2011. Re-evaluation of possible repository sites for contaminated materials began.

The SRS Groundwater Remediation Program (GRP) addressed ongoing work at 83 sites and closed six existing sites. GRP oversaw the installation of a system to prevent solvent-contaminated vapors from accumulating in a building at the Helena Solvent Site.

### Brownfields Program

**Purpose:** Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties takes development pressures off undeveloped open land and improves and protects the environment. The Division's Brownfields program is supported by the LBS and SRS sections in coordination with other department Brownfields programs. Brownfields coordinators maintain information about Brownfields in Montana and assist communities in redevelopment of blighted properties.

**Program Highlights:** In FY 2011, the goals of the Division's Brownfields program were to establish and enhance its state response programs and provide outreach and technical guidance to communities that are actively working toward revitalization of Brownfields. Both the LBS and SRS sections pooled resources to develop DEQ's first vapor intrusion guidance document. The sections also participated in workshops to provide Brownfields grant recipients a better understanding of the state and federal Brownfields and regulatory processes. The workshops were the Statewide Brownfields Redevelopment Workshop (Billings), the Brownfields Grant Recipient Workshop (Billings), and the Southwest Montana Regional Planning Workshop (Anaconda).

The LBS Petroleum Brownfields program completed Petroleum Brownfield site inventories in 15 counties, and coordinated with community contacts in Helena, White Sulphur Springs, Bozeman, Lewistown, and Great Falls. Petroleum Brownfields staff met with owners and operators to determine the current status of these sites and discuss options for assessment and cleanup in the communities. Staff completed eligibility determination reviews for three sites, all of which were determined eligible to receive Petroleum Brownfields funding. The program also revised the Quality Assurance Plan for Investigation of Underground Storage Tank Releases, and completed an acknowledgement letter for local economic development applications for competitive EPA cleanup grants.

## DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

### Fiscal Services

**Purpose:** The Fiscal Services Unit (FSU) manages contracts, agreements, task orders, procurement, and invoicing processes. FSU monitors budgets, coordinates grant and other applications, completes reports, and conducts other financial services for the Division.

**Program Highlights:** FSU managed 59 contracts and agreements with other agencies and counties throughout the state. In addition, 229 task orders were managed during FY 2011 under these contracts and agreements. Of those task orders, six were for ARRA work: five of those with the LUST Trust program and one for a project in the AML program. A total of \$18,202,436 in invoice payments was processed for payment during FY 2011.

FSU staff sent out a total of 263 invoices for reimbursement of costs incurred by the Division for the CECRA program, which resulted in cost recovery of \$4,106,829. A total of 20 invoices were sent out in the LUST Trust program, which resulted in cost recovery of \$1,701. Additional cost recovery was invoiced for joint projects with both the Montana Department of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program and the USFS. This Cost Recovery Program was reimbursed by \$301,216. Total costs recovered for the entire Division resulted in 283 invoices for the amount of \$4,409,746.

The Division continues to manage cooperative agreements and grants with EPA for various superfund and groundwater cleanup activities and the cooperative agreement with the Office of Surface Mining for abandoned mine activities. Budget Status Reports were completed to assist program managers with budget management in all programs, and fiscal staff prepared applications and semiannual and quarterly reports for the federal agreements.

### Administrative Professionals Team

**Purpose:** The Administrative Professionals Team (APT) provides specific and general support to the Division using knowledge of office practices, programs, technical terminology, computer hardware and software, and a variety of policies and procedures. This staff is responsible for tasks associated with payroll, travel arrangements and reimbursements, document production, layout and design, filing system maintenance, database maintenance, web publishing, information dissemination, and other general administrative and clerical support. In addition, day-to-day management of building issues is handled by APT staff.

**Program Highlights:** The Administrative Professionals Team (APT) worked closely with the other Divisions and building staff to improve this section's performance and overall effectiveness. In January, APT staff rotated work assignments which provided a new opportunity for expanding staff knowledge of the Division's programs. We converted additional SRS file guides from MS Word to MS Excel, the first step to preparing them for migration into a database. We were also able to assist with the transition to the new filing method in FSS. We worked closely with program staff to assist with legal posting, web page updates, bid package sales and walk-throughs, and correspondence processing.

### Information Technology Systems

**Purpose:** The Division's Information Technology Systems Program coordinates data management and geographical information systems (GIS) for the Remediation Division, providing leadership for development, enhancement and management of complex Division program and resource data.

## DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE—CONTINUED

**Program Highlights:** Working with the Department's Office of Information Technology staff, the systems analyst and others pulled together information necessary to explain the need for updating or replacing outdated systems that are approaching their functional limits. Working with Division staff, opportunities were evaluated to cost-effectively adapt software used in comparable applications to better manage data. There was also a major push to improve the functionality of existing databases. Database improvements will facilitate tracking of tank closures to document compliance with HB 613, a 2011 session bill which established an annual quota for completion of tank release cleanups. The Division also expanded its use of GIS tools in the federal Superfund program to improve the planning and evaluation of construction activities that support cleanup of contaminated sites.

### Public Information

**Purpose:** The Division strives to be transparent, accessible and collaborative, to proactively provide public information about project purpose, developments and status to Montana's public, media and policy makers through methods that best reach the audience. We respond promptly, honestly and openly to news media and public questions, concerns and input. The Public Information Coordinator serves as the Division's public information officer (PIO) and helps Division programs involve the public in decisions that affect communities.

**Program Highlights:** Working collaboratively with internal and external customers and partners, the public information program worked closely with the PTRCB, the DEQ Waste and Underground Tank Bureau, and the Enforcement Division to produce the *MUST News*. This is a quarterly publication to inform and update petroleum storage tank owners and operators, environmental consultants, and others interested in developments about petroleum storage tank operation, rules, release prevention, remediation, and reimbursement. *MUST News* is distributed quarterly via U.S. mail, emailed via ListServ, and posted online at [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov).

The PIO and Division programs write the Division Annual Report, site updates and fact sheets such as the *River Review* for the Clark Fork River Superfund project and the *Mike Horse Messenger* for the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex, as well as news releases, communications plans and other outreach materials. Several articles published in a national newsletter about Abandoned Mine Program projects and a booklet was prepared providing information on the status of the Montana Pole Federal Superfund cleanup. Community interviews were also conducted for the Montana Pole Five-Year Review.

The program coordinated production of a historic marker commemorating Superfund cleanup at Butte's Silver Bow Creek. The program generated media coverage resulting in about 200 print articles and electronic news reports of project developments. This included continued coverage of the high-profile Miles City gasoline leak that forced the evacuation of nearby residents. The PIO assisted with public meetings and responded to inquiries from the public and news media. The position helped to coordinate the Division's participation in the annual Earth Day/Environmental Discovery Day commemoration at the Capitol, and to organize a Superfund tour for visiting students from Southeast Asia and the University of Montana's Mansfield Center. The PIO also presented about risk communication to the Public Health and the Environment class at Carroll College.

## Remediation Division Indicators - July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>(Fiscal Year)</b>	<b>2011</b>
Active Sites	1414
Inactive Sites	378
Site Activities	852
Sites Closed/Delisted	68
Cost Recovery Invoices	283
Costs Recovered	\$4,409,746
Contracts + Task Orders	282
Contract Costs	\$18,202,436
Public Comment Periods	10
Public Meetings	18