

SITE Future

DEQ currently manages the Montana Pole property using the 1996 settlement money for cleanup.

Upon completion of the final cleanup efforts, The City and County Of Butte-Silver Bow will have the first option for taking ownership.

Final cleanup for the southern portion of the site will be complete and ready for reuse by 2018. To protect people's health, the property's uses will be restricted so that the cleanup work is not damaged.

The northern portion, where the water treatment plant sits, will continue to be operated by DEQ. The reuse will not be determined until after the final cleanup design is complete. Water treatment will continue for at least the next 30 years.

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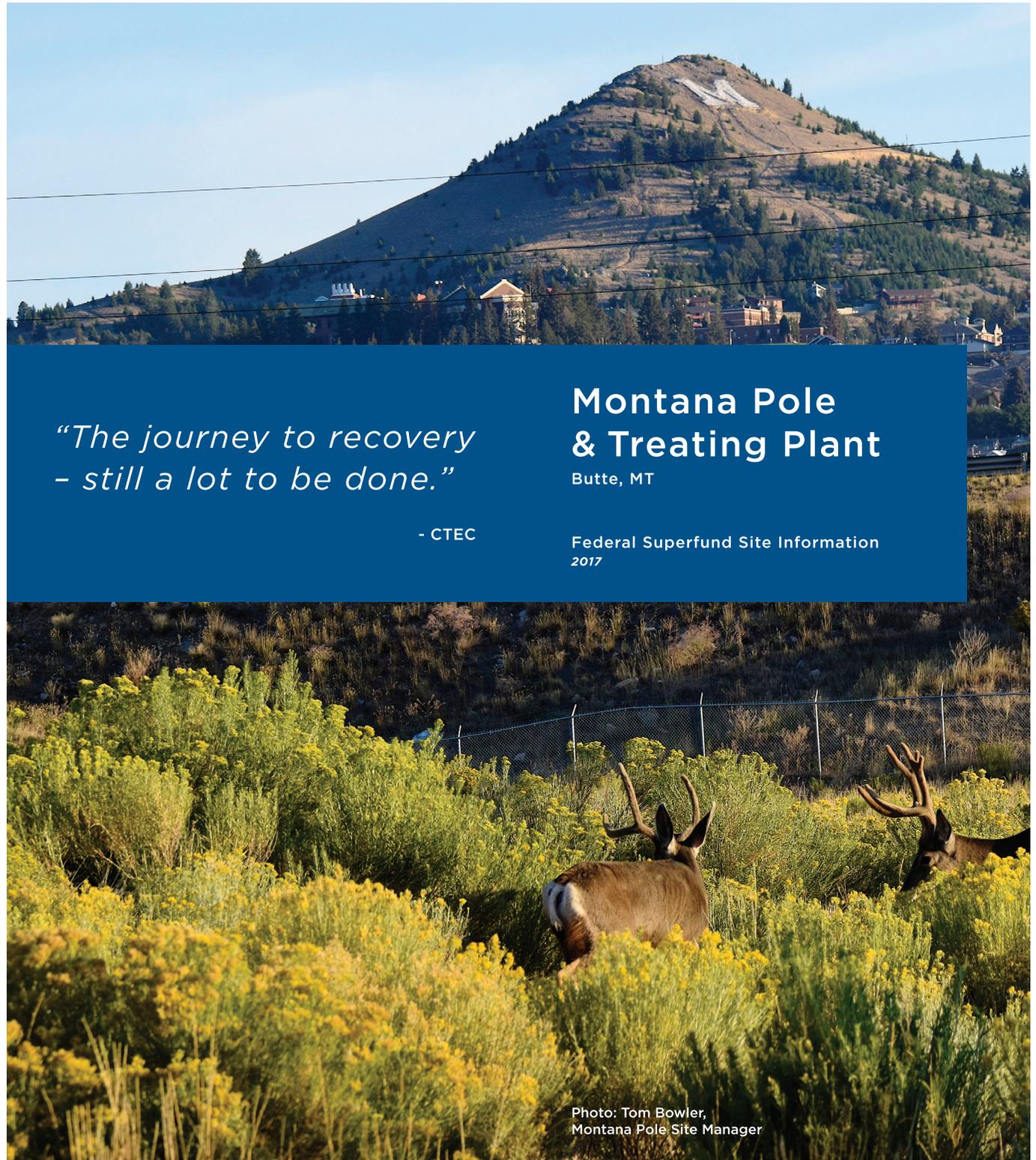
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*“The journey to recovery
- still a lot to be done.”*

- CTEC

Montana Pole & Treating Plant

Butte, MT

Federal Superfund Site Information
2017

Photo: Tom Bowler,
Montana Pole Site Manager

SITE Timeline

1946

Montana Pole & Treating Plant (MPTP) opens a wood-treating operation located on West Greenwood Ave in Butte, MT. The plant treated a full line of post and pole wood products with an oily-solution that slows decay. That same oily-like solution also seeped into the ground around the wood treating areas. The plant operated under processing practices that were considered standard until the 1970s.

1969

MPTP explosion and fire may have contributed to soil and groundwater contamination.

1983

Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) responds to concerned citizen complaint and identifies oil-saturated soils on MPTP property and contaminants seeping into the Silver Bow Creek.

1984

MPTP closes operations.

1985

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) led emergency cleanup efforts to remove most of the heavily contaminated soil and pole treating equipment and minimize seepage impacts to Silver Bow Creek.

1992

EPA performed more extensive oily-solution recovery efforts to protect groundwater and the spread of soil contamination.

1993

More cleanup requirements for MPTP identified in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD requires treatment of contaminated groundwater and more removal and treatment of contaminated soil.

1996

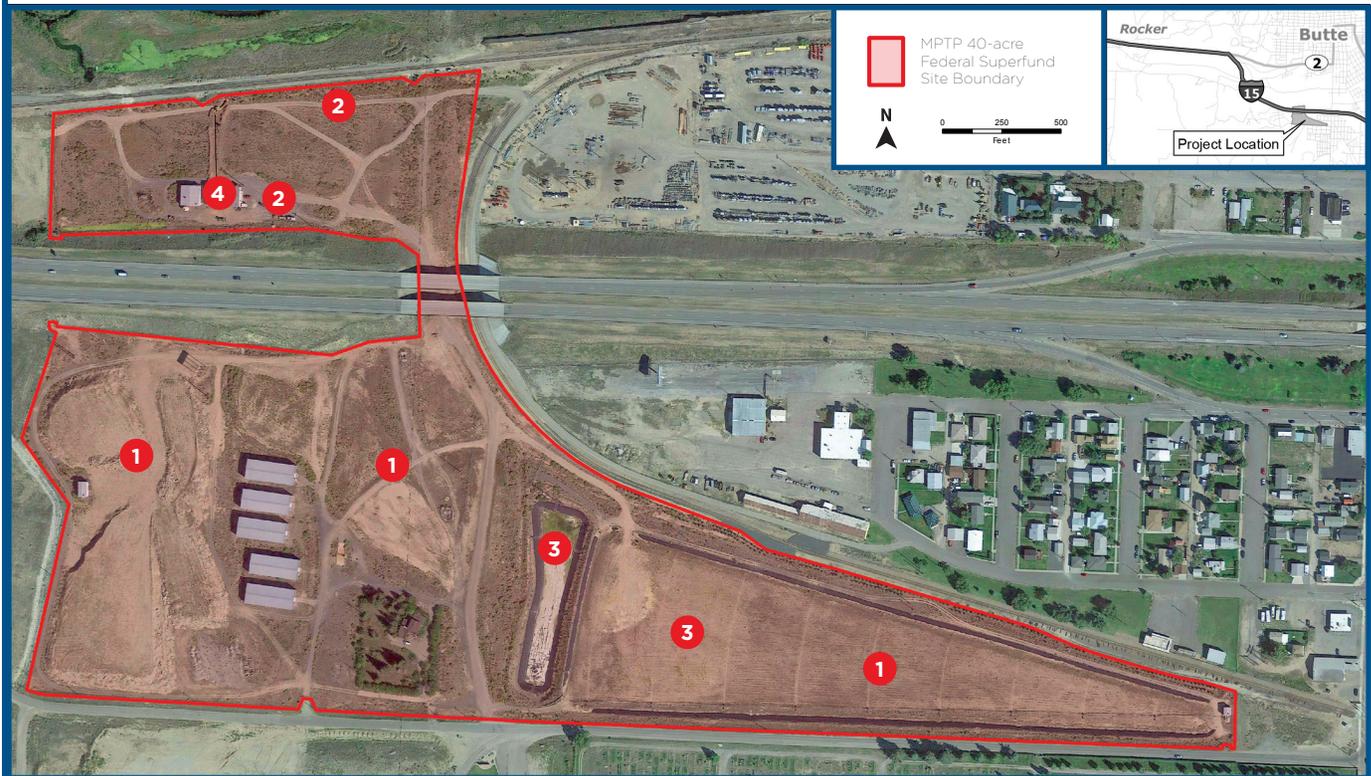
\$35 million settlement reached between MPTP, DEQ, EPA, and several responsible parties, including the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO). The funds are managed by the State of Montana for the cleanup of MPTP.

1996-Current

DEQ follows the Federal Superfund process to cleanup soil, groundwater, and solid and hazardous waste.

SITE Contaminants:

Dioxins, pentachlorophenol, and petroleum products contaminate the soil and groundwater (the oily wood treating solution).



SITE Cleanup Goals & Activities Since 1996



Soil: Excavate, Treat & Protect over 200,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Excavate contaminated soil from all accessible areas and treat. Then backfill treated soils into the excavated areas and cover with a soil cap that protects the community and groundwater.



Groundwater: Contain, Treat & Test contaminated groundwater that remains. Recovery wells pump contaminated water to the water treatment plant. Every week the contaminated water is tested before and after treatment to make sure treatment is working.



Solid & Hazardous: Decontaminate & Dispose of equipment, oil & sludge in a licensed off-site landfill or incinerator.



Water Treatment Plant: Manage & Report \$900,000 annual water treatment plant costs including plant operation, maintenance, labor, and all legal and reporting expenses.