

Mike Horse Messenger

Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex



Site Update

June 2018

Work to begin in July

DEQ anticipates beginning the next phase of work at the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex in July, starting at the confluence of Mike Horse and Beartrap creeks and moving down to the Water Treatment Plant. Work may then continue from the Water Treatment Plant toward Edith Mine, dependent upon achieving project milestones established in the bid package.

DEQ aims to finish this work by the end of the 2019 construction season.

Crews are expected to remove up to 257,000 cubic yards of waste this season. That's in addition to nearly 700,000 cubic yards of tailings and mine waste removed since excavations began in 2014.

As in previous construction seasons, Meadow Creek and Mike Horse roads will be closed until work stops for the winter. "Our first priority is keeping workers and the public safe," said Project Construction Manager Shellie Haaland. "We also do our best to minimize the impacts on area residents. Construction is weather

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UPPER BLACKFOOT MINING COMPLEX

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

DEQ Staff will give a presentation on the 2018 construction season, followed by a question and answer session.

Tuesday, June 19, 6:30 PM
Lincoln Library, 102 9th St.



DEQ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate. If you require an accommodation, please contact Karen Ogden at (406) 444-6360 or karen.ogden@mt.gov.

Previous waste removals yield results

Within six months of removing the Mike Horse mine waste repository, groundwater in that area is meeting water quality standards. All metals, except cadmium and zinc, are meeting surface water aquatic standards. Cadmium and zinc levels in surface water are meeting human health standards and those concentration levels continue to drop. Removal of source contaminants is a permanent solution, requiring no long-term maintenance. The photo below was taken at Upper Beartrap Creek looking toward the site of the now-removed dam and restored impoundment area.



INFORMATION

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On the web: <http://deq.mt.gov/Land/statesuperfund/ubmc>

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dependent, but is expected to last from July through November."

Settlement funds are expected to cover all removals in this phase of the project to the Edith Mine area — the boundary of the project's Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis or EE/CA (see map below). The cost estimates in the EE/CA used for the 2008 settlement with ASARCO did not include the wetland downstream.

"By the end of the project, DEQ will have removed nearly 1 million cubic yards of waste. That's nearly double what was estimated in the EE/CA," said Jenny Chambers, DEQ Waste Management & Remediation Division Administrator.

Over the past year, DEQ has worked with our partners to reach an agreed-upon strategy to maximize efficiencies to ensure project success with the funds available. We will have funds available for the final closure of the repository. After field work is complete, DEQ will conduct a final evaluation of the work, including monitoring and assessment of reclamation and restoration needs in the wetland. We will continue to pursue grants and other funding opportunities as needed. DEQ and our project partners — the Natural Resource Damage Program and the U.S. Forest Service — are grateful for your patience in past years and now, as we move toward the finish line. Please don't hesitate to call a member of our project team with any questions or concerns.



Safety First!

Watch for UBMC project haul trucks on the road beginning in July. Trucks will travel Highway 200 from the western base of Roger's Pass at Meadow Creek Road to the intersection of highways 200 and 279 east of Lincoln, then one mile southeast on Highway 279 to the repository.

SIGN UP NOW FOR SITE TOURS!

Saturday, August 18, 10 am - 1 pm

Saturday, September 15, 10 am - 1 pm

Saturday, October 20, 10 am - 1 pm

Tours will begin and end at Hooper Park, 935 MT 200, Lincoln

To register, contact:

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