

Callahan Mine Superfund Site

Final Phase of Remedial Investigation Field Work

Community Update
August, 2007

Introduction

A fourth year of investigative field work is under way at the Callahan Mine Superfund Site in Brooksville, Maine. This program is anticipated to be the final major field program that will be necessary to complete the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS).

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is taking the lead in the implementation of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) under the oversight of the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP).

Remedial Investigation (RI) Program

From 2004 to 2006, a series of investigations were completed to define the type and extent of contamination that is present at the Callahan Mine Site. A brief summary of these investigation programs is listed below:

- **2004 Field Programs:** The field investigations in 2004 were performed to provide a preliminary understanding of the contamination at the Site. Surface water, sediment, soil, and residential wells were sampled as part of this program. The results from this program are presented in the Remedial Investigation Data Report which was completed in June 2005.
- **2005 Field Programs:** The field investigations in 2005 were performed to define the extent of contamination and to evaluate the health of the biological communities in the Site area. Surface water, soil, sediment, and biota (plants and animals) samples were obtained. In addition, the program included collection of biota to assess the diversity and abundance of the biological communities at the Site.

Callahan Mine Superfund Site Public Information Meeting

Tuesday
August 14, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Brooksville Public Service Building
Meeting Room
1 Town House Road
Brooksville, ME 04617

Please come and visit with the EPA, Maine DEP, and Maine DOT to discuss the project.

The results from this program can be found in the Phase1A Site Characterization Report which was completed in April 2006.

- **2006 Field Programs:** The field investigations during 2006 were focused on the evaluation of the subsurface. A drilling and geophysics program was implemented to evaluate the depth of the waste areas, identify the geologic units that contained groundwater, and to sample groundwater to determine the extent of groundwater contamination. The results from this program are presented in the Phase 1B Work Plan and Data Report completed in March 2007 and can be found in the Information Repository at the Brooksville Free Library (see page 3).

The preliminary conclusions based on the field investigations and Reports completed to date are presented below:

- Consistent with prior studies, the former ore processing and extraction area, waste rock piles, and tailing area at the Site contain levels of metals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. The inorganic constituents detected most often above the background levels are arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and zinc.
- One organic constituent, PCBs, has been detected in the soil of the former mine operations area.
- Inorganic constituents, particularly, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, selenium, and zinc have been detected above background levels in the sediments of Goose Pond, Goose Cove, and Marsh Creek.
- Groundwater within limited areas of the Site contains levels of inorganic constituents, particularly arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, manganese, and zinc above federal and state drinking water standards as well as Maine DEP maximum exposure guidelines for groundwater.

Phase 1B Activities

The review of the information collected as part of the 2004-2006 investigation programs revealed several areas where additional data collection would be necessary to complete the RI/FS. The Phase 1B Work Plan identified the investigation program to resolve these data gaps. During 2007, the following activities will be performed to complete the RI/FS data gathering:

- Collection of additional sediment samples to better define sediment contamination;
- Soil sampling to refine the extent of contamination within and adjacent to the Site;
- Installation of additional monitoring wells to refine the extent of groundwater contamination;
- Installation of geotechnical borings to better define the stability of the tailing pile and underlying soils; and

- Additional biological community assessment and biota sampling to refine the ecological risk evaluation.

Figure 1 (page 3), shows the soil, sediment, seep and surface water locations. Figure 2 (page 4), shows the locations of the monitoring wells.

Schedule

The information collected from 2004 – 2007 will be used to create a series of reports. During the summer/fall of 2008, four major reports will be released:

- **Remedial Investigation Report:** This Report will build on the Phase 1A Site Characterization Report and present results of the investigative programs performed at the Site.
- **Human Health Risk Assessment:** This report will evaluate the current and future potential threats to individuals who may have contact with the contamination at the Site.
- **Ecological Risk Assessment:** This report will evaluate whether there are current or future potential impacts to the biological community as a result of the contamination at the Site.
- **Feasibility Study:** This Report will identify the cleanup goals and objectives along with the regulations that apply to any cleanup action. This Report will also evaluate a series of potential cleanup options against a set of criteria to identify the cleanup action that achieves the best fit with the criteria.

Upon completion of these reports, EPA will develop a Proposed Plan that summarizes the RI/FS and presents the EPA's recommendation for cleanup action at the Callahan Mine. EPA will seek public input during a 30 day public comment period. After consideration of the public comments, EPA would then sign a Record of Decision (ROD) to document the selection of the cleanup action.

After the ROD, EPA will also initiate discussions with the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to seek their involvement in the design, implementation, and maintenance of the cleanup action. EPA could also perform the work itself if negotiations with the PRPs do not result in an agreement to perform the cleanup action.

Information and Contacts:

Internet users may access current site information at:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/me.htm#statelist>

Site information can also be found at:

Brooksville Free Public Library
1 Town House Road
Brooksville, Maine 04617

For More Information Please Contact:

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Figure 1

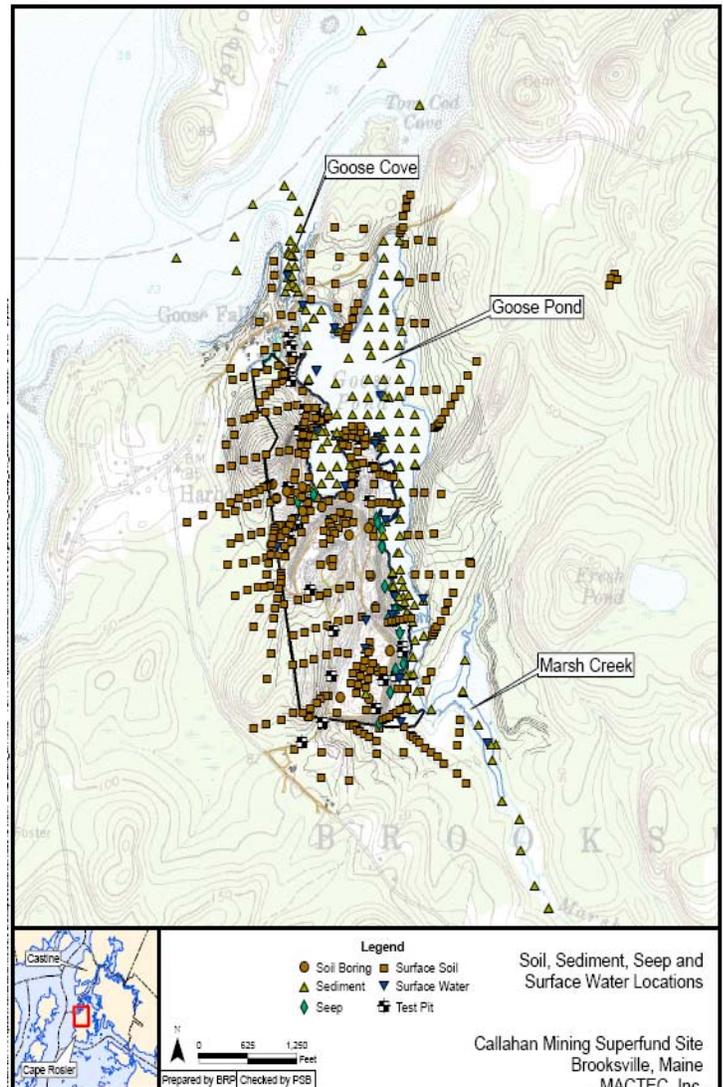


Figure 2

