

BASIN BULLETIN



Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

Issue No. 31

March 2013

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EPA Plan Covers Next Decade of Cleanup

EPA has issued its revised Implementation Plan. The plan lays out the Superfund cleanup work that will take place in the Coeur d'Alene Basin over the next 10 years. It describes what cleanup will happen and when in the Upper Basin, Box and Lower Basin. The revision reflects changes EPA made in response to seven commenters after the close of the public review period.

Work slated for the next 10 years includes:

- Finish property cleanups in the Basin with emphasis on high risk homes with children and pregnant women.
- Take steps to address roads that may have been damaged by cleanup activities, so that those roads can continue to serve as barriers to underlying contamination.
- Complete actions to protect cleanup work that has already been done.
- Upgrade the treatment plant that cleans the groundwater from the Box and Bunker Hill mine.
- Construct a drain to intercept groundwater near the Central Impoundment Area in the Box.
- Do high-priority cleanup work along the East Fork of Ninemile Creek.
- Begin work in Canyon Creek to collect water for treatment at the CTP (Central Treatment Plant) and to control sources of contamination.

Continued on next page ⇨

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EPA Plan Covers Next Decade of Cleanup

⇒ Continued: – Work slated for the next 10 years:

- Do projects in the Lower Basin to increase understanding of the area and methods to address risks that will lead to future cleanup work.
- Design and construct the Lower Burke Canyon Repository and the Osburn Repository.

To see the 122-page plan, including responses to comments at the end, visit:

<http://go.usa.gov/2XnF> 

An earlier fact sheet includes a summary of the plan: <http://go.usa.gov/2XQm> 

To request a hard copy, contact Rene Gilbert at 208-659-5237 or gilbert.maureen@epa.gov

Paved Road Surface Remediation Program

The IDEQ, Coeur d'Alene Work Trust and EPA have been working with local roads jurisdictions in the Coeur d'Alene Basin and



Box. Together we are establishing a program to repair paved road surfaces that serve as barriers to heavy metal contamination. The program is expected to last several years and has a budget of \$54 million. An allocation of funding, based on a variety of factors, has been designated for each local road jurisdiction, and the jurisdictions will not have to compete with each other for funding.

The DEQ and EPA have established a Roads Board to evaluate proposals from the road jurisdictions. Proposals will be evaluated according to provisions laid out in the Paved Road Surface Remediation Strategy found on this website:

www.basincommission.com/prsr.asp

Funds up to 1% of total allocations are being provided to the jurisdictions to help them develop their multi-year program plans and cover initial engineering costs.

The Roads Board is working with the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust and the local jurisdictions to define a process for covering engineering and implementation costs this first year and the following years. A Paved Road Surface Remediation workshop was held on February 5, 2013, in Kellogg. Attendance was high.

Many participants remarked that the information exchange was very beneficial and they appreciated being involved early in the development of the

program. Participants included local city and county officials, engineering firms, contractors, DEQ, EPA and Trust staff.

Representatives also attended from other granting agencies that may have funds for infrastructure work that could be performed in concert with the roads work. Completing key infrastructure work such as sewers or water lines at the same time as the roads work would help to maximize the projects and stretch available resources.

What's Next?

The timing of road surface projects depends on the complexity of the projects and planned funding for each year. It appears that significant work will take place beginning in the summer of 2014. Since this is a new program and is not a traditional Superfund activity, DEQ, EPA and the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust are working closely with the road jurisdictions to identify and resolve issues as the program moves forward. The agencies and Trust appreciate the input from the road jurisdictions and patience as this program is being established. The agencies and the Trust will continue to engage interested parties and communities, and we will provide updates in future editions of the Basin Bulletin.

2013 Lead Health Screening



Public Health
 P H O S H O N E P A N H A N D L E
 Panhandle Health District

By Jerry Cobb, PHD

The Kellogg Panhandle Health District will conduct its annual Blood Lead Screening Project again this summer. The project will begin in July. It will be offered in both the “Box” and the “Basin.”

Children living in the “Basin” between the ages of six months through six years will have the opportunity to go to two different locations for testing. One will be in the Lower Basin and one in Osburn in the Upper Basin.

Residents in the “Box” will be contacted through door-to-door solicitation. Children ages six months through nine years of age will be eligible for testing. Screening in both the Box and Basin will also be made available to expectant mothers.

Mailers will be sent to all residents announcing the screenings and will provide information on test sites, and eligibility requirements,



*Riley Raccoon says,
 “Keep Clean, Eat Clean, Play Clean.”*

along with a recommendation regarding the importance of testing. The projects will also be advertised in locally available newspapers and on the local radio. Participation is voluntary and all eligible children within the ages noted in both the Box and the Basin will receive \$30 for participating. Expectant mothers will not be paid for participating.

Testing will be provided at the screening sites in the Basin. Testing in the Box will only be by a scheduled appointment at Shoshone Medical Center, and will only be done on those who arrive at the hospital with the appropriate paperwork to allow testing. Blood lead results will be provided at the test sites.

Test results give the EPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality important insights about how cleanup actions are helping to reduce blood lead levels in area children. Children identified with an elevated blood lead level are provided information regarding lead and its effects.

They are also offered a home visit by a public health professional to identify lead sources at the home and discuss how to break exposure pathways. In addition to blood lead testing in the “Box,” surveyors will offer to collect a dust sample from each participant’s vacuum cleaner and place a dust mat to measure lead levels in the home.

Learn to identify lead sources and find simple ways to Keep Clean, Eat Clean and Play Clean. Visit

www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/lead.cfm

For details on this summer’s project, call the Kellogg Panhandle Health District Office at 208-783-0707, or watch for newspaper ads, radio announcements, or mailers.

Share Your Ideas for the Lower Basin! Pilot Project Suggestions Due April 19

Find out how you can share your ideas for pilot projects in the Lower CDA Basin. Pilot projects are smaller-scale cleanup “tests” — cleanup actions that help evaluate the effectiveness of more complete, larger-scale cleanup actions that may be taken in the future.

Project suggestions and proposals are due to EPA by **April 19**. Please use a proposal form to submit your ideas. Forms can be found online at <http://go.usa.gov/2RHZ>

EPA is studying options to reduce risks to people and wildlife in the Lower Basin. The risks are caused by lead and other heavy metals washing downstream from past mining practices in the Upper Basin. Most of the lakes, wetlands and floodplains in the Lower Basin are contaminated.

Selected pilot projects must help achieve EPA’s cleanup goals for the Lower Basin. EPA will select pilot projects by July 1. The agency will carry out at least one project beginning in 2014. To learn more about the evaluation process, view the Site Update posted online at <http://go.usa.gov/2NgR> 

Please note that EPA is not providing grant money for preparing or implementing the projects.

On March 20, local residents attended public forums to gain information about the Lower Basin cleanup and the process for selecting pilot projects. The forums were hosted by the Lower Basin Project Focus Team and the Citizens Coordinating Council. Thank you all for your participation! Turn in the form by April 19. We look forward to considering your ideas!

Use the form on the next two pages to offer your ideas on the Pilot Project ⇨

Upgrades to Central Water Treatment Plant

EPA is now designing upgrades to the Central Treatment Plant. The upgrades will allow the plant to treat additional water from other sources around the Bunker Hill Superfund site. It will also improve the quality of water after the treatment process. Treated water is discharged to Bunker Creek, which then flows into the South Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River. The upgrades will allow the plant to meet lower discharge requirements and better protect the river.

The Central Treatment Plant in Kellogg currently treats about 2 million gallons per day of contaminated water, primarily from the Bunker Hill mine. The treatment plant uses about 720 megawatts hours of power each year to treat this highly contaminated and acidic water to levels that can be safely discharged.

During the design process, EPA will look for ways to reduce energy use overall. This may include generating renewable energy on site and/or the

purchase Renewable Energy Credits to offset energy used at the CTP. A REC represents the environmental benefits (such as reduced pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, conservation of natural resources) associated with generating one megawatt hour of electricity from a renewable energy source.

In 2012, EPA purchased RECs for all its energy intensive cleanup projects, including the Central Treatment Plant, from the Western Area Power Administration an arm of the U.S. Department of Energy. These RECs are generated from wind farms constructed in 2009 or later in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota and are **Green-e certified**. Purchasing RECs to off-set energy use helps encourage the development of green and renewable power.

For more information on Superfund’s renewable energy program, see www.epa.gov/superfund/renewableenergy

PROPOSAL FORM: Lower Basin Pilot Projects

Due Date: April 19, 2013

EPA seeks your input on several levels. First, we'd like to learn of any other projects you'd like to suggest. Second, we'd like to know which of the projects being considered by EPA you support and why. Third, we're interested in specific details such as possible locations or properties, timing, or projects you'd like to suggest. Please note that EPA is not providing grant money for preparing or implementing the projects.

Instructions for filling out Proposal Form

1. Print this form out.
2. Fill it out. Prepare one form per project idea. Feel free to submit multiple ideas
3. Print it out and mail it to: Lower Basin Pilot Project, EPA Region 10, Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 1910 Northwest Blvd, Suite 208, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
4. To **fill this form out on your computer**, view it online at <http://go.usa.gov/2RHZ> and follow the instructions on the electronic form.

Contact Information (so that we can reach you should clarification be needed)

Name and Affiliation:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone Number:

Project Description

Primary Benefits

⇒ Continued

PROPOSAL FORM: Lower Basin Pilot Projects

Primary Challenges, and How They Might be Addressed

Which Projects being Considered by EPA do you Favor and Why?

Possible Locations, Examples or Timing

**What's important to you in the Lower Basin cleanup?
What do you value and encourage EPA to consider when selecting pilot projects?**

Thank you for your participation!

Five Remedy Protection Projects Planned for Construction in 2013

In 2013, the CDA Work Trust, at the direction of EPA and the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality are planning to construct five remedy protection projects. These projects are:

- Widening and deepening portions of Grouse Creek and replacing the Old Highway 10 culvert in Smeltonville,
- Directing water from Sierra Nevada Road in Wardner to Milo Creek,
- Widening and deepening portions of Unnamed Creek and replacing the Anderson Way culvert in west Silverton,
- Upgrading roadside ditches and culverts and repaving Third, Oregon, California, and Montana Streets in Mullan,
- Upgrading roadside ditches and culverts along Lower Dewey and Dewey Streets, upgrading the storm water pipe along Hunter, Dewey, and Upper Dewey Streets in Mullan, and repaving road surfaces.

Remedy Protection projects

are designed to protect completed cleanup work, keep cleaned up areas clean, and reduce the potential for residents to be exposed to contamination in the long term. The upgrades to local infrastructure that are a part of remedy protection also helps to protect private and public property from flooding and storm water runoff damage.

IDEQ and the CDA Trust have been coordinating with various city representatives while planning for these projects. They will also reach out to property owners who are directly impacted by the projects and residents who live near the planned construction.

Job Training Coming Soon to Basin

Job training for cleanup work is coming soon to the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

SuperJTI is a job readiness program that provides free technical training to people living in communities affected by Superfund sites. We expect the program to start as early as April. Stay tuned for announcements.

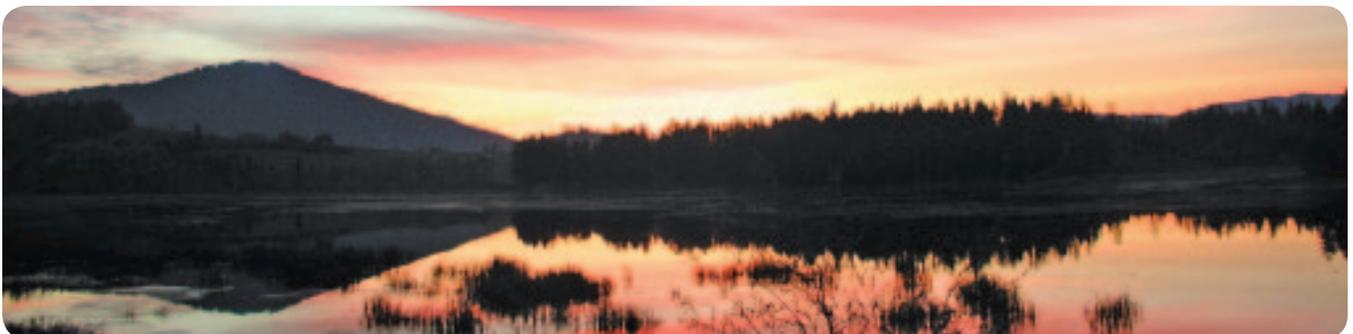
The program can help make more local people eligible to apply for cleanup-related jobs.

Training could be applicable to other sites and jobs, too. While hiring is not guaranteed and EPA cannot tell the contractors who to hire, EPA is working with contractors to make them aware of the benefits of the program.

Learn more at

www.epa.gov/superfund/community/sfjti

If you have questions, contact Rene Gilbert at 208-659-5237 or gilbert.maureen@epa.gov



New Signs Slated for Repository Sites

New signs are coming soon to the East Mission Flats Repository and the future site of the Lower Burke Canyon Repository.

The EMF sign provides brief educational information about the Superfund cleanup, the need for repositories, and the careful management of the facility.

The LBCR sign marks the site as private property and alerts readers that contaminated soils from the Superfund cleanup will be permanently placed at this location. EPA designed the signs in coordination with DEQ, PHD, and the Basin Commission. Thank you to the Citizens Coordinating Council for their input on sign development. Contractors will place the signs later this year.



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Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Panhandle Health District





East Mission Flats Repository

Thank you for using this repository.

The Superfund Cleanup is Working. Since the late 1800s, the Silver Valley has been a major mining area and one of the largest silver-producing areas of the world. Past mining practices left behind metals like lead and arsenic in the environment. Cleanup has been under way since the 1980s. Today, many areas in communities have been cleaned up and risks have been reduced. Though cleanup continues, some lead and other metals will remain.

Repositories are a necessary part of large-scale cleanups. The success of this cleanup relies on safe, secure places to contain contamination. Using repositories is a proven way to protect people and the environment. The cleanup includes removing contaminated surface soil from people's yards and community areas. That soil is placed in repositories.

This repository is carefully managed. This site was studied and selected with great care. The repository was built on already contaminated ground. It is engineered to prevent erosion and withstand floods. Groundwater and surface water are monitored to ensure they remain protected.

Contact DEQ Kellogg at (208) 783-5781 for information or to report concerns.



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Coming Soon: Lower Burke Canyon Repository

POSTED PRIVATE PROPERTY

Contaminated soils from the Superfund cleanup will be permanently placed at this location.

For updates and public comment opportunities:
DEQ Kellogg, (208) 783-5781

Tiger in the Canyon – A History of the Tiger-Poorman Mine

The Tiger-Poorman mine was the first lead-silver discovery in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. Originally staked separately, the two mines were later found to be working the same vein. They were combined by the late 1890s. Before joining there was often trouble between the two mines. The Tiger protested that the Poorman stole their ore, and the Poorman claimed that the Tiger violated their surface rights and dynamited their dam.

The mines sent ore by wagon over the 5,256 foot Glidden Pass to the nearest rail head at Thompson Falls. The same road is still used today to access Upper and Lower Glidden Lakes. Rail laid from Wallace reached the Poorman on December 31, 1887. At that time, the Poorman, managed by Patsy Clark of the Clark Mansion in Spokane, Washington, shipped two cars of ore. In 1889 the Tiger-Poorman shipped 18 cars of ore in a single day, netting the railroad \$1000.



View of Tiger and Poorman Mines in 1887

Troy Lambert, Vice Chairman of the CCC and head of research at the Wallace District Mining Museum adapted a report written for the Coeur d'Alene Trust for this summary of the colorful history of the Tiger-Poorman Mine in Canyon Creek. Remnants and soils around the area where the Tiger-Poorman operated are scheduled to be remediated by the EPA.

The narrow rail was soon overwhelmed, and in November of 1890 a second line reached the canyon. The tracks of the competing railroads were so close together that the engineers could shake hands out of their cab windows.

On June 24, 1903 the Federal Mining and Smelting Company was organized with Charles Sweeny as president. The company took over the Tiger-Poorman and other mines. They renamed the Tiger-Poorman the Burke Mine and by 1905 it was the seventh largest producer in the region.

Despite its great start, in September of 1908 Sweeny and Federal decided to close the mine due to three factors: the economic downturn of 1907, the mine bottoming out in the lower Pritchard slate formation, and the increasing cost of operations at depth. The Tiger-Poorman proved that the seemingly inexhaustible ores of the Coeur d'Alene district were not endless.

In all, the Tiger-Poorman produced over a million tons of ore including 2,656,234 ounces of silver and 56,386 tons of lead. This production occurred in a relatively short period of time using early mining methods. Milling techniques were undeveloped and recovery rates were poor at best. Early and rapid success ensured this mine's place in the rich history of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District.

New Director of Cleanup for EPA Region 10

Rick Albright has replaced **Dan Opalski** as director of EPA Region 10's Office of Environmental Cleanup and will serve as EPA's alternative commissioner for the Basin Commission. Rick has already made several trips to the Coeur d'Alene Basin to learn more about the area and meet with stakeholders. Rick can be reached in the Seattle office at 206-553-6241 or albright.rick@epa.gov.

Basin Property Remediation Program – Questions and Concerns

Jan Olsen, Idaho DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) has worked on the Basin Property Remediation Program since 2002. The program has remediated almost 3,000 properties during that time. As a part of her job, Jan responds to frequently asked questions and complaints about remediation construction. She is commonly asked questions about weeds, soil, and vegetation.

Jan offers these words of advice: DEQ can best address concerns during construction or within the warranty period.



Jan Olsen

If the concern comes in after the warranty period is over, there isn't much DEQ can do to address the problem.

"In that case we at least try to point the homeowner in the right direction for help. We want the homeowner to know that even if we can't come and fix it, we can at least be a resource for information," Olsen said

You can reach Jan at (208) 783-5781 or jan.olsen@deq.idaho.gov

New Brochure Gives Tips on Healthy Living in Cleanup Area

A handy new brochure is now available. It's called *Healthy Living in the Silver Valley and Coeur d'Alene Basin*. The brochure shares tips to reduce lead exposure and safely enjoy the area's beautiful environment.

It also gives information on the cleanup, blood lead screening, yard testing, property ownership and ways to get involved.

EPA, IDEQ, Panhandle Health District and the Basin Commission jointly produced the document. EPA mailed the brochure in March to Basin Bulletin readers and others. Find it online at: <http://go.usa.gov/24CB>. To request copies, call Rene Gilbert at 208-659-5237.



Mama Raccoon says,

"Have children play in grassy areas away from loose soil, dust and muddy areas. No mud pies!"

Select Site Documents Now at Plummer Library

A selection of documents related to the Coeur d'Alene Basin cleanup is now available at the Plummer Public Library. The documents are contained on DVDs and CDs. The collection is more limited than what you will find at other document locations.

The library is located at 849 D Street, Plummer, Idaho 83851, phone 208-686-1812. A big thank you to Plummer Public Library for housing this material and helping us provide easier access to site information!

Documents

North Idaho College Library

Molstead Library
1000 Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-769-3355

Wallace Public Library

415 River Street
Wallace, ID 83873
208-752-4571

Spokane Public Library

906 West Main Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201
509-444-5336

EPA Field Office

1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-664-4588

EPA Seattle Office

Superfund Record Center

1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372

St. Maries Library

822 W. College Avenue
St. Maries, ID 83861
208-245-3732

Opportunities to Get Involved

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

Executive Director:

Terry Harwood, 208-783-2528

www.basincommission.com

Next meeting: May 22

(times, location to be announced)

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

Contact:

Jerry Boyd, 509-455-6000

www.basincommission.com/ccc.asp

Next meeting: April 24, Wallace Inn

Lower Basin Collaborative

Contact:

lowerbasincollaborative@gmail.com

Learn more at:

<http://lowerbasincollaborative.wordpress.com>

The Basin Bulletin is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency three times a year. The Basin Bulletin offers updates on the Superfund cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. For mailing list changes, to send comments on this newsletter, contact the editors, or submit articles for consideration, call Andrea Lindsay or Caryn Sengupta as noted. Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

Alternative formats are available.

For reasonable accommodation, please call

 *Andrea Lindsay at 206-553-1896*

TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service

 *at 800-877-8339.*



BASIN BULLETIN

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- ***Blood Lead Screening Coming Soon!***



Facebook: Great Way to Stay Updated on Cleanup!

Have you checked out our Facebook page? It's a great way to stay current on the cleanup. Learn about cleanup work, events, resources, community involvement opportunities and more. We invite you to ask questions, make suggestions, and share your views. www.facebook.com/CDAbasin

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