

# BASIN BULLETIN

## Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

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### EPA Cleanup

## Reducing Scope of ROD Amendment in Response to Citizen Comments

In response to public concerns and comments, EPA is reducing the scope of its upcoming Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment for the Upper Basin.

“We are listening,” says Bill Adams, EPA Team Leader for the site. “The communities overwhelmingly asked for a smaller plan. We are finding ways to be responsive and still meet priorities in protecting people’s health and the local ecosystem.”

EPA is paring back the number of mine and mill sites to be cleaned up. Also, the river liner between Wallace and Elizabeth Park, a point of concern for many commenters, won’t be installed. There will, however, continue to be focused groundwater collection in the Osburn area and Kellogg. The ROD Amendment will also exclude active facilities like the Osburn and Sunshine tailings ponds. A 2011 EPA agreement with the Hecla mining company also removed the Lucky Friday complex from the definition of the site. That agreement lays out how cleanup and mining exploration/development activities will be coordinated in the future when they occur in the same area.

These changes reduce the cost of the planned cleanup by almost half. And the timeframe will be shortened to about 30 years.

*Continued next page* ⇨

**OPEN HOUSE:  
PAGE REPOSITORY – MARCH 19** See Page 3 ⇨

## EPA Community Involvement Contacts

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## Reducing Scope of ROD Amendment in response to citizen comments

*Continued*

At the same time, EPA acknowledges that the scaled-back cleanup will not fully address all surface/ground water contamination in the Upper Basin. We are calling this ROD Amendment an “Interim Remedy” because a final remedy could be needed in the future. In that event, we would initiate another process to amend the ROD, which would include public comment opportunities.

We expect to release the ROD Amendment this spring or summer once we have incorporated the changes.

## Protecting Remedies Already in Place: Keeping Clean Areas Clean

The proposed environmental cleanup includes stormwater control actions to protect the existing human health remedies. The goal is to keep clean areas clean. The actions will help protect residential and commercial/public properties from damage due to stormwater runoff, tributary flooding, and heavy rain and snow melt — damage like erosion and recontamination.

Major components of the actions include:

- Remedy protection actions in Pinehurst, Smelterville, Kellogg, Wardner, Osburn, Silverton, Wallace, and Mullan.
- Stormwater control structures such as culvert replacements, channel improvements, small diversion structures, and asphalt ditches in the side drainages to the South Fork CDA River. These structures will help protect cleaned-up areas in both the communities and rural housing areas.

Key benefits of these actions will include:

- Greater long-term protection of human health and the environment in community and rural housing areas, and
- A proactive approach to addressing recontamination issues associated with the potential erosion and/or recontamination of existing clean barriers.

## ROD Amendment: Making Changes

*In July 2010, EPA released a Proposed Plan for a final cleanup of the Upper Coeur d’Alene Basin. The estimated cost and duration of the work outlined in that plan was \$1.29B over 40 to 50 years. EPA has spent the last year and a half considering and responding to over 6,700 comments we received during an extended public review of the plan.*

*While we are still working internally to refine the cleanup plan, EPA has reduced the size and scope to about \$740 million of high priority work. The timeframe is now estimated to be about 30 years, though duration will depend on funding.*

*By mandate, Superfund must first and foremost develop cleanup plans that protect human health and the environment and meet all regulatory standards. The process of developing a Superfund cleanup plan is designed to take public comment and weigh that against those primary mandates.*

*EPA’s initial cleanup proposal for the Upper Basin was designed to protect human health and to achieve the water quality standards set for the South Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River. It was based on sound science and the best available information.*

*None of those cleanup goals have changed. In response to public comments, EPA made a decision to focus on the highest priority work that will have the greatest impact on reaching those goals. This focus on the work with the greatest potential environmental benefit means that the cleanup’s scope for the first 20 years or so remains much the same as that outlined in the 2010 proposal. Most of the difference will be seen in the scope of work after that time.*

*If data collected during the cleanup shows we are not going to achieve our goals with the work outlined, EPA would be required to once again revise the plan. This would include opportunities for public input.*

Construction of the remedy protection projects will be coordinated with the local and county governments and stakeholders.

For information, contact **Bruce Schuld**, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

☎ 208-783-5781

or **Anne McCauley**, EPA

☎ 206-553-4689 or

☎ 800-424-4372 x4689.

## Page Repository Expansion: Open House March 19

### Public Open House

March 19, 5:00 p.m.

1005 W McKinley Avenue, Kellogg, ID

Join us! Bruce Schuld, DEQ Kellogg Office Manager, invites you to a Community Open House at the Kellogg Office on March 19th at 5:00 p.m. DEQ and EPA will be creating wetlands along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes.

Join us to learn about the plans for the wetlands near the Page Repository, including what they might look like from the Trail, and meet the new office manager.

Come on out and see the plan that the community's comments have helped shape.

For information, call Bruce Schuld

☎ 208-783-4906

## Technical Assistance: Identifying Community Needs

Could you or your group benefit from assistance related to the Superfund cleanup from independent technical experts? EPA's TASC program can help. TASC stands for Technical Assistance Services for Communities. This program provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites.

Assistance could include:

- Explaining cleanup processes or cleanup technologies
- Interpreting technical documents for a general audience
- Providing workshops
- Answering questions about health effects

TASC representatives would like to begin working this spring with Basin community

members to identify their specific technical assistance needs. This "needs assessment" may include an introductory session and in-person and telephone interviews with interested groups and individuals.

After the assessment, the TASC program can be used to address some of the needs identified. The assessment also will give EPA additional information about areas of need related to community involvement. This information will help us focus our outreach efforts.

If you have ideas about technical assistance needs related to the Superfund cleanup, please contact Alison Frost, Skeo Solutions, at 719-256-6708 or [afrost@skeo.com](mailto:afrost@skeo.com). To learn more about the TASC program, visit

☎ [www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc)

## Job Training Program May Come to Basin

Job training for cleanup work may soon come to the Basin. SuperJTI is a job readiness program providing free technical training for citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites.

This program can help make more local people eligible to apply for cleanup jobs in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. 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 great benefits of the program.

We hope to bring SuperJTI to the Basin this spring. Stay tuned.

Learn more about the program at  
☎ [www.epa.gov/superfund/community/sfjti](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/sfjti)

## Repositories: Lower Burke Canyon, Osburn Updates

Space is limited at Big Creek Repository, and that means more repositories are needed in the Upper Coeur d'Alene Basin. In 2009-10, local community members helped choose two repository locations. The first location is the **Osburn Repository** site. It's located on an abandoned portion of the Osburn tailings impoundment, north of Osburn off Nuchols-Gulch road. The second location is the **Lower Burke Canyon Repository** (formerly called the Star Repository). This site is on an abandoned portion of the Hecla Star tailings impoundment, in the Canyon Creek drainage northeast of Gray's Bridge road.

While both repositories will be essential for future cleanup, cleanup priorities in Canyon Creek have made the design of the Lower Burke Canyon Repository a priority. EPA and DEQ are currently collecting the information needed to develop a 30% Design for the repository. Once this document is ready, we will hold a formal public comment period (sometime in 2013). Previous design work was focused on the Osburn Repository. DEQ and EPA are now reviewing the draft Osburn Repository 30% Design Report.

Key design drawings and a written summary of the design will be available on the Basin Commission website later in 2012. After the agencies review the Osburn Repository 30% Design Report, the project will be put on hold while the Lower Burke Canyon Repository design continues to move forward. In the future, before more design work is done for Osburn Repository, the agencies will take formal public comment on its 30% design.

Stay tuned for details.



### Questions?

If you have questions, contact  
Don Carpenter, DEQ

[don.carpenter@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:don.carpenter@deq.idaho.gov)

208-373-0141

## Repository Selection: Public Participation

Public input helped guide selection of the Osburn and Lower Burke Canyon sites as the two new repository locations. In May and June of 2009, the agencies conducted citizen workshops during which local residents came together to suggest repository sites and recommend issues for the agencies to consider.

These forums led to a set of Citizen Criteria that reflects local values.

Here are the criteria people asked the agencies to consider when siting repositories in the Upper Basin:

- Impacts to people living and working near the repository
- Preservation of development potential
- Size (large size better than small size)
- Impacts to the floodplain
- Impacts to surface water, fish and wildlife
- Minimize trucking costs
- Truck traffic
- Impacts to wetlands
- Location relative to mapped faults and landslides

In March 2010, the agencies held an Open House where they discussed how the Citizen Criteria helped them narrow down the list of possible sites to the top two.

During the March-April public comment period, local residents shared their views on site selection. The agencies give careful consideration to the comments and, to the extent possible, are addressing each one during the design of the repositories.

## EMF Repository Monitoring

*A three-page summary of the monitoring set-up at EMF is online at*

<http://go.usa.gov/UuW>

## Opportunities to Get Involved

### Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

**Executive Director:**

**Terry Harwood, 208-783-2528**

[www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

**Next meeting: May 16**

(times, location to be announced)

### Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

**Contact:**

**Jerry Boyd, 509-455-6000**

[www.basincommission.com/cc.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/cc.asp)

**Next meeting: April 18**

### Lower Basin Collaborative

**Contact:**

**Susan Mitchell**

[lowerbasincollaborative@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## Get Your Kids' Blood Lead Tested this Summer

Summertime is right around the corner -- a time for outdoor play, riverside picnics, hiking, and other recreation. It's also a time for parents to take an important step to protect their children's health: get your kids tested for lead exposure.

Coming in July, the Panhandle Health District (PHD) will again offer free blood-lead testing. The program focuses on younger children, since they are most at risk from lead exposure. Testing requires just a simple finger stick.

In the "Box," children aged six months through 9 years can get tested for free.

In the "Basin," children from six months through 6 years old can get tested for free. Here, parents get a \$20 incentive payment for each child tested.

Watch for newspaper ads, mailers, and radio ads with details about dates and places for testing.

☎ To reach PHD for more information, call 208-783-0707.

## Healthy Kids! Keeping Lead Away

Children can get exposed to lead in lots of ways. Lead can be in homes, soil, dusty air, and water. Lead is a special concern in the local area, due to high levels of contamination in and around our communities. Even small amounts of lead can be dangerous. In children, exposure to lead can cause learning disabilities, hearing loss, slowed growth, nervous system damage, hyperactivity, and other problems.

There are many ways to protect your family. Here are some tips from Panhandle Health District:

- Test kids for exposure (see previous article about the summer testing program).
- Wash hands and faces before eating. Eat at a table.
- Wash after contact with soil.
- Wash toys, bottles and pacifiers if they've been in contact with the soil or dust.
- Stop children from chewing on painted surfaces, printed material, snow or icicles.
- Reduce household dust with frequent wet mopping and dusting.
- Remove lead-based paints from peeling surfaces.
- Purchase clean sand for sand boxes and play areas.
- Feed children a healthy diet.
- Thoroughly wash and peel locally grown fruit and vegetables prior to eating.
- Pregnant women should talk to their health care providers early about how to avoid the risks of lead poisoning.



*Washing hands helps keep lead away.*

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If you play in the flood plain of the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River or along the river from Cataldo to Lake Coeur d'Alene:

- Remove loose soil from your clothes, shoes, camping equipment, toys, ATVs and pets prior to leaving the area. Keep soiled items in a plastic bag and launder them separately.
- Eat at a table or on a clean surface off the ground. Throw away any food dropped on the ground.
- Drink, cook and wash only with water from home or an approved source. Do not use river water.
- Don't eat wild plants from the flood plain, river or lake areas.
- Let children play in grassy areas away from loose soil, dust and muddy areas. No mud pies!
- Don't remove or take home any soil or plants.

Visit the Panhandle Health District website for more information:

🌐 [www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/lead.cfm](http://www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/lead.cfm)

☎ Or call PHD at 208-783-0707

## Cleaning up Roads in Basin, Box

EPA, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the local public road and highway jurisdictions are developing a program to manage cleanup and repair of paved and unpaved public roads — roads that have been either contaminated with heavy metals or constructed with/on top of contaminated materials.

The program will ensure that public roads in the Basin and Box provide a protective barrier to contamination. DEQ sampled a number of unpaved roads in the Basin in 2011 and plans to continue that sampling effort in the upcoming field season.

DEQ is also planning to begin cleaning up contaminated unpaved roads in the Basin during the 2012 construction season. The planning and implementation of this work will take place in close coordination with the local jurisdictions.

In addition to the cleanup efforts for Basin unpaved roads, EPA and DEQ are continuing work on a strategy that will provide resources to local jurisdictions to ensure that deteriorating paved roads in both the Basin and Box will be rehabilitated.

The goal is to make sure those roads provide a barrier between roadway users and local residents and underlying contamination. EPA and DEQ anticipate having a draft strategy available for review by the local jurisdictions later in 2012.

For information, contact **Terry Harwood**

✉ [terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov)

☎ 208-783-2528

or **Bill Ryan**

✉ [ryan.william@epa.gov](mailto:ryan.william@epa.gov)

☎ 206-553-8561 or 800-424-4732

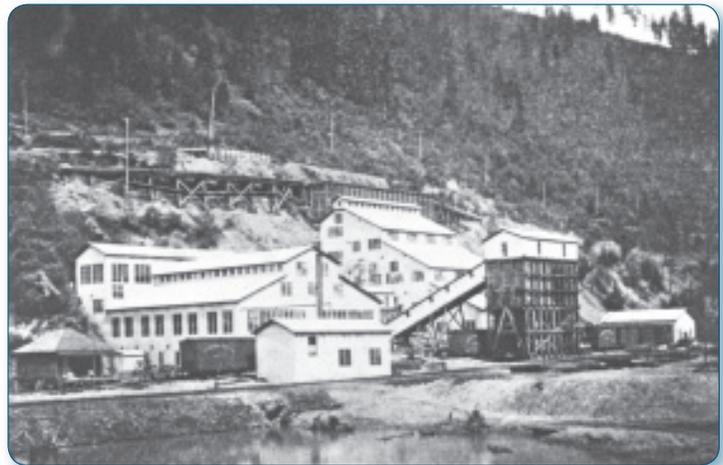
## Hercules Signage: History on the Trail

Work is under way to place a historical, interpretive sign along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. The sign will honor the history of the Hercules Mill, a processing facility for tons of Silver Valley lead, silver and zinc ore from 1905 to 1968.

This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc.

Denna Grangaard, DEQ Public Outreach Analyst and Project Manager, has spearheaded the effort with the Wallace community. “Because of sponsors’ support, this piece of Silver Valley history will be recognized. This project will benefit cultural tourism and enhance the experience of the Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes” Grangaard said.

Trail use data, provided by Kathleen Durfee, Park Manager for the Coeur d’Alenes Old Mission State Park and Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes, shows that the average number of visitors on that trail section is 74,500 per year, giving the sign maximum exposure.



*Hercules Mill to be featured in interpretive sign*

A view of the area which supported the Mill site is found on the west side of Wallace, where the Trail stretches over the South Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River on a through-truss bridge.

Installation of the Hercules Mill interpretive sign will take place this spring. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled for this summer.

## Share your Views on Citizen Participation

You're invited to share your views about citizen involvement in the Basin Commission process. Last year, the Communications Project Focus Team developed an online survey to gather feedback about the BEIPC Citizen's Coordinating Council (CCC).

To allow greater participation, the survey has been converted to another online format called "SurveyMonkey." It's quick, easy, and safe to use.

🔗 Go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/5CV2MSY](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5CV2MSY)  
We need your input!

### 2012 Meetings: Basin Commission & Citizen's Coordinating Council

- BEIPC – May 16 (Lower Basin), August 15 (Upper Basin), November 7 (Lower Basin)
- CCC – April 18 (Upper Basin), July 11 (Lower Basin), October 10 (Upper Basin)

Meeting locations have not yet been set, but when they are confirmed will be posted at

🔗 [www.basincommission.com/calendar](http://www.basincommission.com/calendar)

Stay tuned!

## Heavy Metals Cleanup on Spokane River Shoreline



### Spokane River Metals Sites

Historical mining practices in the Coeur d'Alene Basin have resulted in lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium washing downstream from Idaho into Washington State. These heavy metals settled in soil and sediments at shoreline areas along the Spokane River.

As part of the Record of Decision for the Coeur d'Alene Basin OU3, EPA and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) identified nine shoreline areas for cleanup.

EPA completed cleanup at the Starr Road Site in 2006. Since that time, using state funding, Ecology has completed cleanup at four sites, including Island Complex, Murray Road, Harvard Road North, and Flora Road.

Ecology plans to complete cleanup at Barker Road North, Myrtle Point, and Islands Lagoon during late summer 2012.

*Continued next page* ➔

## Comings and Goings

The team is pleased to welcome three new EPA Remedial Project Managers: **Craig Cameron**, **Kim Prestbo**, and **Tracy Chellis**! Craig, who has been with EPA since 1998, will dedicate 50% percent of his time to the site, while also working on Hanford NPL issues. Craig will be stationed in Seattle through April, after which time he will be based out of Richland, WA. Kim joined EPA's Seattle office last November after working many years in the private sector in the environmental field. She'll be spending the majority of her time working on the site. Tracy comes to the team from EPA's water program, where she worked on water quality related projects for the past 11 years. Tracy will work on the site full time and be located in Seattle. Glad you have joined the team, everyone! [cameron.craig@epa.gov](mailto:cameron.craig@epa.gov), [prestbo.kim@epa.gov](mailto:prestbo.kim@epa.gov), [chellis.tracy@epa.gov](mailto:chellis.tracy@epa.gov)

Welcome **Dale Snyder**, newest member of DEQ's Kellogg office. Dale replaces retired staff member Bill Hudson as Project Coordinator on the Basin Property Remediation Program. Dale has a 20-year background in contaminated soil and groundwater remediation work. Welcome, Dale! [dale.snyder@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:dale.snyder@deq.idaho.gov)

A warm "thank you" to **Debra Sherbina**, long-time community involvement coordinator for the project. Debra has made important and lasting contributions to EPA's community involvement and outreach program for the site. Debra is now moving on to other exciting EPA assignments. All the best to you, Debra!

A hearty "all the best" to **Carol Young**, EPA's community liaison with the SEE program. Despite our wishes for her to stay, Carol took another position in the community. We deeply appreciate Carol's contribution to the cleanup effort and will miss her as part of our team.

Goodbye to **Toni Hardesty**, Director of the Idaho Department Environmental Quality, and Idaho State representative on the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission. Toni will serve as the State Director of the Nature Conservancy in Idaho. Congratulations, Toni! **Curt Fransen**, former deputy director, will now serve as DEQ Director.

**To submit information for this column, contact**

Andrea Lindsay or Caryn Sengupta, as noted on the front cover

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### *Continued* **Heavy Metals Cleanup on Spokane River Shoreline**

Remedial actions in general could include excavation and disposal of contaminated sediments, limited re-grading for slope stability, gravel capping, and enhancement or re-establishment of native riparian plants.

At three of the completed sites, Starr Road, Murray Road, and Harvard Road, fish spawning mix was also incorporated into the final cover design to provide enhanced fish habitat. The Flora Road Site was completed in 2009 through placement of a gravel cover.

Sustained high river flows in 2011 resulted in damage to portions of the cover. Depending on available state funding, Ecology will conduct repairs during the summer of 2012 or 2013.

The cleanup remedy for the remaining site, Barker Road South, has not been selected.

Due to extremely limited access, limited beach area, and public input, restrictive access signage may be selected as an interim remedy.



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region 10

Community Involvement and Outreach  
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March 2012



### ***Look Inside for***

- ***Changes to Cleanup Plan***
- ***Page Repository Open House March 19***
- ***Got Technical Assistance Needs?***

## ***Documents***

### ***EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup***

#### **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

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