EPA **Bunker Hill Superfund Site, Northern, Idaho**

U.S.Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 November 2005

Bunker Hill Five-Year Review Report Completed

In late October, EPA completed the second, site-wide five-year review of the hazardous waste cleanup actions at the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site (also known as the "Bunker Hill Superfund Site"). The first five-year review was completed in 2000. EPA is required to review Superfund cleanups where contaminants remain in place at least every five years. This ensures that cleanup actions are effective and protect people and the environment

During the review, each cleanup action was carefully evaluated at each of the site's three "operable units": the Bunker Hill "Box" populated areas (Operable Unit 1), the "Box" non-populated areas (Operable Unit 2), and the Coeur d'Alene Basin (Operable Unit 3).

The review confirmed that the cleanup actions are working as planned. They are expected to protect people and the environment, provided that key follow-up actions take place. These follow-up actions and other review findings are described in detail in the final five-year review report.

Get the Final Five-Year Review Report

To get a hard copy or CD-ROM of the final report, or a hard copy of the written comments received on the public draft version of the report and EPA's comment-specific responses (Responsiveness Summary), you can:

- Call **800-424-4372, ext. 2709**
- Visit one of the site's information repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet
- Visit the EPA Region 10 website at: http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/bh/five+year+reviews

A worker backfills an Osburn property with gravel.

If you received a draft report or submitted comments, EPA will automatically send you a final report in the format you requested by early December. All hard copies of the report include the CD-ROM copy. Note that only the CD-ROM copy includes the public comments and EPA's responses.

Populated Areas of the Box (Operable Unit 1)

The cleanup is under way and is expected to protect people and the environment when complete, provided that follow-up actions are carried out.

Highlights:

- As cleanup continues, soil and house-dust lead concentrations are going down, lead intake rates have been substantially reduced, and blood-lead levels have met the cleanup performance goals.
- Lead levels for street rights-of-way did slowly increase over time but are stabilizing.
- House-dust lead levels are going down, but some individual homes still have lead concentrations above 1,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg).

Key follow-up actions:

- Continue to monitor lead levels in street rights-of-way.
- Secure permanent funding for the Institutional Controls Program and monies for infrastructure maintenance and improvements, such as roads and storm water controls. This is a key step in preventing recontamination.
- Evaluate the need for a one-time cleaning of house dust; continue to monitor house-dust levels every year as soil cleanup of residential and community areas is completed.

Non-populated Areas of the Box (Operable Unit 2)

Source removals and containment of hazardous wastes are nearly complete. When finished, these actions are expected to protect people and the environment. Until that time, risks to people are being controlled.

Highlights:

- Since 1995, over 3.3 million cubic yards of hazardous wastes have been removed and consolidated on site in engineered closure areas.
- The geomembrane covers on the closure areas prevent the wastes from coming into contact with people and animals. Consolidating these wastes also greatly lessens the chance that they will contaminate surface water and groundwater.
- Over 800 acres of property have been capped to prevent direct contact with residual contamination that remains in place within some areas. In addition, planting trees and grasses has substantially controlled erosion and provides improved habitat for wildlife. This habitat was absent for decades in many hillside areas and Smelterville Flats.

Key follow-up actions:

- Complete removals and containment of hazardous wastes.
- Control off-road ATV and motorcycle use, especially in the gulches and on hillsides. This damages the clean soil caps and vegetation that were placed there as part of the cleanup.
- Evaluate how effective cleanup actions are in meeting water quality improvement goals.

Coeur d'Alene Basin (Operable Unit 3)

Most of the cleanup actions in this part of the site have been under way for only about three years. Until more cleanup actions and studies are conducted, EPA cannot fully evaluate whether these actions will

Coeur d'Alene Basin *continued*

protect people and the environment. Cleanup actions that have started in residential, community and recreational areas are expected to protect people; cleanup actions to specifically protect the environment have not yet been started. Key follow-up actions noted in the five-year review report include:

- Establish an Institutional Controls Program in the Basin to protect cleanup actions.
- Continue to sample and clean up Basin residential and community areas.
- Begin cleaning up Constitution, Rex, and Golconda – Basin mine and mill sites.
- Find repositories to safely dispose of contaminated wastes.
- Sample and clean up recreational areas along the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane Rivers.
- Support the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and State of Idaho in revising the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan.
- Work with EPA Headquarters and other parties to secure funding for environmental cleanups.
- Evaluate the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council findings in concert with the Basin Commission and, as appropriate, act on the findings.

For More Information

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Visit the EPA Website:
www.epa.gov/r10earth/
click on "Index," then click on
"C" for Coeur d'Alene Basin

Visit an Information Repository

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EPA Seattle Office
Superfund Record Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-1128
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372

Five-Year Review Community Involvement

Throughout the review, EPA invited all interested individuals and parties to get involved—through newspaper ads, telephone interviews, several open houses in upper and lower Basin communities, and presentations.

From June 1—July 30, 2005, EPA held a public comment period on the draft report findings. In response to requests, the comment period was extended. Twenty-one individuals and organizations submitted a total of 220 separate comments. EPA reviewed all comments, provided comment-specific responses, and revised the report to incorporate comments relevant to the five-year review.

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