



CTEC



Winter 2024/2025 Superfund Update

Recent Superfund Activity

Waste Repository and Berkeley Pit

Atlantic Richfield is currently evaluating using the Berkeley Pit as a disposal location for the mining waste that will be excavated from the Consent Decree projects. Other locations that waste may be sent are repositories on Montana Resources property near Shields Ave, the existing Butte Mine Waste Repository below Granite Mountain, and Atlantic Richfield property at the Kelley Mine. Atlantic Richfield will perform a geochemical study to assess risks associated with mixing waste removed from floodplain areas with the Berkeley Pit. EPA recently commented on the draft workplan suggesting that a bench study of waste mixing be included. Atlantic Richfield plans to have the public Repository Siting Committee give their final recommendations in June and will give a presentation to BSB Council of Commissioners soon.

Belle of Butte Mine Reclamation

This partially capped historical mine in Walkerville is undergoing remediation currently. A portion of the mine was historically capped and has been monitored for cap stability using the Butte Reclamation Evaluation System (BRES). The remainder of the mine site is an Unreclaimed Site to be addressed under the 2020 Consent Decree. There were failures in the old soil cover cap and unpaved city streets were constructed on mine waste creating a risk for both human exposure and stormwater runoff. The reclamation work to be completed this construction season will bring the site up to current reclamation standards. Atlantic Richfield provided the photographs below showing the work in progress.

Belle of Butte is just one example of ongoing reclamation work occurring across the Butte Priority Soils. BRES monitoring of previously reclaimed areas continues every summer with each site visited on rotation every four years. BRES sites that are not meeting reclamation standards, as well as Unreclaimed and Insufficiently Reclaimed Sites from the Consent Decree are a part of ongoing remedial action activities.

Belle of Butte reclamation construction beginning



Belle of Butte newly installed cap and stormwater controls



Grove Gulch Stormwater

Work on the Grove Gulch sedimentation basin, adjacent to Lexington Ave, progressed over the winter by using heaters and blankets to allow concrete to set. The project will remove sediment and metals from Grove Gulch prior to flowing into Blacktail Creek to protect water quality and aquatic life. CTEC and Atlantic Richfield will host a public field trip to see this site in June. Atlantic Richfield provided these recent construction photos.



Setting rock block on the north side of the arch culvert. Looking south



Setting rock block on the south side of Forebay.



Wing walls at the outlet structure. Looking south.

This April, Atlantic Richfield begins constructing a boardwalk at the Lexington Wetlands across Lexington Ave from Grove Gulch as part of a public park being constructed there.

Design Drawing of the Lexington Wetlands Boardwalk



Publicly Observable Superfund Remedy Design Meetings

May 13 (Tuesday), 9:00-10:00 AM: Residential Metals Abatement Program (RMAP) Progress Meeting.

May 20 (Tuesday), 9:00-11:00 AM: Atlantic Richfield Remedial Design/Remedial Action Progress Meeting.

Publicly observable meetings can be accessed using EPA's Community Engagement Calendar here:

<https://www.epa.gov/butte/community-engagement-calendar>

Upcoming Remedy Design Schedule

April: Diggings East (waste removal and stormwater treatment basin) 95% Design to be released.

May: DEQ's Blacktail Creek Riparian Actions (waste removal and stream restoration) 30% Design to be released.

July: Butte Reduction Works (waste removal, groundwater capture, and stream restoration) 60% Design to be released.

July: Butte Priority Soils Groundwater Remedy Optimization 30% Design to be released.