



February 2023 Superfund Update

Activities this month

Remedy Construction Manager/General Contractor selection

The big news this month on Butte Priority Soils remedy is Atlantic Richfield begins the process of selecting a Construction Manager/General Contractor for all the work that will occur over the next decade on Consent Decree projects. This work includes the future parks that are referred to as “end land use additions” to the Superfund remedy. This will be a significant step in the progress of the remedy, and we will know who will be in charge of managing the enormous amount of construction work that will occur in Butte. Atlantic Richfield will meet with prospective construction management companies and do walk throughs of the project areas during February and plans to select the construction manager in May.

Changes or clarifications to Consent Decree criteria and sampling of metals in backfill and reused soil

There has been ongoing lack of resolution between EPA, State of Montana, and Atlantic Richfield on the sampling and reuse of soil and other materials during project construction. This is an important consideration in project design because the questions involved consider how it will be determined if waste has been removed and whether the materials that the projects are constructed of are safe and protect the remedy. These issues must be resolved before project design is finished and construction can begin. In the last month, the Consent Decree parties (Atlantic Richfield, EPA, DEQ, Butte Silver Bow, and the Montana Department of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP)) met to discuss possible solutions but did not come to resolution on the issues.

Both EPA and NRDP have submitted preliminary proposals for how to resolve this question. CTEC also submitted suggested resolutions to EPA and DEQ. In general, EPA and NRDP’s separate proposals are at least as strict, and more protective of the remedy, than CTEC’s suggestions. Discussions between the Consent Decree parties are continuing. If needed, these issues may be resolved through a “non-material modification” to the Consent Decree, which would be agreed to by all parties. We will continue to provide updates as these issues are resolved.

NRDP has indicated that backfill and reuse sampling should follow similar guidelines to that used at the Parrot Tailings Waste Removal. Shown here is a construction oversight contractor sampling soil to confirm that waste has been removed.



Contaminated groundwater – plans for additional water treatment

Butte's groundwater is widely impacted by historic mining. Groundwater is captured and treated before it is discharged to Silver Bow Creek. The Butte Treatment Lagoons have been effectively treating groundwater for a decade. But in the next decade additional contaminated groundwater will be captured by both new groundwater capture systems installed to meet the Consent Decree and for the excavation dewatering pumping that is needed to construct those projects. Atlantic Richfield contracts water treatment specialists who are modeling whether the Butte Treatment Lagoons can accept this additional contamination, while maintaining water quality standards. Their current estimate is that additional water treatment will be needed to accept all the groundwater that will be produced. CTEC will keep you informed as plans are developed for this important part of Superfund remedy.

The Butte Treatment Lagoons treat contaminated groundwater and discharge clean water to Silver Bow Creek.



Upcoming Activity Schedule

CTEC's Technical Advisor WWC Engineering is currently reviewing the Buffalo Gulch 60% Design Submittal and will comment to EPA and DEQ in the next several week.

February 16th there will be a second technical meeting that includes management and legal teams from the Consent Decree parties to attempt to come to a resolution on reuse and sampling of materials during project construction and other clarifications.

During March Atlantic Richfield will lead public rollout of the mine waste repository siting study, after which the repository location and the hauling route will be decided. This selection is guided in part by the general public through the Repository Siting Study Committee.

Butte Priority Soils project website – www.bpsou.com

Atlantic Richfield in partnership with Butte-Silver Bow have developed the website www.bpsou.com to provide updates on Consent Decree Silver Bow Creek corridor projects, mining waste reclamation areas, and other projects and news. The project areas are described under the "Locations" button. A project calendar shows when construction activities are scheduled.