



April 2024 Superfund Update

Current Activities

Butte Priority Soils Remedial Design

There has been a lot happening in the design process over the last month. Atlantic Richfield released the Grove Gulch 100% Remedial Design in March. It is the product of over four years of design work and review by EPA and other agencies and is the first of the Consent Decree (CD) Silver Bow Creek Conservation Area corridor projects to reach final design. EPA and Atlantic Richfield are meeting on several remaining issues in the near future with the hope of EPA approval of the design, with construction beginning soon after. CTEC has prepared a Grove Gulch 100% Design Summary.

The Diggings East 60% Remedial Design was released this week for this project south of George Street which will include waste removal, stormwater treatment ponds, and a community park among other features.

The Blacktail Creek hydraulic control 30% design, which will be a new contaminated groundwater capture system, is scheduled for July 1st. These groundwater controls will be designed based on a Sitewide Groundwater Model which will be covered in a design meeting on May 1st.

Repository-Berkeley Pit Cost Comparison

Atlantic Richfield issued a cost comparison between the original mine waste disposal described in the Record of Decision (ROD), the Butte Mine Waste Repository to the east of Walkerville, and the current preferred disposal option the Berkeley Pit. Atlantic Richfield anticipates that disposal in the Pit will cost \$24 million versus \$22 million using a traditional capped repository. Pit disposal is more expensive upfront because a slurry system must be constructed to transport the waste from the project excavation areas along Silver Bow and Blacktail Creeks. But the slurry system will save money once underway compared to the trucking transport and heavy equipment operation needed to place waste in a repository. Atlantic Richfield does not consider this to be a significant cost impact relative to the size of the entire set of waste removal projects under the Consent Decree (CD) which is on the order of \$100 million. Atlantic Richfield supports the consideration and use of the Berkeley Pit for waste disposal, which also seems to have public support.

Publicly Observable Superfund Remedy Design Meetings

May 1: Sitewide Groundwater Model

May 21: Monthly Consent Decree Remedy Design Progress Meeting

Publicly observable meetings can be accessed via this link: <https://bpsou.com/events/> or sign up for EPA's Butte Superfund email newsletter by emailing Community Involvement Coordinator Katherine Jenkins at jenkins.katherine@epa.gov.

Upcoming Remedy Design Schedule

The Final Repository Screening Report is done and will be rolled out to the public next week. Atlantic Richfield will present the findings to the Butte Silver Bow Commissioners on May 1st at their regular meeting at the Courthouse Council Chambers.

The Blacktail Creek Hydraulic Control 30% design is expected to be done July 1st.

The Buffalo Gulch 95% design is expected to be done in mid-July.