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Public documents related to the Tenmile Site are available
from EPA's Superfund record center located at
10 West 15th Street, Suite 3200, Helena, Montana.

Take Ten For Tenmile

Caring for the Tenmile
Watershed and its People
October 2008

Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area Site - EPA Signs ROD Amendment

In 2002, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Tenmile Site. It was developed based on environmental investigations and comments from agencies, organizations and the public. The ROD identified actions needed to address risks to public health and the environment in the watershed. It also described planned cleanup actions and the estimated cost of cleanup.

The estimated cleanup cost has changed in the nearly five years since the ROD was signed and the remedial designs were developed. To address this and other issues, EPA issued an amendment to the original ROD this month. The ROD amendment summarizes design options considered for the Rimini community water system and wastewater options, including a comparative analysis of the options.

The ROD amendment addresses:

- Differences in cost between the original ROD and actual costs and/or current engineering estimates.
- The risk-based decision process followed in selecting the Rimini community drinking water system and halting construction of a community wastewater system.
- The documentation of residual yard contamination, information about individual yard cleanups, and requirements for excavating and maintaining remediated properties.

The above items are discussed in more detail on the following pages. The response action selected in the ROD amendment is necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment from actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants from the site.



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A Brief Summary....

2000/2001. EPA conducted a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study that showed high levels of arsenic and/or lead in most yards in Rimini and some in Landmark. Rimini well water is also contaminated. This poses an unacceptable risk to human health.

2002. To reduce risk, EPA removed high-priority mine waste, provided in-home water treatment, evaluated cleanup options, identified a preferred alternative, and received public comment. EPA and Montana DEQ signed ROD that included removal of contaminated soils and mine waste. Because yard cleanup will damage septic systems, a new wastewater system is specified for Rimini.

2003/2004. Cleanup of Landmark yards and Lee Mountain Mine.

2005. Begin construction of Rimini wastewater system.

2006. Cleanup of most contaminated Rimini yards.

2007. Completion of 2006 yard cleanup and revegetation, remediation of Lee Mountain staging area, improvement of Luttrell Repository, temporary capping of Rimini Road, and release of Proposed Plan.

2008. Remediation of additional Landmark properties and issuance of ROD amendment.

Description of the Selected Remedy

The selected remedy presented in the ROD amendment calls for construction of a community water system and halts construction of a community wastewater system. The amendment does not change any other cleanup plans from the 2002 ROD that are not included in the amendment.

Residential yard removal will be completed as outlined in the ROD amendment. Individual septic systems damaged or removed during yard remediation will be repaired or replaced as necessary. A grouped wastewater treatment system may be used to repair or replace several individual systems damaged during this removal if the affected property owners and Lewis and Clark County officials agree on the grouped system design

and any necessary easements. The Rimini Water and Sewer District is pursuing options to independently complete the community wastewater system.

To facilitate the complete removal of residual contaminated soils around existing drainfields in Rimini, and to avoid incurring additional costs to remove wastewater treatment equipment already installed, EPA may leave the existing community facilities in place for District use. If the District is unable to complete the system within a reasonable time frame, then EPA will remove the currently installed equipment consistent with U.S. Forest Service requirements.

Details of the ROD Amendment

A brief description of details related to the three bulleted items in the summary of the ROD Amendment (page 1) is provided below. For a more detailed description, please refer to the ROD amendment itself (available at EPA web address in box on next page).

Cost Differences

The ROD amendment discusses the differences between current cost estimates and those presented in the original ROD. The current estimates are considered more accurate because they are based on actual costs of cleaning up contaminated residential yards and portions of the road and wastewater systems and on more detailed current engineering designs.

Decision Making Process

The ROD amendment details the risk-based decision process that was followed in selecting the Rimini community drinking water system and halting construction of a community wastewater system. The only difference between the 2002 ROD and the selected remedy represented in the ROD amendment involves the community wastewater system. Under the 2002 ROD, a community wastewater system would be constructed as a contingency, if needed. Under EPA's selected remedy, construction of a

community wastewater system will stop, and EPA will replace or repair individual septic systems as required following excavation of contaminated materials from yards.

Documentation of Property Information

The ROD amendment addresses the documentation of contaminant and cleanup information for properties within the site. In addition to the deed notice institutional controls outlined in the 2002 ROD, information on any remaining yard contamination will be made available at EPA's Superfund record center located at 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3200, Helena, Montana. This information will also be provided to DEQ and Lewis and Clark County. Finally, individual property owners will be provided information detailing the specifics of their own yard cleanup.

Protectiveness of Selected Remedy

The selected remedy presented in the ROD amendment summarizes only those portions of the 2002 selected remedy that relate to Rimini contaminated yards, Rimini Road, community water system, and community wastewater system. The full remedy is described in detail in both the 2002 ROD and the Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area 5 Year Review. The selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment through the following:

Contaminated Yard Soils

Most properties in Rimini have already been cleaned up. Most accessible soils in yards at residences and occasional-use recreational cabins in Rimini containing contaminant concentrations above cleanup levels have been excavated and disposed of in the Luttrell repository. Excavated areas have been restored to pre-removal conditions by backfilling with clean soils, reseeding or sodding, and fencing. Shrubs, trees, and other residential yard features have been kept or replaced in consultation with the landowners. Maintenance activities will continue until the new vegetation is established.

Institutional controls will be implemented. These include deed notices and information to current and future property owners regarding any inaccessible wastes that may remain on site with concentrations of contaminants above cleanup action levels.

Contaminated Roadway Materials

Contaminated road materials will be excavated to an average depth of 2 to 3 feet and disposed of in the Luttrell repository. Approximately 5,000

feet of roadway through the community of Rimini will be addressed.

Rimini Water Supply

Build a new community water system for Rimini residents. The source of water for the community system will be surface water. The system will include water storage, treatment and distribution.

Rimini Community Wastewater System

The selected remedy included a contingency (option) for EPA to construct a small community wastewater system to replace individual septic systems removed during the excavation of contaminated yard soils upon formation of the Rimini Water and Sewer District (District). This contingency was not required to meet the CERCLA protectiveness standard and will not be used in the final remedy for Rimini because of the high costs associated with its completion. EPA will replace individual septic systems if damaged at residences during removal of contaminated soils.

Need More Details?

Copies of the ROD amendment are available by contacting EPA (see contacts box on back page). You can also view the ROD amendment online at EPA's website for the Tenmile site.

That web address is:

http://epa.gov/region8/superfund/mt/upper_ten