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Luttrel Repository

EPA continued to transport contaminated soils and wastes from Rimini to the Luttrell Repository. A total of 38,000 cubic yards of waste were disposed in 2006. Most of that material (29,000 cubic yards) was from the 2006 field season, but 2,000 cubic yards was material from the 2005 season that had been temporarily stockpiled. In addition, 7,000 cubic yards were disposed by the U.S. Forest Service from mine sites in the Basin and Upper Blackfoot watersheds.

EPA also treated 750,000 gallons of leachate as part of the normal operations at the repository. General maintenance of the haul roads was performed and included watering and grading.



Next Watershed Meeting
 Feb 22, 2007, 6:30p to 8:30p, L&C
 Public Library

Take Ten For Tenmile

Caring for the Tenmile
 Watershed and its People
 January 2007

**Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area
 Site - Superfund Cleanup Update**

Field work in 2006 focused on removing the human health risks associated with high levels of lead and arsenic in Rimini yards and adjacent properties. Prior to cleanup, testing in Rimini residential areas showed lead levels up to 28,000 ppm and arsenic levels up to 21,000 ppm. Exposure of young children and pregnant women to lead may cause developmental and neurological problems. Exposure to arsenic can cause cancer.

The cleanup plan for the community of Rimini is described in EPA's Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD calls for reducing these human health risks by removing the contaminated soil, backfilling with clean soil, and replanting the grass and other vegetation (trees, shrubs, etc.). Despite weather challenges, EPA was able to finish nearly all the properties identified for cleanup (page 3).

The Tenmile ROD also provides for installation of community water and wastewater systems for Rimini. EPA began installation of the community wastewater system in 2005. Remaining work includes installation of the service

connections from individual homes, the main sewer line and manholes in Rimini Road, and the remainder of the treatment system (treatment unit and drain field) (page 2).

EPA continues to evaluate options for how to best provide a safe water supply for the community. The Rimini Water and Sewer District has asked EPA to investigate groundwater sources upgradient of Rimini, which could minimize long-term pumping and treatment costs. This spring, EPA will be drilling new test wells in the alluvial aquifer near Ruby Creek.

A decision about the outstanding wastewater and water issues will be made as part of the process of amending the Tenmile Record of Decision. The Tenmile ROD Amendment will be completed after consideration of public comments on the proposed changes to the ROD (page 2).

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A Brief Summary....

2000/2001. EPA conducts a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study that shows 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 removes high-priority mine waste, provides in-home water treatment, evaluates cleanup options, identifies a preferred alternative, and receives public comment. EPA and Montana DEQ sign a ROD that includes removal of contaminated soils and mine wastes. Because yard cleanup will damage existing septic systems, a new wastewater system is specified for Rimini.

2003/2004. EPA conducts cleanup of Landmark yards and the Lee Mountain Mine.

2005. Construction of the Rimini wastewater system begins.

2006. EPA conducts cleanup of most contaminated Rimini yards.



Wastewater Treatment System

EPA finished much of the wastewater system in 2006. Construction of the system began at the end of the 2005 construction season with the installation of the 48,000-gallon septic tank and 1,200 feet of 8-inch sewer main north of Rimini.

The 2006 work included installation of:

- Lift station and valve vault
- Tenmile Creek crossing (with carrier pipes, force main, and electrical conduits)
- 1,300 feet of 4-inch force main from septic tank to the treatment area
- 20,000 gallon recirculation tank at treatment area
- 2 small control buildings
- Access road and bridge

ROD Amendment

In 2002, EPA and DEQ issued the ROD for the 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. EPA is preparing analyses of the cost increases. Using this more detailed cost analysis, EPA will evaluate completion of the community wastewater system and lay out options for a safe, community drinking water supply.

Public input to the ROD Amendment is important. EPA will host a public hearing (with official transcript) to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. EPA will also present the proposed changes at one of the upcoming Upper Tenmile Watershed meetings. The date and location of the public hearing, dates of the 30-day public comment period, and Watershed meeting will be announced as soon as possible.



Rimini Rd Waste Removal

EPA removed about 1,100 cubic yards of mine waste from a 1,000 linear-foot stretch of Rimini Road north of town. This material was disposed in the Luttrell Repository. The excavated areas were backfilled with common fill, and the road was resurfaced with a gravel sub-base and surface material.

Removal of the remaining Rimini Road waste will be scheduled once a decision has been made about completion of the wastewater system. That should happen this spring as part of the upcoming ROD amendment.

Rimini Residential Yard Remediation

A total of 44 properties were remediated during the 2006 construction season. These included 8 properties that were not in initial design, but were properties where residents requested remediation after construction started.

Working in difficult conditions (tight clearances, rocky substrates, and inclement weather), EPA contractors removed about 29,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils and transported them to the Luttrell Repository for disposal. Those contaminated materials were replaced with clean select fill material and growth media/topsoil.

After the excavation and backfill were finished, EPA installed 73,000 square feet of sod and seeded an additional 220,000 square feet. More than 850 trees, shrubs, and bushes were planted, before weather conditions shut down operations for the year.

In 2007, EPA plans to complete installation of landscaping materials that was curtailed by the late season weather. This will include laying 28,000 square feet of sod, seeding 175,000 square feet, and planting 87 trees and shrubs. EPA also plans to remediate two properties where the owners have requested cleanup but where access across neighboring properties was denied in 2006.

