



BASIN BULLETIN

A Quarterly Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

In This Issue:

- ~ EPA Begins Five-Year Review of Box and Basin Cleanups
- ~ Basin Yard Cleanup Information now on EPA Web page
- ~ Local Towns get Water Quality Standards Variances
- ~ Lake Management Plan Update
- ~ Communities Celebrate Trail Grand Opening
- ~ What's Happening: Upper Basin Mine and Mill Site Cleanup Designs
- ~ Canyon Creek Water Treatment Reports Done
- ~ Status of Hiring New Basin Commission Executive Director
- ~ NAS Basin Review Committee Comes to Spokane and Coeur d'Alene
- ~ Frequently Asked Questions (See page 5)
- ~ Comings and Goings
- ~ Calendar

EPA Community Involvement Contacts

Andrea Lindsay
1-800-424-4372 x1896
lindsay.andrea@epa.gov

Debra Sherbina
1-800-424-4372 x0247
sherbina.debra@epa.gov

EPA Begins Five-Year Review of Box and Basin Cleanups

EPA HAS STARTED A COMPREHENSIVE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site. EPA is required to review Superfund sites every five years after remedial action begins. The review will make sure the cleanup is moving forward as planned, and that it protects public health and the environment. The review will not change the cleanup approach but may make suggestions for improvements. EPA will evaluate the cleanups at the Bunker Hill "Box" populated areas, the "Box" non-populated areas, and the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

This review will evaluate the effectiveness of completed remedies, and check the progress of remedies under way. Some of the cleanup work EPA will review in the Box and Basin includes residential yards, commercial and community areas, recreational areas like river beaches, repositories that hold mining wastes, industrial areas in the Box, and the Central Treatment Plant.

John Iani Resigns as EPA Region 10 Administrator

John Iani, the Regional Administrator of the EPA Region 10 office, resigned his position in early August after almost three years leading the Agency's work in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Iani will return to the private sector to practice law. EPA Deputy Regional Administrator, Ron Kreizenbeck, a 30-plus year veteran of the Agency, will serve as Acting Regional Administrator and on the Basin Commission until a replacement is appointed.

(continued on page 2)

EPA Reviews Box and Basin Cleanups *(continued)*

EPA will complete the Five-Year Review by September 2005. If you have questions, please call Cami Grandinetti at 206-553-8696, or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372, ext. 8696. To learn more about the site, visit www.epa.gov/r10earth/, click on *Index A-Z*, then *C* for *Coeur d'Alene Basin*.



Mullan yard cleanup in progress.

Basin yard-cleanup information now on EPA Web page

To find out about this summer's cleanups, go to www.epa.gov/r10earth/, click on *Index A-Z*, then *C* for *Coeur d'Alene Basin*, and go to *Latest News*. Learn what happens during a yard cleanup. Get an update on yard-testing progress in the Bunker Hill Box. See some photos of recent cleanup work. You will also find information on Panhandle Health District's blood-lead testing program.

To learn more on yard cleanups, call the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's Kellogg office at 208-783-5781.

Local Towns Get Water Quality Standards Variances: Water Permits Allow Time to Reduce Metals

Smelterville, Mullan, and Page recently received water quality standards variances from EPA. The variances allow their sewage-treatment plants extra time to reduce the amount of metals they release to the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River. EPA also issued updated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater permits to these three communities. The permits, which limit the type and amount of pollutants the treatment plants can release to the river, reflect the variances.

The municipalities requested the variances in 2002. Specifically, Smelterville and Page asked for variances from the water quality standards for cadmium, zinc, and lead. Mullan requested variances for cadmium and zinc. Such high levels of these metals come into the treatment systems through infiltration and inflow that the amount going out violates standards. For details, call Lisa Macchio (EPA) at 206-553-1834 or 1-800-424-4372.

Lake Management Plan Update

At the end of June, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality decided to provide the draft Lake Management Plan for Lake Coeur d'Alene to the counties and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe for their review and discussion. This is an attempt to develop a document that the State, Tribe, and local governments can all support. Discussions are taking place this summer. One consideration is how to develop cooperative funding sources to ensure that the Lake Management Plan is put into action. The final Lake Management Plan is scheduled to be completed in late August. For details, call Don Martin (EPA) at 208-665-0458 or 1-800-424-4372.

Communities Celebrate Trail Grand Opening

On June 5, cyclists, community members, and officials gathered to cut the ribbon to open the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. Local officials spoke to people gathered in Harrison about the four-year, multi-party coordination that made the trail a reality. It stretches 72 miles, linking the Silver Valley, Lower Basin, and Coeur d'Alene Tribal communities in view of the Bitterroot Mountains. Much of the new trail follows the original rail line built in the late 1880s to support growing timber and mining industries. The trail can be used for walking, running, biking, for strollers, wheelchairs and even, in season, snowshoes and cross-country skis. The July issue of *Sunset Magazine* featured an article about the trail.



Crowds Gather at Trail Grand Opening



South Fork of Coeur d'Alene River, looking toward Smeltonville from Pine Creek Trailhead.
Photo: Ed Renkey www.friendsofcdatrails.org

Trail Safety: Follow Posted Trail Rules

The trail is covered by a thick layer of asphalt, and gravel barriers were placed along it to isolate mine contaminants. The section of the trail between Plummer and Harrison has been thoroughly cleaned and is not susceptible to recontamination. However, because the section between Harrison and Mullan is more likely to be flooded, contaminants may be in the soil and around the trail. While EPA has determined that using the trail is safe, trail users must be sure to follow all **trail-use rules** (*see box below*) and posted signs, including directions to **stay on the trail** in rural areas. Following the rules will help people avoid places with mining contamination and private properties next to the trail.

- ◆ Stay on the trail.
- ◆ Wash hands and face before eating.
- ◆ Eat at designated waysides and trailheads.
- ◆ Remove dirt from clothes, toys, pets, shoes, and equipment before leaving the area.
- ◆ Don't let children play near shorelines or off the trail.
- ◆ Carry water for drinking and washing.
- ◆ Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

What's Happening: Upper Basin Mine and Mill Site Cleanup Designs

EPA has contracted with Parametrix to perform cleanup design work at three Upper Basin Mine sites. The sites are the Sisters Mine, Golconda, and the Rex Mine and Mill. Parametrix will fill data gaps at these sites and prepare design documents for the cleanup actions. These sites were prioritized through the Upper Basin Project Focus Team and were approved by the Basin Commission as part of the one-year and five-year plans. Three issues determined their high priority: the possibility that people could be exposed to contaminants through recreational activities; the site complexity; and contamination levels. Sampling will begin after EPA receives access agreements from the property owners. EPA will get input from the Upper Basin Project Focus Team on the designs. For details, call Bill Adams (EPA) at 206-553-2806 or 1-800-424-4372.

~ ~ ~

Canyon Creek Water-Treatment Reports Done

EPA, through a contract with URS, has finished two reports related to work in Canyon Creek. The first is a study of the hydrogeology in lower Canyon Creek. The contractor evaluated all existing groundwater data and wells in lower Canyon Creek, to help us better understand the sources of metals in this area and how they move in groundwater. The draft report was distributed to the Water Treatment Project Focus Team (PFT) for comment.

The second report gives results from the first round of sampling and treatability testing of surface water and groundwater in Canyon Creek. The testing was a series of "jar" tests to study how effectively conventional reagents, such as lime, could remove metal from water. The contractor also used more innovative media, such as micro ballasted sand, to enhance settling. The report will be distributed to the PFT shortly. Another round of sampling is being planned and will be discussed during the next PFT meeting. For details, call Bill Adams (EPA) at 206-553-2806 or 1-800-424-4372.

Status of Hiring New Basin Commission Executive Director

The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) hired a recruiter this spring to identify candidates for its Executive Director position. On July 12, the recruiter provided a list of eight candidates for the job. At the time of this article, the BEIPC is involved in screening these candidates. During an early August conference call, the BEIPC discussed interview procedures that would include input from the Citizens' Coordinating Council and the Technical Leadership Group.

Interviews are currently being scheduled. It is possible that an Executive Director could begin work in October. For details, call Rob Hanson (IDEQ) at 208-373-0290.

~ ~ ~

NAS Basin Review Committee Comes to Spokane and Coeur d'Alene

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Coeur d'Alene Basin Review Committee held a second series of meetings in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene June 16-18. The Committee is reviewing EPA's decision-making for the Basin cleanup plan. It took public comment in Spokane the evening of June 16. The next day in Coeur d'Alene, the Committee heard from invited speakers about the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene Tribes' concerns and various technical topics.

This was the last time the NAS Committee plans to visit the Basin. The committee is expected to issue its report in March 2005. Visit the NAS website for more information: <http://dels.nas.edu/best/projects.html>.

FAQ's — Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What should I do if I miss the Panhandle Health District's Summer 2004 blood-lead tests?

A. Panhandle Health District (PHD) offers blood-lead testing each summer during a two-week period. If you miss this testing opportunity, please call PHD at 208-783-0707.

Q. Why is the Basin blood-lead screening program limited to children under the age of seven?

A. Younger children are more at risk to lead exposure. The Basin blood-lead screening program was originally funded by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and funding was limited to testing children six years old and younger. This age range for blood-lead testing also is consistent with national recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control. The Panhandle Health District (PHD) is not planning to change the age range for Basin blood-lead screening.

Q. Why doesn't the Panhandle Health District offer blood-lead testing to schools?

A. PHD does not provide blood-lead testing in schools for several reasons. PHD finds that school testing is not the best way to address the highest-risk group of children — those six years of age and younger. Testing in schools gives PHD access only to children five years or older. It misses children not yet in the school system: those six months through two or three years old, who are the most sensitive to lead exposure. Testing in schools also raises confidentiality concerns: schools are not designed to separate clients and do not have interview areas and sample collection sites. Class schedules may also be

disrupted by testing. Also, it is more effective to screen for blood lead in the summer, as PHD has done since 1997 in the Coeur d'Alene Basin, so services can be provided at a time of high exposure — when children are playing in dry, dusty conditions.

PHD's 2004 Lead Health Intervention Program for the Coeur d'Alene River Basin outlines a comprehensive plan for lead health education and testing, aimed at the highest-risk groups (pregnant women and children under seven). Each summer, PHD announces its yearly blood-lead screening to Box and Basin residents through public notices, bulk mailings, and ads in the local newspaper and on the Osburn radio station. Children from six months to six years old, throughout the Coeur d'Alene Basin, are eligible. Participants in the Basin each receive \$20 as reimbursement for personal time and expenses.

Brochures

The PHD office at 114 W. Riverside in Kellogg has a wide variety of free brochures about lead. PHD also posts the brochures at local doctors' offices. They cover general information about how lead affects the body; how lead can affect pregnant women and unborn children; and other related topics.

About PHD's Other Outreach Efforts: Lead Health Education Training

Each May, PHD sends public health nurses out to Box and Basin schools. The nurses' services are offered to public schools, Headstart, and the Christian Academy. The program teaches children from kindergarten through the third grade about lead: how it can affect them, and how to avoid it. The children learn through entertaining and informative puppet shows, an interactive doll house, and other age-appropriate presentations. Children also take brochures home to their families.

Comings and Goings

IDEQ: Please welcome **Robbin Simmons**, the new outreach coordinator for the State of Idaho, who began her job on June 28. Robbin's background includes public relations, environmental education, water quality, and public health work. She looks forward to working with the community, officials, and agencies to address the many aspects of Basin cleanup projects. Contact her at the Kellogg project office: 208-783-5781, or e-mail: rsimmon@deq.state.id.us

EPA: Congratulations to **Sheila Eckman** and **Cami Grandinetti** on their new supervisory positions within EPA Region 10. Sheila will manage Cleanup Unit #3, and Cami will be the manager of staff working on the Bunker Hill cleanups. Sheila has been invaluable as the Coeur d'Alene Basin Team Leader, and Cami's historical knowledge has been critical. Sheila and Cami — you will be missed!

Calendar of Events

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, August 31, 2004. (Location TBA)
Contact: Mark Stromberg, 208-783-5781

Basin Commission Board
Kellogg Health and Welfare Building
See the Basin Commission's website for meeting information: www.basincommission.com

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)
Chairman: John Snider, 208-664-9773
Visit the CCC website for meeting information:
www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp

Other Citizen Group Meetings

Coeur d'Alene Basin Citizens Advisory Committee (CBCAC)
Contact: John Snider, 208-664-9773

Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition (SNRC)
August 24, 2004
Contact: Robin Stanley, 208-744-1118
Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Brooks Hotel 500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID

Silver Valley People's Action Coalition (SVPAC)
Contact: Barbara Miller, 208-784-8891
P.O. Box 362, Kellogg, ID 83837

Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC), September 13, 2004
Board of Directors Meeting
Contact: Lloyd Brewer, 509-625-6968
Board meets second Monday of each month from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Spokane City Water Department Conference Room, 914 E. North Foothills Drive, Spokane

The 2003 Annual Report for the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission is now available.

To read it, visit the Basin Commission website:
www.basincommission.com.

Information Repositories

North Idaho College Library
1000 Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-769-3355

Wallace Public Library
415 River Street
Wallace, ID 83873
208-752-4571

Harrison City Hall
100 Frederick Street
P.O. Box 73
Harrison, ID 83833
208-689-3212

Spokane Public Library
906 West Main Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201
509-444-5336

EPA Field Office
1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-664-4588

EPA Seattle Office
Superfund Record Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494 or 1-800-424-4372

Basin Commission Contacts

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission – Sherry Krulitz, Chairperson

Allred, Steve; IDEQ Director	Phone: 208-373-0240	FAX: 208-373-0417 sallred@deq.state.id.us
Buell, Jack; Benewah County Commissioner	Phone: 208-245-3274	FAX: 208-245-4364 ksather@benewahcounty.org
Kreizenbeck, Ron; EPA Acting Reg. 10 Administrator	Phone: 206-553-1234	FAX: 206-553-1809 kreizenbeck.ron@epa.gov
Krulitz, Sherry; Shoshone County Commissioner	Phone: 208-752-3331	FAX: 208-753-2711 commsec@co.shoshone.id.us
Matheson, Chuck; Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council	Phone: 208-686-5403	FAX: 208-686-6610 camatheson@cdatribe-nsn.gov
McCurdy, James; State of Washington	Phone: 509-328-4220	FAX: 509-456-0136 jmccurdy@lawschool.gonzaga.edu
Panabaker, Dick; Kootenai Cnty. Commissioner	Phone: 208-769-4450	FAX: 208-667-8534 kcbocc@kcgov.us

Technical Leadership Group (TLG) – Phillip Cerner, Chairperson (*Core BEIPC Staff)

Adams, Bill; EPA Region 10	Phone: 206-553-2806	FAX: 206-553-0124 adams.bill@epa.gov
Addy, Mark; NRCS	Phone: 208-762-4939 x106	FAX: 208-762-9859 mark.addy@usda.gov
Audet, Dan; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Phone: 509-893-8001	FAX: 509-891-6748 dan_audet@fws.gov
Brewer, Lloyd; City of Spokane	Phone: 509-625-6968	FAX: 509-625-6537 lbrewer@spokanecity.org
*Cerner, Phil; Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Phone: 208-660-8144	FAX: 208-686-5222 philc@cdatribe-nsn.gov
Connolly, Randy; Spokane Tribe	Phone: 509-258-7709 x13	FAX: 509-258-9600 connolly@spokanetribe.com
Dailey, Anne; EPA Region 10	Phone: 206-553-2110	FAX: 206-553-0124 dailey.anne@epa.gov
Dierich, Ginny; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Phone: 206-764-3265	FAX: 206-764-3706 elizabeth.v.dierich@usace.army.mil
Eckman, Sheila; EPA Region 10	Phone: 206-553-0455	FAX: 206-553-0124 eckman.Sheila@epa.gov
Fink, Rich; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Phone: 208-762-5915 x222	FAX: 208-762-5905 richard.e.fink@usace.army.mil
Fortier, David; Bureau of Land Management	Phone: 208-769-5022	FAX: 208-769-5050 david_fortier@blm.gov
Fredrickson, Sid; City of Coeur d'Alene	Phone: 208-769-2367	FAX: 208-769-2366 sidf@cdaid.org
Frutchey, Frank; Benewah County	Phone: 208-682-2077	FAX: 208-682-2077
Gunderman, Jack; Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Phone: 208-686-1118	FAX: 208-686-5222 gunderman@cdatribe-nsn.gov
Hansen, Jim; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Phone: 509-893-8034	FAX: 509-891-6748 jim_hansen@fws.gov
Hanson, Rob; IDEQ	Phone: 208-373-0290	FAX: 208-373-0417 rhanson@deq.state.id.us
Hardy, Rogers; Benewah County	Phone: 208-689-3731	rogershardy@aol.com
Helmich, Bryan; ID Dept. of Fish & Game	Phone: 208-769-1414	FAX: 208-769-1418 bhelmich@idfg.state.id.us
Johnson, Jeff; U.S. Forest Service	Phone: 208-765-7442	FAX: 208-765-7307 jkjohnson@fs.fed.us
Kirschner, Fred; Spokane Tribe	Phone: 509-924-0184	fredk@icehouse.net
LePard, David; ID Dept. of Water Resources	Phone: 208-769-1450	FAX: 208-769-1454 dlepard@idwr.state.id.us
Miller, Stan; Spokane County Utilities Office	Phone: 509 477-7259	FAX: 509 477-4715 smiller@spokanecounty.org
*Moreen, Ed; EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin Rep.	Phone: 208-664-4588	FAX: 208-664-5829 moreen.ed@epa.gov
Mullen, Tom; MFG Environmental	Phone: 208-667-2948	FAX: 208-667-1739 tom.mullen@mfgenv.com
*Roland, John; WA Dept. of Ecology	Phone: 509-329-3581	FAX: 509-456-5056 jrol461@ecy.wa.gov
Rust, Bill; Shoshone County	Phone: 208-556-8020	wcrust@imbris.com
Schlepp, Mike; K-S Soil & Water Cons. District	Phone: 208-689-3593	farmermike@nidlink.com
Sheppard, Clyde; Kootenai County	Phone: 208-773-9116	FAX: 208-773-0162 chsheppard@imbris.com
Snider, John; Kootenai County	Phone: 208-664-9773	jasduke5@imbris.com
Stevens, Rebecca; K-S Soil & Water Cons. District	Phone: 208-762-4939	FAX: 208-762-9859 ksswcd@icehouse.net
Stevenson, Mike; Bureau of Land Management	Phone: 208-769-5024	FAX: 208-769-5050 mike_stevenson@blm.gov
*Stromberg, Mark; IDEQ	Phone: 208-783-5781	FAX: 208-783-4561 mstrombe@deq.state.id.us
Suhr, Dave; Shoshone County	Phone: 208-556-4471	dmsuhr@imbris.com
Tesororo, Ray; U.S. Forest Service	Phone: 406-329-3523	FAX: 406-329-3198 rtesoro@fs.fed.us
Washburn, Carl; ID Department of Lands	Phone: 208-666-8606	FAX: 208-769-1597 cwashburn@dol.state.id.us
Werner, Terry; City of Post Falls	Phone: 208-777-9857	FAX: 208-773-0549 twerner@postfallsidaho.org
Woods, Paul; U.S. Geological Survey	Phone: 208-387-1353	FAX: 208-387-1372 ptwoods@USGS.gov
Zilka, Nick; IDEQ	Phone: 208-783-5781	FAX: 208-783-4561 nzilka@nidlink.com

TLG Project Focus Team (PFT) Leads

Basin-wide Monitoring – Anne Dailey	Phone: 206-553-2110	FAX: 206-553-0124 dailey.anne@epa.gov
Biostabilization – Bill Adams	Phone: 206-553-2806	FAX: 206-553-0124 adams.bill@epa.gov
Biostabilization – Anne Dailey	Phone: 206-553-2110	FAX: 206-553-0124 dailey.anne@epa.gov
Human Health/Recreation – Anne Dailey	Phone: 206-553-2110	FAX: 206-553-0124 dailey.anne@epa.gov
Human Health/Residential – Rob Hanson	Phone: 208-373-0290	FAX: 208-373-0417 rhanson@deq.state.id.us
Lake Monitoring – Phillip Cerner	Phone: 208-660-8144	FAX: 208-686-5222 philc@cdatribe-nsn.gov
Streambank Stabilization – John Roland	Phone: 509-625-5182	FAX: 509-456-6175 jrol461@ecy.wa.gov
Streambank Stabilization – Nick Zilka	Phone: 208-783-5780	FAX: 208-783-4561 nzilka@nidlink.com
Upper Basin Source Areas – Bill Adams	Phone: 206-553-2806	FAX: 206-553-0124 adams.bill@epa.gov
Water Treatment/Canyon Creek – Bill Adams	Phone: 206-553-2806	FAX: 206-553-0124 adams.bill@epa.gov
Water Treatment/Mullan I/I – Mark Stromberg	Phone: 208-783-5781	FAX: 208-783-4561 mstrombe@deq.state.id.us

CCC Project Focus Team Volunteer Leads

Human Health/Recreation – Kathy Zanetti	Phone: 208-752-7612	hkzanetti@usamedia.tv
Human Health/Residential – Kathy Zanetti	Phone: 208-752-7612	hkzanetti@usamedia.tv
Lake Monitoring – Kristy Reed Johnson	Phone: 208/777-1588	FAX: 208/777-1615 kristyr@earthlink.net
Streambank Stabilization –		
Water Treatment – Richard Costa		



United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Community Involvement and Outreach
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECO-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

Pre-Sorted Standard
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35
Seattle, WA

Basin Bulletin
Quarterly Newsletter
Coeur d'Alene Basin, Idaho
Summer 2004

Websites

EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin
[http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/
CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda](http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda)

Basin Environmental Improvement Project
Commission
[http:// www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

Technical Leadership Group (TLG)
www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)
<http://www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp>

Submissions: To make a submission to Basin Bulletin, please contact Andrea Lindsay or Debra Sherbina (*see contact info on the front page*).

Subscriptions: The *Basin Bulletin* can be e-mailed to you as a pdf. For additions or corrections to the mailing list, contact Andrea Lindsay or Debra Sherbina at:

U.S. EPA, ECO-081
1200 Sixth Avenue,
Seattle, WA 98101-1128

or at their phone and e-mail information on the front page of the *Bulletin*.



Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Debra Sherbina at 800-424-4372. TTY users, call 800-877-8339.