



BASIN BULLETIN

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

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Subscriptions & Submissions

The Basin Bulletin can be sent to your email address as a pdf and/or Microsoft Word file. To request addition or corrections to the mailing list, or to make a submission to the Basin Bulletin, please contact:

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2004 Basin Yard Sampling and Cleanup Getting Started

From now through the fall, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) contractor, Terragraphics, is again testing yards for lead and arsenic in the Silver Valley, Cataldo, and Rose Lake areas. Property owners will be asked for permission before any properties are sampled. Test results will be used to determine if cleanup is needed for each property. If soil contains at least 1,000 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg) lead, or 100 mg/kg arsenic, the soil will be removed and replaced with clean soil. In areas where lead levels measure 700-999 mg/kg in yard and gravel areas, the contractors will put in a barrier, such as sod or other vegetation.

The yard testing and cleanup program is voluntary and is offered at no cost to homeowners. Priority is given to testing and cleanup of "high-risk" homes with young children and expectant mothers. The State of Idaho has hired Randall Contractors to do residential property cleanups, as weather permits.

If you live in Mullan, Wallace, Silverton, Osburn, Cataldo, or in the flood plain areas of the Lower Basin, and if you are interested in having your soil tested, call IDEQ's Kellogg office at 783-5781. If IDEQ finds your property needs cleanup, they will contact you with more information. Any properties in the Lower Basin not identified as high-risk properties likely will be cleaned up during the 2005 construction season.

For more information, call 783-5781.

2004 Basin Yard Sampling and Cleanup Program

Focus: Clean up Upper Basin properties and any high-risk properties identified.

Goal: Clean up 250 - 300 residential properties, including yards, and adjacent commercial properties and rights-of-way.

Lower Basin Recreational Areas Cleanups Taking Place

The **East of Rose Lake Boat Launch** and the **Highway 3/Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes** (Black Rock Trailhead) will be ready for public recreation this summer. The Basin Commission approved the ongoing cleanups at these sites in May 2003. The low-water work is now finished at the East of Rose Lake facility. Planting and paving at both sites will be done by the end of May.

A protective fence will be built around the historic pioneer schoolhouse at East of Rose Lake. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDFG) plans to build an info-kiosk and several picnic tables at the Highway 3/Trail. The cleanups at both sites:

- improve existing recreational areas by making them clean for public use;
- will have low operation and maintenance costs;
- are easily accessed from Highway 3.

The project designs reflect input from the Basin Commission's Technical Leadership Group, the Citizens' Coordinating Council, and local residents who attended a community meeting.

IDFG and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) jointly own the boat launch site. IDFG owns the Black Rock Trailhead site. This work is funded by EPA, with contributions from IDFG and USFS.

Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan (BEMP) To Begin

A Basin-wide environmental monitoring program is set to begin this year. The BEMP is required under the 2002 Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site Operable Unit 3 (BHOU3) Record of Decision for the Coeur d'Alene Basin. EPA has worked with Basin stakeholders, the Basin Commission's Monitoring Project Focus Team, and the Citizens' Coordinating Council to develop the monitoring program.

The BEMP's major goal is to monitor the progress of the cleanup remedy and improvement of ecosystem conditions. Monitoring in the BEMP includes testing surface water, soil and sediment, and biological resources.

The states of Idaho and Washington, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Spokane Tribe, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and EPA concurred that the monitoring plan is appropriate given the limits of available funding. In February 2004, the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission unanimously passed a motion supporting implementation of the BEMP. The monitoring plan has been widely distributed. It is available on both the Basin Commission and EPA web sites. Data collected through the monitoring program will also be available to the public.

Canyon Creek Treatability Study Underway

Canyon Creek contributes more dissolved metals to the South Fork than any other tributary. The goal of EPA's Record of Decision (ROD) is to reduce, by at least 50%, metals loads from the creek into the South Fork. This goal would reduce the zinc loading to the South Fork by about 322 pounds per day. The Canyon Creek cleanup plan in the ROD involves stabilizing mine dumps and stream banks that add sediment and particulate metals to the creek. The plan also involves putting in a water treatment system near the mouth of Canyon Creek. EPA wants to identify a treatment system that would minimize long-term costs and meet the cleanup goals.

The ROD requires a Treatability Study to evaluate treatment technologies and parameters. As a first step, EPA developed a draft workplan for a series of laboratory "jar" tests to evaluate water treatment parameters. This plan was reviewed by the Water Treatment Project Focus Team and revised by EPA based upon the comments received. The first round of surface and groundwater samples from Canyon Creek has been collected and testing has begun. This testing will evaluate the effectiveness of combinations of lime stabilization, iron co-precipitation, polymer flocculation, and high-speed ballasted-microsand separation technologies. At least two more rounds of samples will be collected as part of this effort. Future work will involve a "pilot" project to further evaluate these or other technologies. For details, call Bill Adams (EPA) at 206-553-2806.

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission Update

The last Basin Commission meeting took place March 29 in Wallace, ID. The commission board approved a proposal from IDEQ to hire a recruiting firm in search of an executive director. The executive director will assist the board with implementing the Basin ROD, adopting and implementing the Lake Management Plan, and directing Clean Water Act projects. The commission also approved the first Annual Report for adoption and distribution. The meeting packet including the Annual Report can be found on the Basin Commission website at: <http://basincommission.com>.

Other business included the status of funds appropriated by the Idaho Legislature and updates on Clean Water Act projects that involve riverbank stabilization and Canyon Creek ground water investigation, lake education presentation, comments by the Citizens' Coordination Council chair, and comments from the general public.

NAS Review Committee Hosts Meetings

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Coeur d'Alene Basin Review Committee held meetings in the Silver Valley April 14-16. The Committee is reviewing EPA's decision-making for the Basin cleanup. They toured the Basin, heard from invited speakers on technical topics, and took public comment. Visit the NAS web site for meeting notes and details: <http://dels.nas.edu/best/projects.html>

Office of the Inspector General Reports Now Online

Review of Bunker Hill and Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site Actions - <http://www.epa.gov/oig/>

Review of the Technical Assistance Grant to the Basin Cleanup Coalition - <http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/grants.htm>

Comings and Goings

IDEQ: IDEQ has announced that they have hired **Mark Stromberg**, to fill the vacancy left by Luke Russell, as the Project Manager of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup. **Jana McCurdy** with IDEQ's yard cleanup program has also moved on to other things, but may continue as an independent member of the Citizens' Coordinating Council.

EPA: Mike Goldstein, EPA's contact on the repositories, left the Coeur d'Alene Basin team in April. **Ed Moreen** will be the new EPA contact for repository issues. The team welcomes **Ravi Sanga**, who will be EPA's contact for Washington recreational areas. **Andrea Lindsay** and **Debra Sherbina** also have joined the Basin Team as the new EPA Community Involvement Coordinators, replacing Renee Dagseth who is now working with EPA's water program. Also, the team welcomes back **Cami Grandinetti**, who has returned from maternity leave.

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

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](http://www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp)

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)

[http://
www.basincommission.com/
CCC.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp)

FAQS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q . Are seeps from the Central Impoundment Area (CIA) a major source of pollution?

A . No, seeps from the CIA are not a major source of pollution. In the past, seeps were caused by acid mine drainage and precipitation that flowed through the CIA. EPA stopped storing acid mine drainage on top of the CIA in 1996 after a lined pond was constructed. Also, the CIA was capped with an impermeable barrier in 2000. Both efforts have eliminated the source of seepage. Today, seepage directly from the CIA embankment is gone.

However, the area is “dewatering” and there is still some *underground* seepage from the CIA, from past disposal of acid mine drainage on the CIA and natural groundwater flow. Dewatering will continue over the long-term. Also, groundwater will continue to flow through CIA, picking up contaminants that will be detected in the river.

There is seepage from the embankment on the north side of Interstate-90, next to the CIA. The seeps contribute 37 pounds per day of metals to the South Fork on an annual average. EPA and the State are continuing to look for ways to address large sources of metal load to the river.

Q . How is work in the Basin funded?

A . The two major sources of funding for work in the Basin: EPA’s Superfund budget and Congressional earmark funding for the Basin Commission.

EPA’s Superfund budget is used for all work related to cleanup, as outlined in the 2002 Record of Decision. This includes funding for cleanup of residential areas, and collection of data and designs to support future cleanup actions. In addition, EPA’s Superfund budget supports the involvement of communities and regulatory stakeholders in the cleanup. Much of this funding has been directed to support the Basin Commission, such as funding for a facilitator for the Citizens’ Coordinating Council.

The second funding source is an approximate \$2 million Congressional earmark for the Basin Commission for each of the last three years. These funds come from a Clean Water Act grant. The Basin Commission has identified projects which include local water pollution control and stream bank stabilization demonstrations, Coeur d’Alene Lake monitoring, and groundwater monitoring around Canyon Creek.

Calendar of Events

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (Commission)

Contact: Mark Stromberg, 208-783-5781

Basin Commission Board

May 12, 2004 – 12:00 Noon

Kellogg Health and Welfare Building

Please see the Basin Commission’s website at:

www.basincommission.com

Citizens’ Coordinating Council (CCC)

Stay tuned to 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)

May 11 & 25, 2004

Contact: Robin Stanley, 208-744-1118

Group meets second and fourth Tuesday 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
PO Box 362, Kellogg, ID 83837

Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Contact: Lloyd Brewer, 509-625-6968

Board of Directors Meeting

May 24, 2004

Board meets 2nd Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Spokane County Water Works Bldg. – 914 E. North Foothills Drive, Spokane

General Membership Meeting

Date, Time and Place To Be Announced

Basin Commission Contacts

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (Commission) – Sherry Krulitz, Chairperson

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Basin Bulletin
Quarterly Newsletter
Coeur d'Alene Basin, Idaho