

2013 Accomplishments Report

EPA Community Involvement Activities

EPA Region 10 continued working with the local community throughout 2013. The agency's outreach activities are designed to give people meaningful opportunities to be involved in agency decision-making, to ensure that the public is fully informed about site activities, and to collaborate with the many partners in the cleanup.

Highlights of EPA community involvement site activities during the year include:

- In 2013, EPA invited local people to help identify **pilot projects in the Lower Basin**. We held public workshops in partnership with the CCC and TLG, prepared a fact sheet, did wide publicity, and offered online proposal forms. Nearly 100 people attended the workshops, and we received 46 proposals. In July, we announced selection of two types of projects. Proposal summaries and selection information is online at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>.
- EPA launched a second **Superfund Job Training Initiative** (SuperJTI) in 2013. SuperJTI is a job readiness program providing free technical training to citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites. Fourteen people graduated from the program this year.
- EPA is issuing an Annual Update to its **Implementation Plan**, outlining what cleanup work will happen in the Basin over the next ten years. An informal public review opportunity kicked off in late fall. As part of its outreach effort, EPA is doing notifications, posting on Facebook, providing local briefings, and distributing the document. Public input helps shape the plan.
- Many community members have expressed appreciation for a new brochure called "**Healthy Living in the Silver Valley and Coeur d'Alene Basin**." EPA led a multi-agency collaborative effort to produce this document about the cleanup. It covers health information, cleanup highlights, resources, contacts, and more. Select local residents and business owners provided input during its production. Their suggestions helped make this brochure an especially practical and well-received document within the community. Find the brochure at <http://go.usa.gov/24CB>.
- In response to ongoing requests from the community, EPA led development of a brochure addressing questions about EMF Repository. Called "**Water Sampling at East Mission Flats Repository**," the brochure gives details on EMFR's monitoring program, sampling results, and protective features. Find it online at <http://go.usa.gov/bsK4>.
- The CDA Work Trust, EPA, and DEQ are continuing to plan, design, and construct several projects that will help protect completed cleanup work. Project coordinators have been working closely with local jurisdictions and other property owners on these **Remedy Protection Projects**. Local jurisdictions are especially involved with public outreach.

- Also in 2013, EPA invited the public to comment on early designs for the **Lower Burke Canyon Repository**. Local residents attended an Open House hosted by the CCC, and submitted comments during the 30-day review period. To ensure that neighborhood residents had complete information and got direct invitations to the Open House, we conducted door-to-door visits and did direct mailings in Woodland Park. Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/Tvzd>.
- The agency conducted outreach related to the work up at the **East Fork Ninemile Waste Consolidation Area** this year. EPA prepared a fact sheet (<http://go.us.gov/bsZe>), a series of features on Facebook, and other publicity. Community Liaison Rene Gilbert made direct contact with several local people and businesses, including the ATV club, to inform and answer questions.
- EPA led a collaborative, interagency effort to develop two new **waste repository signs**. A sign now stands at the ICP entrance for the East Mission Flats Repository, explaining the benefit of repositories and thanking people for using the ICP. Also, a “coming soon” sign is posted at the site of the Lower Burke Canyon Repository. In 2012, the Citizens Coordinating Council expressed support for development of the signs.
- EPA coordinated with DEQ and PHD on outreach planning related to the **Community Fill Plan**.
- Two activities to help characterize the river took place by boat this year: a geophysical **survey of the river** bottom and river bed coring. EPA coordinated with local authorities and notified citizens.
- EPA and DEQ are partnering with local jurisdictions to address community health and reduce lead exposure through the **Paved Roads Program**. Work is planned and contracted through local road jurisdictions. Outreach takes place to ensure that affected local residents are informed and that nuisances are limited.
- The CDA Work Trust completed two cleanups at **large commercial properties** in the Basin, coordinating with property owners and others. The goal is to protect public health.
- The Coeur d’Alene Basin **Facebook page** continues to provide site updates to the public. Find it at www.facebook.com/CDAbasin. The page offers site news, resource information, and an online community forum. EPA invites your participation, suggestions, and postings.
- Publication of EPA’s **Basin Bulletin** continues (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/bh/bunker+hill+superfund+site+basin+bulletin>). The agency published three editions in 2012, each providing news and updates about the Coeur d’Alene Basin Cleanup Project.

- The agency maintained its commitment to **the Basin Commission process** throughout 2013. EPA provides staff support and regular participation at meetings of the Basin Commission, Citizens Coordinating Council, Technical Leadership Group, and Project Focus Teams. EPA also provides funding support for facilitation of the Citizens Coordinating Council.
- An EPA **website** for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup Project offers the public access to updates, site documents, and background information about the cleanup. Suggestions for improvements are always welcome.
- EPA maintains **document collections** related to the cleanup at several area libraries for public access. This year, in response to a request from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, EPA worked with the Plummer Public Library to also make select site documents available there on disk. Although it is not an official document repository, a large amount of site information is now more easily available to the Tribe and others.
- Project managers **met several times with local officials**, interest groups, and others to provide updates and answer questions in 2013. Additionally, EPA and IDEQ conducted **site tours** for interested parties and provided **presentations** to local schools and interested groups in the area. EPA also supported the interagency exhibit about the cleanup at the North Idaho Fair.
- EPA regularly **worked with the media** in 2013, arranging quarterly press availability sessions, fielding questions from reporters about the site, running newspaper display ads, and issuing press releases on high-interest activities.
- EPA's **Community Liaison** continued working with the community, serving as a resource for local residents. EPA created this liaison position in response to requests for an on-site representative. The liaison is enhancing local communications, providing people with easier access to the agency, and helping EPA to be responsive to local issues and questions.