



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN News Briefs

July 2000

Issue No. 11

Environmental Protection Agency Highlights

Human Health - Contact: Sean Sheldrake - (206) 553-1220

Ecological Risk Assessment - Contact: Anne Dailey - (206) 553-2110

Feasibility Study - Contact: Mary Jane Nearman - (206) 553-6642

Removals - Contact: Earl Liverman - (208) 664-4858 or (208) 786-5203

Over the past several weeks, both the EPA and TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering have mailed the analytical results of soil and/or drinking water samples collected from residents that participated in a voluntary environmental sampling program conducted Fall 1999 and Spring 2000. Families that participated in the sampling activity can call Earl Liverman (786-5203) with questions regarding the analytical information and/or eligibility for cleanup of residential property. Property owners interested in scheduling a cleanup should contact Earl at their earliest convenience since we are well into the construction season.

The removal of rail and ties on the Union Pacific Railroad project has begun, primarily in areas between Mullan and Wallace.

The draft Ecological Risk Assessment is on schedule to be available for distribution on August 31, 2000. It will then be available for review until October 6, 2000.

Documents/Information recently added to the information repositories:

"Draft Human Health Risk Assessment for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Extending from Harrison to Mullan on the Coeur d'Alene River and Tributaries RI/FS" (July, 2000)

Other Agency/Entity Contacts and Highlights

Bureau of Land Management - Contact: David Fortier - (208)769-5022

Coeur d'Alene Tribe - Contact: Phillip Cerner - (208)667-4119

Panhandle Health District - Contact: Jerry Cobb - (208) 783-0707

Voluntary blood lead screening is now available for children, who live in the Basin, from 6 months to 9 years old. Each child is eligible to receive twenty dollars if the parents wish to have them tested. The sampling will occur at two fixed locations: Canyon Elementary School on August 2nd, 3rd and 4th; and Silver Hills Middle School August 7th through August 11th. The hours for all days are 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Private Land Owners/Managers - Submitted by Frank Frutchey

Projects sponsored by the Mine Owners Association in the lower Coeur d'Alene Basin so far this year.

Approximately one-half mile of sandy dredge material on a steep bank along the north side of I-90 near the Old Mission was treated with soil amendments by air, hydro-seeded and mulched with a special grass straw pellet formulated for that purpose.

Five acres of flat, arid, sandy dredgings treated by cattle being fed on it to apply adequate organic matter (winter 1999-2000), plus will be treated with appropriate soil amendments, tilled and seeded in the Fall of 2000.

Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustees - Contact: Marti Calabretta - (208) 786-2471

State of Idaho - Contact: Rob Hanson (208) 373-0290 or Kathy Johnson (208) 783-5781

The State of Idaho released the draft Human Health Risk Assessment for public comment on Monday, July 17. The Summary and Conclusions of this technical document can be found on the Waste Management and Remediation page of the DEQ Web Site - <http://www2.state.id.us/deq/waste/waste1.htm>. Once on this page go to Hazardous Waste and click on "DEQ Seeks Comment on Draft Human Health Risk Assessment for Coeur d'Alene River Basin."

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has submitted the State's preliminary remedial alternative to the EPA to be incorporated in the Feasibility Study. DEQ will release a draft State Plan containing the alternative in August. A schedule for presenting the plan to community groups and stakeholders will be developed.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is initiating a process that will provide the opportunity for the greater community and stakeholders of the Coeur d'Alene River Basin to develop a consensus plan. The process will be lead by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality with involvement and support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The greater Basin community and stakeholders include residents and property owners, Tribal and local governments, and State and Federal land management agencies. The six alternatives developed for the Feasibility Study will provide the building blocks for the community to develop the consensus plan. The vision for consensus is a comprehensive remedy protective of human health and environmental improvement that the diverse interests represented in the Basin agree is the best plan. Elements of the remediation alternatives that did not find consensus can be identified. The consensus plan will be presented to EPA for consideration as the preferred alternative is developed.

State of Washington Department of Ecology - Contact: John Roland - (509) 625-5182

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Contact: Julie Campbell (509)891-0450

United States Forest Service - Contact: John Specht or Jeff Johnson - (208) 664-2318

United States Geological Survey - Contact: Paul Woods - (208) 387-1353

Calendar of Events

August 8th, 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.

Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition. Brooks Hotel (500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID) Contact Connie Fudge, 208-753-6022 (group meets the second Tuesday of each month)

August 8th, 6 to 7 p.m.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Canyon Elementary School (E. 27405 Scoolhouse Loop, 1.5 miles east of the Rose Lake exit off of I-90). ATSDR will be available to meet individually with community members so that they can provide their health concerns and any other information they might have about contaminants released in the Basin. This information will be used to help ATSDR develop their Public Health Assessment.

August 8th, 7 to 9 p.m.

CAC RI/FS Task Force. Canyon Elementary School (E. 27405 Scoolhouse Loop, 1.5 miles east of the Rose Lake exit off of I-90). Draft Human Health Risk Assessment. Discussion and input on the draft HHRA so that the CAC RI/FS Task Force can also provide recommendations to the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission.

August 9th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission. Associated Logging Contractors Building, Highway 95. Primary topics will be the projects application to BLM, and a workshop on the draft Human Health Risk Assessment. This will include a working lunch for CRBC members and staff.

August 10th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Washington CAC. Spokane Public Health Center Building (1101 West College Ave, Room 140, Spokane). Final Comments on the Spokane River Screening Assessment.

September 6th, 7 to 9 p.m.

CAC RI/FS Task Force. Kootenai County Administrative Building, Rooms 1A and 1B (451 Government Way, Coeur d'Alene). First discussion on the draft Ecological Risk Assessment.

NOTE: The regularly scheduled meeting for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Project Citizen Advisory Committee for August will not be held.