



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN News Briefs

January 31, 2000

Issue No. 5

Environmental Protection Agency Highlights

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

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

Removals - Contact: Earl Liverman - (208)664-4858

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

- The public comment period for the consent decree for the Union Pacific Railroad “rails-to-trails” project runs through February 19, 2000. Comments on the consent decree should be postmarked and sent by February 19, 2000 to: U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment & Natural Resources Division, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, D.C. 20044.
- Three workshops have been scheduled to share information, and receive input, on the three major components of the Coeur d’Alene Basin Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). These workshops were arranged at the request of the Citizen Advisory Committee’s RI/FS Task Force. Members from the Washington Citizen Advisory Committee as well as interested members of the general public are also encouraged to attend. The workshop schedules are listed at the end of this News Brief in the Calendar of Events.
- The weekly technical coordination teleconference calls for the RI/FS and the bi-weekly Ecological Risk Assessment calls are open to interested people. Please contact Dick Martindale (208-664-4588) or Marianne Deppman (206-553-1237) if you would like to participate.
- Again this year, the EPA is offering free residential lead testing to people living in the following areas: west of Pinehurst in the flood plain of the Coeur d’Alene River, including residents of Harrison and Cataldo; east of Elizabeth Park including residents of Osburn, Wallace, Silvertown and Mullan; and people who live near historic mining operations along the tributaries of the South Fork. For residents who volunteer, EPA will test for lead in yard soils and in drinking water at homes where the water comes from a private well.

To be eligible for sampling, homes must meet one of the following criteria:

- A child seven years old or younger lives in the home full time
- A pregnant woman lives in the home
- The drinking water source for the residence is a private well
- The home is a licensed day-care facility

To sign-up for this sampling program, please call our new toll free number: 1-877-284-0399, and follow the instructions. Please call before February 29th.

Documents recently added to the information repositories:

Sample Locations and Analytical Data Results for Lead, Cadmium, and Zinc (dated January 5, 2000)

Sample Location Maps (dated January 5, 2000)

Coeur d'Alene Basin Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Resource Manual (not dated)

Union Pacific Railroad Consent Decree

Other Agency/Entity 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

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

High priority dissolved zinc source, the Success Mine and Mill Site in east Fork Nine Mile above Wallace, is the highest priority site above the Bunker Hill Site, contributing 44% and 36% of the metal load at low and high discharge to Nine Mile drainage.

Planning for characterization of the site, remedial options, the EECA and Action Memo for the project began in earnest in October. The group includes representatives of the EPA, Idaho DEQ, Fish and Game, and the Department of Water Resources. Federal agencies of USGS and BLM and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. As with past SVNRT "Cooperative Actions", all stakeholders and the public are invited to come and learn about the site and contribute to the decision about the alternative we put in the work plan.

The "Success" is a historic site first operated as the Granite Mine in 1885. The Success Mine upgraded the mill in 1906. Production was sporadic until the final shutdown in 1956. Various alternatives to accomplish a reduced zinc load have been suggested including treatment of the groundwater and isolation of the tailings by constructing an on-site repository. Next meeting is February 9th at 9:30 a.m. at the SVNRT office at 114 W. Riverside, Kellogg, Idaho.

State of Idaho - DEQ is expecting to receive funding from EPA by the end of January. The money will be used by DEQ to work towards developing a remediation plan that can lead to overall settlement of the Basin cleanup issues. DEQ along with the Division of Health and the State contractor, TerraGraphics, will host a Human Health workshop at the Silver Hills Middle School in Osburn on Thursday February 3 at 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The workshop is being held for the CAC and other interested persons. Contact: Rob Hanson - (208) 373-0290

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

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Contact: Dan Audet or Julie Campbell - (509)891-6839

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

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

University of Idaho - Contact: Barbara Williams - (208)885-9436

Calendar of Events

February 2nd, 7 to 9 p.m.

Idaho CAC. Rose Lake Historical Society Building, Rose Lake, Idaho

February 3rd, 7 to 9 p.m.

Human Health Risk Assessment Workshop

Silver Hills Middle School (1246 E. Mullan Avenue, Osburn, Idaho)

RSVP by January 31 to Marianne at 1-800-424-4372, extension 1237.

February 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)

February 9th, 5 to 8 p.m.

Ecological Risk Assessment Workshop

Kootenai County Administration Building (rooms 1A and 1B)

451 Government Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID

RSVP by February 2 to Dick Martindale at (208) 664-4588.

February 10th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Washington CAC. Washington Department of Ecology (4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA.) -
contact Michele Nanni (509)838-4912 for details.

February 16th, 5 to 8 p.m.

Feasibility Study Workshop

Kootenai County Administration Building (rooms 1A and 1B)

451 Government Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID

RSVP by February 9 to Dick Martindale at (208) 664-4588.

March 1st, 7 to 9 p.m.

CAC RI/FS Task Force. Rose Lake Historical Society Building, Rose Lake, Idaho