



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN News Briefs

March 31, 2000

Issue No. 7

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

- Potential sites for removal/early cleanup actions this Spring are now being evaluated. As a first step, property owners will be contacted to discuss the data for their property.
- This year's voluntary residential sampling event is nearly complete. Soil was sampled at approximately 60 residences, with a priority placed on homes where young children live. Drinking water was also tested at homes using a private well. Data from this sampling will be used to determine whether early cleanups are needed at these residences. EPA will continue to keep the toll-free number open for people who would like to get on the list for possible sampling next year. The number to call is 1-877-284-0399.
- EPA is continuing to work on getting an "on-line repository" set up. Our goal is to create an area on our Region 10 website where public review documents can be accessed electronically. You will be notified when this website is up and running.
- The Receptor Table, or list of animals and plants being evaluated as part of the Ecological Risk Assessment, has been finalized. If you don't have a copy and would like one, please contact Dick Martindale in Coeur d'Alene at 664-4588.

Documents/Information recently added to the information repositories:

Information has not been added to the repositories this month, however a limited number of Compact Discs are still available from the Coeur d'Alene Field Office: "Sampling Location Maps and Data Reports for Cadmium, Lead, and Zinc"; and the "Electronic Document Reference Library for the Coeur d'Alene Basin RI/FS". If you would like a copy, contact Dick Martindale at (208)664-4588.

The repositories are currently being inventoried to determine which documents need to be replaced, and a more thorough indexing system is being developed.

Other Agency/Entity Highlights

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

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

The Tribe met with EPA and State representative Kathy Johnson to discuss the concept of what would make sense for a clean up plan that could resolve NRDA Trustees injury issues.

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

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 has been working on the State Framework Plan and will be arranging workshops with various community groups in the coming weeks to gather input for the Plan. The Plan includes the State's alternative that will be evaluated in EPA's Feasibility Study, the TMDL implementation plan for non-pont sources and the State's alternative for the source control in the Bunker Hill Superfund Box. The Plan sets goals for human health risk reduction, water quality improvements to meet TMDL allocations, and reduction in ecological exposures.

Settlement negotiations have begun with the mining companies, federal agencies, and State. Significant progress in the negotiations must be shown by April to forestall EPA's initiation of the Superfund listing process for the Basin.

Work on the Human Health Risk Assessment continues and modeling the relationship between lead concentrations in soil and exposure is beginning. The data needed for the Risk Assessment are now available. A draft document describing the site specific lead model assumptions will be available for review in early April. DEQ has been in contact with the CAC and other groups to help determine appropriate next steps to include public input into the lead modeling work. Additional analysis of existing lead based paint data is also being planned.

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

April 5th, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Interagency Group. Idaho Department of Transportation, 600 W. Prairie Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID, Room B126. Topics of Discussion: Wetlands Reserve Program, USGS Water Quality Results for 1999 Water Year, Results of Sediment Model for North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, RI/FS Update.

April 5th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Project Citizens' Advisory Committee. Rose Lake Historical Society Building, Rose Lake, ID. Topics of Discussion: RI/FS Task Force Activities, North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group Information.

April 11th, 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)

April 11th, 6 to 8 p.m.

Union Pacific Railroad Public Meeting. Canyon Elementary School, Approximately 1.5 miles east of the Rose Lake exit off of Interstate 90, on School House Loop Road. Open discussion on the technical and legal aspects of the proposed settlement.

April 13th, 7 to 9 p.m.

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

May 3rd, 7 to 9 p.m.

CAC RI/FS Task Force. Location and agenda to be announced.