



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN News Briefs

April 2000

Issue No. 8

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

- Results were released for soil sampling that was conducted at several schools and day cares, as well as two common use areas in Shoshone and Kootenai Counties, Idaho during the summer of 1999 under Field Sampling Plan Addendum Number 13. Only lead showed concentrations over the Early Action Level (2000 ppm for lead). Based on the results, one property was selected for soil removal, and three others for further investigation.
- Sampling under Field Sampling Plan Addendum Number 16 has been completed. This was a voluntary program. 53 private residential yards were sampled in Wallace, Osburn, Silverton, Mullan, and the Pinehurst area (outside the "Box"). 10 of these residences also had their private water system sampled. An additional 5 residences were sampled only for water. Non residential sites also sampled include the Mullan football field, Mullan City Park, an apartment complex up Canyon Creek, and a trailer park in Silverton. Results from this sampling effort will be summarized once all the data is received and verified.
- The Coeur d'Alene Basin web site is currently under construction. Once the ability to download large technical documents is resolved, the URL will be posted for all interested users.
- Based on recent agreements between the State of Idaho and EPA, the draft Feasibility Study will be completed and available for public comment by the end of 2000. The draft clean-up plan is expected by Spring of 2001. Per this revised time line, a more detailed schedule of specific documents and community involvement options is being developed.

Documents/Information recently added to the information repositories:

The document inventory at all the repositories has been completed. This was e-mailed to all the people on the CAC RI/FS Task Force mailing list that have email addresses. Electronic and/or hard copies are also available from Dick Martindale (208-664-4588) upon request. A process to replace missing documents is being evaluated.

A set of the "Expert and Rebuttal Expert Reports" is available for review at the Coeur d'Alene Field Office, and another set will be available at the North Idaho College Library in a few weeks. Reports available as of November 5, 1999 were put on CD, while reports available after that date are in hard copy.

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

Public Comment Period for the Success Mine/Mill Site Removal Action begins May 1 through May 31, 2000. The EE/CA document for comment is available at the Wallace Public Library. Public notice is also given of a public meeting to be held on May 16, 2000 at 6:30 PM at the Public Safety Building Courtroom in Wallace, Idaho.

The Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustees, the USEPA, Idaho DEQ and the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission and their co-sponsors have been cooperatively planning and considering alternatives to reduce the release of dissolved zinc from the groundwater issuing from the site. A demonstration project with Semi-Passive Groundwater Treatment was chosen to provide immediate reductions in the concentrations of the constituents of concern in water migrating to the East Fork Nine Mile Creek above Wallace, Idaho.

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

The State of Idaho continues on its work to develop a State Framework Plan and complete the Human Health Risk Assessment. The State held two open houses to discuss the methods that will be used for completing the lead portion of the Human Health Risk Assessment. Surveys were handed out at the open houses to get information to better tailor the risk assessment to site specific conditions. Completed surveys are due back May 5, 2000 to Kathy Johnson at the DEQ Kellogg Office. The same information presented at the open houses will also be presented at the May 3 CAC RI/FS Meeting.

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

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

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted limited waterfowl surveys in the lateral lakes area during Spring migration, in order to evaluate waterfowl use, as well as potential waterfowl mortality, occurring in the area. Based on four roadside surveys conducted during the migration period, numbers of tundra swans in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin this year appear to be reduced from recent years, with a maximum number of 455 swans observed during a single survey. As of April 17, approximately 50 swans still remained in the lateral lakes area, with many exhibiting signs of impaired health. The remains of 37 tundra swans and Canada geese were identified during the four days of observations, with 18 of those remains collected for potential evaluation.

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

We have started the final phase of our East Fork Moon Creek Removal Action with project completion expected this summer. This spring, we are initiating an effort to characterize and identify priorities for clean-up out of nearly 80 inventoried abandoned mine sites on USFS lands in the Prichard/Eagle/Beaver Creeks Watershed area.

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

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

Calendar of Events

May 3rd, 4 to 8 p.m.

Union Pacific Railroad "Rails to Trails" Open House. Plummer Community Center, Highway 5 and Sixth Street, Plummer, Idaho

May 3rd, 7 to 9 p.m.

CAC RI/FS Task Force. Rose Lake Historical Society Building. Presentation, review and comment on the State of Idaho's "Summary of Site-Specific Lead Health Data and Proposed Methods for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) for Lead"

May 4th, 4 to 8 p.m.

Union Pacific Railroad "Rails to Trails" Open House. Community Ambulance Building 101 Frederick, Harrison, Idaho

May 8th, 4 to 8 p.m.

Union Pacific Railroad "Rails to Trails" Open House. Rose Lake Historical Society Building Highway 3, Rose Lake, Idaho

May 9th, 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)

May 9th, 4 to 8 p.m.

Union Pacific Railroad "Rails to Trails" Open House. VFW Post 1675, 4th and Mullan Osburn, Idaho

May 10th, 4 to 8 p.m.

Union Pacific Railroad "Rails to Trails" Open House. Wallace Senior Center, 619 Cedar Wallace, Idaho

May 11th, 4 to 8 p.m.

Union Pacific Railroad "Rails to Trails" Open House. Morning Club, 117 Hunter Street, Mullan, Idaho

May 11th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Washington CAC. Washington Department of Ecology (4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA.) - contact Michele Nanni (509)838-4912 for details. Discussion regarding particle size used in the Human Health Risk Assessment.

Calendar of Events (Continued)

May 22nd - May 26th

Lead Remediation Effectiveness Symposium. Coeur d'Alene Inn and Conference Center, West 414 Appleway, Coeur d'Alene, ID. A forum for scientific discussions on the effectiveness of remediation at mining and smelter sites both domestically and internationally. Please call (703)676-7967 for details.

June 7th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Project Citizens' Advisory Committee. Rose Lake Historical Society Building, Rose Lake, ID. North Fork Coeur d'Alene River WAG, Forest Management, and St. Joe River issues will be discussed.