



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN News Briefs

October 2000

Issue No. 14

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

The draft Human Health Alternative Technical Memorandum is now out for review. This document evaluates human health alternatives that will be considered as part of the overall Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study will be released later this year and will address possible alternatives for both ecological and human health risk exposures.

The call in number for next Spring's voluntary sampling program (in the Basin) is still in effect: 1-877-284-0399. To be eligible for sampling, a home must meet one of the following criteria: A child seven years 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, or the home is a licensed day-care facility. Interested parties should call before the end of January 2001.

In addition to the removal performed at Mullan Elementary School (mentioned in the previous News Brief), other removals this season include: soil and gravels from yards and/or driveways at 20 residences, one "end of tap" drinking water treatment system, two home exteriors that were pressure washed, one Day Care, Elk Creek Pond, and one residential Trailer Park

Reminder: The comment period for the draft Ecological Risk Assessment closes November 6, 2000.

Documents/Information recently added to the information repositories:

"Human Health Technical Memorandum, Coeur d'Alene Basin, Idaho: Public Comment Draft" October 2000

"Screening Level Human Health Risk Assessment for Nonresidential Receptors, Revision 2, Spokane River, Washington" September 2000

"Draft (Revision 1) Remedial Investigation Report for the Coeur d'Alene Basin RI/FS" October 31, 2000 [available mid-November]

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

A summary of the year 2000 blood lead data has been released. 168 children from the Basin (outside of the "Box") participated in this survey. Younger children showed the higher percentage of having blood leads over 10 micrograms per deciliter: 16.7% for 1 yr-olds, 15.4% for 2 yr-olds, 11.1% for 3 yr-olds, and 21.4% for 4 and 5 yr-olds. The Basin average was 8.9% for children from 9 months to 9 years old.

Private Land Owners/Managers - Contact Frank Frutchey - (208) 682-2077

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

The Trustees have three things to report:

1) Effectiveness Monitoring of the Interstate Mill site Removal (East Fork Ninemile Creek) This Trustee project has shown 87% reduction in total metals loading during high flow since the project was completed in 1999. Assessing low flow data. This source control project in the headwaters included construction of an on-site repository and was completed at the cost of \$557K.

2) The Trustees on behalf of the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission have applied for a Army Corp permit to continue stabilization along the Coeur d'Alene river above Rose Lake. This year's winter effort is funded by federal dollars (Senator Craig appropriation) and the SVNRT for a total of \$140K. This 750 feet of berm along severely eroding bank is the third year of stabilization from a barge done by the Trustees. Meantime, a winter survey will document any changes to the bank and berm structure from the earlier two years work, following the summer boat wake activity.

3) The construction of the Success Groundwater treatment system moves along with the goal of having the treatment vaults functional by end of season. The Success project of \$1.3M is funded with SVNRT, Federal 319 funds, Federal Appropriation to the Commission and State Appropriation. This pilot involves a grout cut off wall and groundwater collection system and treatment vaults. The Apatite II used as the treatment medium has arrived. The great mystery of the week, as the first section of wall is completed: how effective will the wall be in blocking groundwater infiltration. Stay tuned. Meantime we are learning about drilling practices! We will have another tour of the site November 21st at 10 AM.

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

After several meetings with representations of the Stakeholders, including citizen organizations, Federal and State agencies, and Tribes a workshop was held on October 18 and 19 to discuss building consensus on the plan for environmental remediation in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. Great progress was made during the workshop on framing the issues and beginning the process of finding common ground. Follow-up framing meeting are scheduled for November 8 and December 6 to synthesize the information and focus on key aspects of the issues. A public summit is scheduled for mid January. For further information call Kathy Johnson, Idaho DEQ at 208-783-5781.

The State of Idaho has received comments for the draft Human Health Risk Assessment. The comment period ended October 16. The State has also been working on a proposed risk management strategy for addressing human health concerns in the Basin. The proposed strategy is planned to be available in mid-November.

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

November 1st, 1 to 4 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission. Associated Logging Contractors Building (Highway 95). Review proposed legislation to create a CDA Basin restoration plan implementation authority and trust fund, metals TMDL for North Fork tributaries, blood lead survey results, and Ecological Risk Assessment.

November 1st, 7 to 9 p.m.

CAC RI/FS Task Force. Rose Lake Historical Society Building. Consensus building process update, summary of the year 2000 blood lead data, Human Health Alternatives.

November 9th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Washington CAC. Washington Department of Ecology (4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA)
Spokane River sampling, cleanup alternatives.

November 14th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Project Citizens' Advisory Committee. Rose Lake Historical Society Building. Goal for the North Fork sediment TMDL.

November 14th and 28th, 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 and fourth Tuesday of each month)

December 13th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Interagency Group. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (2750 Kathleen Avenue, Coeur d'Alene) Please contact Jack Gunderman (667-4119) for details.