

## Cleanup Update

# Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #77

April 1, 2009

### For More Information:

Russ Forba, EPA  
457-5042  
[forba.russ@epa.gov](mailto:forba.russ@epa.gov)

Diana Hammer, EPA  
457-5040  
[hammer.diana@epa.gov](mailto:hammer.diana@epa.gov)

Keith Large, MT DEQ  
841-5039  
[klarge@mt.gov](mailto:klarge@mt.gov)

Doug Martin, MT NRDP  
444-0234  
[dougmartin@mt.gov](mailto:dougmartin@mt.gov)

Peter Nielsen, Missoula Co.  
258-4968  
[NielsenP@ho.missoula.mt.us](mailto:NielsenP@ho.missoula.mt.us)

#### Websites:

[http://www.epa.gov/  
region8/superfund/sites/  
mt/milltown](http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltown)

<http://www.cfrtac.org>

### Milltown Reservoir Community Office

(315 Anaconda St., Milltown, MT)

EPA/DEQ are available  
to meet with you.  
Just give us a call to talk and/or  
set up a meeting!

**Status:** The Milltown Project continues to go very well and is on schedule. Project personnel have worked 263,860 hours without time lost to injury.

The spillway coffer dam was breached last Friday, March 27, 2009, one day shy of the year anniversary of the dramatic breach of the Milltown Dam last year (March 28, 2009). Friday's breach lowered the river level about two feet just below the former dam site.



9 am: Pre-breach view of the project area. Oval shows area where coffer dam will be breached.



2 pm: Removing material to begin the breach of the spillway coffer dam and divert the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers into the new channel



Coffer dam is breached! Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers begin to flow into the new channel.



Flow into the new channel increases; By late Friday, about 20% of the river flow was in the new channel (as projected). By Monday, about 70% of the river flow had been diverted into the new river channel at the base of the bluff.

- **As of Sunday, (3/29/09), 2,248,004 (~1,729,234 cubic yards) tons of sediment have been excavated, loaded and hauled off-site** This portion of the project is **77% complete**. Excavation and removal has been delayed in recent days because of the wet weather. May work this weekend to make up for missed work days. Excavation has begun on the northern portion of the rail road loading pad. Removal, loading and hauling of contaminated sediments should be complete in October 2009.
- **EPA-State removal of sediment from upstream Area 4 will resume when the weather and site conditions improve.** To date, approximately 35,000 cubic yards have been removed. The project expects to remove up to 86,000 cubic yards of material in this restoration area, upstream of the remedial project area. If not removed, this material might otherwise scour downstream if this year's high flow exceeds last year's flow.
- **I-90 Bridge bank erosion protection work is complete.** The banks should now be protected against a 500 year flood event. The area will be re-seeded according to the Montana Department of Transportation's requirements.

These updates are intended to provide you with the latest information about remediation, restoration and redevelopment activities at the Milltown Reservoir Superfund Site.

US EPA Montana Office  
10 W. 15th St., Ste. 3200  
Helena, Montana 59626



## Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, April 7**  
**Design Review Team (DRT) Meeting, Site Tour and Briefing.**  
Missoula County (258-4968) and CFRTAC (541-8099) represent the public on the DRT. Please contact these representatives or EPA with project-related questions or concerns.
- **Monday, April 13**  
**Bonner Milltown Community Council meeting** at 7 pm in the Bonner School Library.
- **Saturday, April 18**  
**1st Annual Superfun(d) Run**—a 10k, 5k and 1 mile fun run/walk along the new Milltown and Bonner community trails. For more information, visit: [www.friendsof2rivers.org](http://www.friendsof2rivers.org) or call 546-6026.
- **Bike/Walk Week...**
- **Milltown Redevelopment Working Group** regular bimonthly meeting  
Tuesday, May 26 from 6:30-8:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner. Members of the public are welcome!

### Upcoming work:

- Sediment excavation/hauling/disposal
- Surface and groundwater monitoring
- Continue to implement BMPs in Area 4 to limit downstream transport of sediments.



In the photo at the left, US Geological Survey staff are shown navigating the Blackfoot River as they set up equipment to measure river velocities during spring flows. EPA is funding this work to help estimate the ability of fish to swim upstream (fish passage) on the Blackfoot River during high flows.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

**2009** I-90 Bridge mitigation  
Stage 3 drawdown  
Sediment removal  
Rail hauling sediment

### Restoration

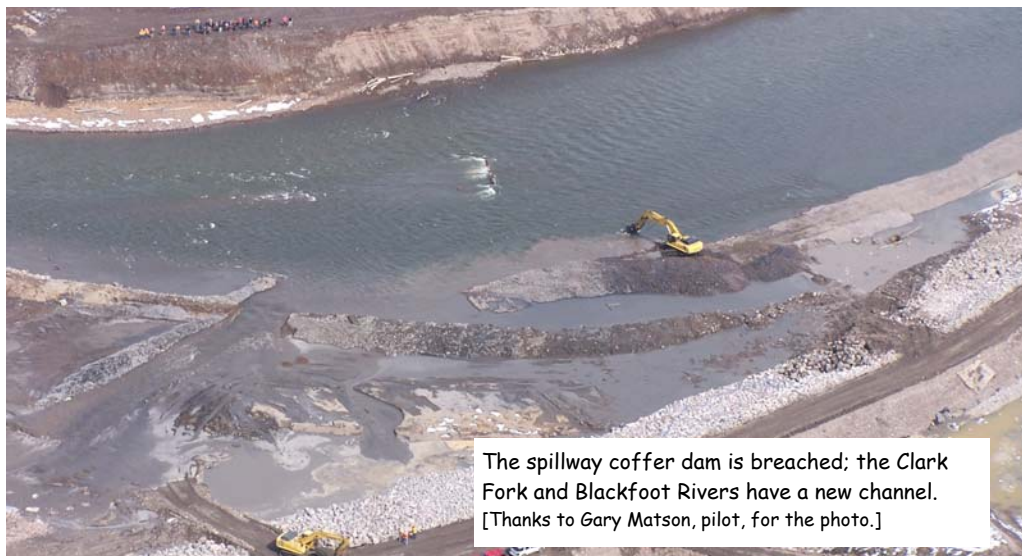
### Redevelopment

**2010** Restoration  
Redevelopment

**2011** Restoration  
Redevelopment



Friday, March 27, 2009  
Getting ready to breach the spillway coffer dam.  
[Thanks to Gary Matson, pilot, for the photo.]



The spillway coffer dam is breached; the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers have a new channel.  
[Thanks to Gary Matson, pilot, for the photo.]

To view on-going activities, please visit: <http://www.clarkfork.org/> and click on the webcam.

