

July 2023



Introduction to the Butte Superfund News

Welcome to the first issue of the Butte Superfund News being developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). We know how difficult it can be to keep track of the many moving pieces related to work happening at the Butte Superfund site. DEQ and EPA have partnered to develop a joint newsletter with the shared goal of providing regular updates in one place.

You are receiving this first newsletter because you are on an existing mailing list for the site. If you are interested in continuing to receive the Butte Superfund News, you can sign up to receive this newsletter by clicking the button below. If you have ideas of specific topics you would like to see addressed in a future newsletter, please reach out to Barnicoat.dana@epa.gov or Kevin.Stone@mt.gov.

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Health Study Update

By Wendy O'Brien, EPA

On June 9, 2023, EPA sent ATSDR a request to perform an Exposure Investigation to assess exposure of community members to arsenic. In addition, EPA is coordinating with EPA's Medical Monitoring workgroup to develop a voluntary program for evaluating urinary arsenic levels of residents within the Superfund site to help understand potential arsenic exposures in the Butte community.

On Site Material Update

By Ben Bielenberg, EPA

EPA will soon release an update on the on-site material use within the corridor projects in the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit. EPA will solicit public input into this decision and will also hold a public meeting to take questions and comments in late August, so please look for an announcement soon. In the next month, EPA will recommend a proposal related to on-site material. None of the on-site material will move until the community has a clear picture of how this material would be addressed and an opportunity to provide feedback on our proposal.

Construction Complete on Montana Pole's South Side

By Moira Davin, DEQ

Construction and seeding are complete on the south side of the Montana Pole & Treating Plant site. Envirocon moved soils into an engineered repository and wrapped up construction in September of 2022. The repository will remain in the state's control and the site will have ongoing operations and maintenance. A portion of the site can be redeveloped.

DEQ is coordinating with EPA and Butte-Silver Bow to complete title research and survey the property to eventually allow for redevelopment. A portion of the property will remain in DEQ's control to ensure the remedy remains in place.



Construction of the engineered repository at the Montana Pole & Treating Plant site.

EPA New Staff Update

By Taylor Gillespie, EPA

EPA has four new staff to support the Silver Bow Butte Creek Area Superfund Site, three project managers and another community involvement coordinator. This additional support will further our commitment to increased community engagement and site clean-up goals.

Matt Dorrington is a new Project Manager in Region 8, stationed in our Helena office, and will focus on the West Side Soils Operable Unit. Matt started with EPA in October 2022 coming from Montana Department of Environmental Quality where he was a Bureau Chief for Federal Superfund and Abandoned Mine Lands programs. Matt has nearly two decades of project management and operations management with an oil and gas major prior. In addition, Matt has earned a Chemical Engineering degree from Montana State University, is an eight-year veteran of the US Navy, and a fifth generation Montanan born and raised in Helena. Matt can be reached at dorrington.matthew@epa.gov, 406-457-5023.

Emma Rott is a new Project Manager in Region 8, stationed in our Helena office, and will focus on the Stream Side Tailings Operable Unit. She was most recently a consultant in both Montana and Colorado where she worked on Superfund sites across the U.S. She received her engineering degree from Montana Tech and is excited to return to Montana's Superfund scene as a new member of the EPA team. Emma lives in Helena, Montana and spends her time exploring the rivers,

mountains, huckleberry patches and bookstores that Montana has to offer. Emma can be reached at rott.emma@epa.gov, 406-438-0823

Jessica Gutting Smith is a new Project Manager in Region 8, stationed in our Helena office, and will focus on the Warm Springs Pond Operable Unit. She most recently worked with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality on State Superfund and Brownfield facilities for 13 years. Jessica has an Environmental Biology degree from Montana State with a minor in Native American Studies. She resides in Helena with her husband and two children. Jessica can be reached at smith.jessica.g@epa.gov, 406-457-5025.

Charles Van-Otten is a new Community Involvement Coordinator, stationed in our Denver office. After retiring from the military, Charles wanted to find an occupation which would allow him to continue to serve and be a part of something greater than himself. Which is why he is excited for this opportunity to be a member of the EPA team working with the Butte community. Charles and his wife live in Denver with their three boys where they enjoy the outdoors, playing and watching sports. Charles can be reached at vanotten.charles@epa.gov, 720-245-1486.

Events Calendar

August 24: Butte Citizens Technical Environmental Committee (CTEC)

7 p.m. Site visit to Northside Tailings and Diggings East.

September 7: Butte Natural Resource Damage Restoration Council (BNRC)

6 p.m. at the Butte Civic Center. The Montana Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) plans to formally release the Parrot Smelter site back to Butte-Silver Bow.

September 21: Butte Citizens Technical Environmental Committee (CTEC)

7 p.m. Site visit to Montana Pole & Treating Plant.

EPA awarded \$150,000 in additional funds to CTEC. Funding will allow CTEC to develop a website and increase technical support for cleanup decisions. [Read the full press release.](#)

Resources

[EPA](#)

[Montana DEQ](#)

[Butte Natural Resources Council](#)

[CTEC](#)

[bpsou.com](#)

[Butte Silver-Bow](#)

[pitwatch.org](#)

[Clark Fork Watershed Education Program \(CFWEP\)](#)