

Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site

November 2015

Fifth Five-Year Review

The 2015 five-year review identified the long-term institutional controls and slag piles as the key issues to be addressed.

A discussion of the issues and planned action items to resolve the issues is provided in this fact sheet.



DEQ
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts a review every five years after cleanup begins at a Superfund site where contaminants remain in place. The type of clean up to be done and the goals that must be met are documented in the record of decision (ROD) for the site. The five-year review evaluates how the remedy is working and assesses whether or not the remedy is protective of human health and the environment. In September 2015, EPA completed the fifth five-year review of clean-up actions at the Anaconda Smelter Site and the report is available to the public at the following information repositories and websites:

- **Arrowhead Foundation.** 118 E. 7th Street, Anaconda, Montana (www.library.anacondasuperfund.com)
- **EPA.** 10 W. 15th Street, Helena, Montana (www2.epa.gov/region8/montana-cleanup-sites)

This fact sheet provides a brief overview and highlights of the review.

Five-Year Review Process

Atlantic Richfield, the *potentially responsible party*, completes annual reports documenting operations, maintenance, and monitoring of key remedial features and structures such as vegetation, storm water conveyance structures, and soil/rock caps placed over mining wastes. For the review, EPA inspectors conduct field inspections to verify the accuracy of the information. EPA also interviews members of the community and local government to see if additional information is available which may call into question the protectiveness of the remedy. For this five-year review, EPA also conducted an in-depth assessment of data concerning terrestrial wildlife to assess ecological risk.

Remedial Action Progress

The review evaluated clean ups at the two areas, or operable units (OUs) that have been completed and at the three OUs that are still in progress:

- **Mill Creek OU.** Clean up is complete.
- **Flue Dust OU.** Clean up is complete.
- **Old Works/East Anaconda Development Area OU.** Cleanup is nearly complete with four parcels in the Industrial Area remaining.
- **Community Soils OU.** To date, 350 yards have been cleaned under the *arsenic* in soils remedial action. Sampling under the *lead* program should begin this fall (see back).
- **Anaconda Regional Water, Waste & Soils OU.** Work has been completed on more than half (58 percent) of the nearly 20,000 acres.

Key Issues Identified by the 2015 Five-Year Review

Based on interviews with the community and EPA's site inspections, the two key issues are:

- **Long-Term Institutional Controls.** Anaconda – Deer Lodge County has been successfully implementing an interim institutional controls program to minimize potential exposure to residual *arsenic* and *lead* at the site for several years. However, negotiations with Atlantic Richfield to complete the final program and secure funding have not been completed. Expectations to re-develop the East Anaconda Area as identified under the 1994 Old Works/East Anaconda Development Area ROD have not been met, and that the Old Works Golf Course has failed to generate anticipated revenue. **Action Item: Complete negotiations between Atlantic Richfield, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, EPA, and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to provide long-term funding of ICs and maintenance of the Old Works remedies, including the Old Works Golf Course.**
- **Slag Piles.** Efforts to develop the slag piles visible from Highway 1 as resources as identified under the Anaconda Regional Water, Waste & Soils 1998 ROD have not occurred as expected. Some development is ongoing by U.S. Minerals under an agreement with Atlantic Richfield, and other parties are evaluating potential development of slag as a commercial product. However, erosion of the slag piles during high wind events is a concern, especially as site cleanup is complete and windblown slag recontaminates previously remediated areas. **Action Item: EPA is requesting that Atlantic Richfield update current plans to develop and ultimately close the slag piles in a reasonable period.**

Residential Yard Sampling to Begin in Fall 2015!

Under the 2013 *Community Soils ROD Amendment*, EPA added a *lead* cleanup level of 400 parts per million (ppm). This requires additional sampling and cleanup based on *lead* concentrations, not just *arsenic*. Atlantic Richfield has screening data for *lead* for over 1,000 residences sampled under the *arsenic* soil remedial action.

Using this *lead* screening data, Atlantic Richfield will prioritize the sampling of two types of yards:

- Where *lead* concentrations exceed 400 ppm **AND** small children reside.
- Where *lead* concentrations exceed 1,000 ppm.

This sampling and any cleanup is expected to be completed by 2021. Other residents in the Superfund "area of concern" will then be able to have their property sampled.

Atlantic Richfield will begin the process of scheduling properties shortly.

**PLEASE LOOK FOR A SAMPLING ACCESS AGREEMENT IN THE MAIL AND
RETURN IT PROMPTLY!!!!**

Need More Information?

Please contact either of the people listed below with any questions:

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- **DEQ: Joel Chavez**, Project Officer, 406-444-6407