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Silver Bow Creek / Butte Area

Butte Treatment Lagoons (Lower Area One)

Bulletin #7 October 6, 2010

Design Report was released in September.

Details on the Upgrades, planned by EPA, DEQ, Butte-Silver Bow & Atlantic Richfield, will be at two locations:

EPA's Butte Office
155 W. Granite
(Courthouse basement)
Mon. - Fri., 9 am - 4 pm

CTEC - Citizens' Technical Environmental Committee
27 West Park Street
Mon. - Thu., 10 am - 3 pm

Design plans were available Sept. 27, 2010.

Butte Treatment Lagoons (BTL) and West Camp Pump Station Upgrades

As part of the overall cleanup in and around Butte, EPA and Atlantic Richfield cleaned up the Butte Reduction Works and Colorado Smelter (known as Lower Area One). A two phase clean-up plan was designed for the area (see map on back).

Phase I (1993 to 1998) involved removing the Colorado Tailings that contained heavy metals and then reconstructing the Silver Bow Creek channel. About 1.2 million cubic yards of tailings (1.2 million pick up loads) were moved and placed on the Clark Tailings, capped with clean material. The Copper Mountain Park was built on the site. Large volumes of clean soil were brought back to replace the Colorado Tailings before the new Silver Bow Creek channel was constructed. The area was re-vegetated with native grasses, shrubs and trees.

Phase II (2001—present) involved the construction of the BTL and a ground water collection system. The groundwater collection system includes the Metro Storm Drain which runs from the corner of Continental Avenue and Texas Avenue to just east of Montana Street. Groundwater is collected from the West Camp Underground System and Lower Area One. BTL treats approximately 1200 gallons/minute of water.

The treatment system is a two part process. Lime is added to the groundwater, causing the heavy metals to drop out of the water. Then the water travels through a series of wetlands to meet State water quality standards.

Starting this fall, EPA and Atlantic Richfield will begin the upgrading of the existing BTL. Please refer to the map for locations of facilities discussed in this bulletin.

The Lime Addition System is located in a building where lime is added to the contaminated groundwater. The existing building will be expanded to house equipment needed to operate an upgraded lime system. A parking lot and security lights will be installed. Once lime is added to the groundwater, it will flow to the lagoon cells, which will be upgraded to ensure the cells continue to function properly for the future.

The Site Operation Building will be constructed and used for office space, sample preparation, maintenance and storage as well as site wide monitoring and system instrumentation. New water and sanitary lines will be installed at the site.

The Automatic Sampling Building, Influent Pump Station, and Effluent station will be constructed at the end of the Butte Treatment Lagoons System. This building will be used for sampling treated water before it enters Silver Bow Creek.

Finally, the West Camp Pump station is located on the north side of Centennial Avenue (see map on back). The pump station will be upgraded with a new building, a paved road to the site, and on-site security.

www.buttectec.org

www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/mt/sbcbutte

Do you Need More Information?

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** Sara Sparks, Remedial Project Manager, 782-7415 or Nikia Greene, Community Involvement Coordinator, 406-457-5019
- **Montana Department of Environmental Quality:** Joe Griffin, Project Officer, 560-6060
- **Butte Silver Bow County Planning Department:** Tom Malloy, 497-6257
- **Butte Silver Bow County Health Department:** Eric Hassler, 497-5042
- **Citizens Technical Environmental Committee:** Janice Hogan, TAG Administrator, 723-6247
- **Atlantic Richfield Company:** Marci Sheehan, 723-1831, Trey Harbert, 723-1816