



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10

Managing Cleanup Waste – Lower Burke Canyon Repository

March 2016

Community Open House

Wednesday, April 27

Drop in any time between
3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

**Wallace Inn, 100 Front Street,
Wallace, ID 83873**

*See displays. Talk informally with
project staff. Share your ideas!*

Tell Us What You Think:

Should EPA Allow More Waste Material to Come to Lower Burke Canyon Repository?

You are invited to a Community Open House. Come and share your ideas about managing cleanup waste in the Burke Canyon/Canyon Creek area. You can also mail your thoughts by May 13 to Bill Adams, EPA, 1200 6th Ave, Suite 900, ECL-122, Seattle, WA 98101 or adams.bill@epa.gov.

Background

The Lower Burke Canyon Repository, or LBCR, is a waste repository. It takes in waste from the CDA Basin Cleanup. It is located on top of old Hecla mine-tailings ponds near Canyon Creek. As part of the settlement with EPA, Hecla agreed to allow this area to be used as a regional repository. Before building the repository, EPA asked for input from local people and held a community meeting in March 2010. At that time, EPA expected that the repository would take in only 'Institutional Control Program' waste and waste from cleanup within the Canyon Creek area. The goal was to save space for waste from large cleanups in Upper Canyon Creek in the years to come. This would help ensure that these wastes wouldn't have to be trucked through other communities to a more distant repository.

The Issue

Contrary to plans, in 2015, waste from outside of Canyon Creek came to Lower Burke Canyon Repository. Some roads waste came to LBCR. That waste was used to build ramps and roads at LBCR. In an effort to spend cleanup resources responsibly, some waste from remedy protection projects in Mullan came to LBCR, too. That's because it costs less to take waste from Mullan to this repository than to the Big Creek Repository. Big Creek is twice the haul distance.

As noted, the EPA originally limited the types of waste slated for LBCR. We now request your input before deciding whether to allow these other types of waste to continue to come to LBCR through 2018. That is when the Remedy Protection projects in Mullan and Wallace and nearby property remediation will be finished.

Last year, we learned that accepting waste from nearby communities reduces the overall cost and helps the cleanup go faster. The cost savings would be used on other cleanup projects in the Basin. At the same time, the EPA also recognizes that this would result in more truck traffic through Woodland Park during this time.

Share your ideas!

*Send ideas by **May 13** to*

Bill Adams:

*EPA, 1200 6th Ave, Suite 900,
ECL-122*

Seattle, WA 98101 or

adams.bill@epa.gov

The EPA wants to spend resources wisely and run an efficient cleanup. The EPA also is committed to being a good neighbor and giving full consideration to the needs and concerns of the local community. We are ready to listen, and we take your input seriously.

*Please tell us what you think:
Should EPA allow more waste material to come to the Lower Burke Canyon Repository?*

Questions and Answers

Why is the EPA now willing to take in other waste, when before, the EPA wanted to conserve space?

There's another old repository site in the Canyon Creek area, created by other cleanup actions not conducted by EPA. It's called the SVNRT repository. It is not being used and is leaking contaminants. We now believe we could reconstruct the repository to stop leakage to surface water. At the same time, we could expand the SVNRT area to allow more room for the larger cleanups in Canyon Creek in the future. If we could use both the SVNRT area and the LBCR repository for waste, we believe we would have more than enough room for all the cleanup waste in Canyon Creek. EPA is still evaluating options and will ask for community input before deciding how to use this area. If this area is not used, the EPA would continue to look for other repository locations further up Canyon Creek to meet the needs of the cleanup in this area. The EPA will have a formal repository siting process in the future. That process would include public comment.

How much extra waste would there be, if approved?

In 2016, waste from outside of the Canyon Creek drainage would likely total about 14,500 cubic yards. That includes about 7,500 cubic yards from remedy protection projects in Mullan. It also includes about 7,000 cubic yards from property cleanups in Mullan and Wallace. Those numbers would be similar in 2017 and 2018. After 2018, only ICP and Canyon Creek-area waste would go to LBCR. Note that the amount of ICP waste will be extra high (10,000 cubic yards) this year, due to the sewer work in Wallace.

How would truck impacts be reduced?

In the future there will be increased truck traffic once cleanup begins in the upper canyon. First, trucks will pass the residential area of Woodland Park to head up Canyon Creek. Then they will travel back and forth from the upper canyon to the north end of the LBCR repository. Note that the north end of the repository is up-canyon from the Woodland Park residential area. So, truck traffic will be kept to a minimum near the residential area.

In the short term, EPA understands there are concerns related to having large trucks drive through the area. There are residences, children playing outside, and other considerations. Also, the trucks can be loud, and they are carrying cleanup waste. Please be assured that truck drivers are required to follow safety practices, including safe speed limits, operation only during daylight hours, covering of loads, decontamination procedures, and dust and noise control as necessary.

Why did EPA build a repository for work that has not yet begun after 2 years?

At the time EPA started the LBCR repository, the agency was reacting to Hecla's plan to activate its Star Complex. As part of the settlement with Hecla, EPA is responsible for cleaning up this area and coordinating efforts with Hecla should they decide to develop this area. Since then, Hecla has chosen to delay that activation and any work at the complex for at least five years. Cleanup work at property remediation projects in the Canyon Creek drainage has already started and this waste comes to LBCR. ICP waste has also been coming to the repository from the surrounding area since it opened in 2014.

For More Information...

CONTACT:

Bill Adams, EPA Project Manager • 206-553-2806 •
1-800-424-4372 • adams.bill@epa.gov

Rene Gilbert, Community Liaison for EPA •
208-659-5237

WEBSITE:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>

FACEBOOK®:



<http://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin>



TDD or TTY users, please call 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator **Andrea Lindsay's** phone number – 206-553-1896



The Lower Burke Canyon Repository takes in cleanup waste.



Trucking practices are designed to limit impacts on residents.



Managing Cleanup Waste – Lower Burke Canyon Repository

Share Your Ideas

- ▶ ***Community Open House Wednesday, April 27.***
- ▶ ***Should EPA Allow More Waste
Material to Come to Lower Burke Canyon.***
- ▶ ***Share Your Ideas by May 13.***

Learn More on the Web

Bunker Hill Mining Superfund Site (Coeur d'Alene Basin)

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin>