

August 2023



## **EPA Community Meeting on Onsite Material Position Paper – August 30, 6-8 PM**

*By Ben Bielenberg, EPA Acting Division Director Superfund and Emergency Management Division*

EPA released a [position paper](#) detailing the proposed use of onsite material as general fill within the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit (BPSOU) at the Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area Superfund Site. EPA will host a public meeting in Butte on **Wednesday, August 30, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Butte Emergency Operations Center, 3619 Wynne Ave.** to present details, answer questions and listen to perspectives on the use of onsite material.

Participants can attend in person or join virtually. EPA will post the meeting link on our [website](#) in advance of the meeting and will also send out an email using the EPA Butte Listserv email distribution list to provide the link. For those who are not on the email distribution list and wish to be added, please email Dana Barnicoat at [Barnicoat.dana@epa.gov](mailto:Barnicoat.dana@epa.gov).

Following the EPA's Onsite Material Presentation on August 30, 2023, the community will have an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback. Members of the community will have up to 3 minutes to ask questions or share perspectives, at which time they will be asked to let the next person speak. In-person attendees will be invited to speak first, and virtual attendees will follow. The public will also have the opportunity to send feedback in writing through September 7<sup>th</sup> by emailing Charles Van-Otten at [VanOtten.Charles@epa.gov](mailto:VanOtten.Charles@epa.gov). Public input from the meeting and submitted by email will all be considered prior to making a final decision on how

best to move forward. Common questions will also be added to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website.

---

## **EPA makes Butte Superfund meetings available for virtual observation through the end of the year, in latest step to enhance transparency [Excerpt from August 23<sup>rd</sup> statement, [linked here](#)]**

*By KC Becker, EPA Regional Administrator, Region 8*

I am announcing that the EPA Butte Superfund team will be making three upcoming meetings --the Butte Priority Soils Remedial Action Materials Management meeting, BPSOU remedial design and remedial action meeting, and the site-wide groundwater modeling meeting-- available for virtual observation. EPA will share details for each of the meetings in this Butte newsletter and on our website ahead of time.

I recognize that this is a critical time in implementing work under the 2020 BPSOU Consent Decree and it is important that the Butte community is included as we design key aspects of the cleanup. However, there are a lot of practical trade-offs and potential challenges that come with opening these meetings up to the public, including a risk of slowing down cleanup actions, which we know is also a priority for the community. There are also concerns about accessibility, frequency and ensuring that there are not misunderstandings resulting from complex and nuanced technical discussions. We are going to use the next four months to determine whether the benefits of opening these meetings for virtual observation are the best way to ensure that we are meeting the overall goals of the cleanup, which include both a timely cleanup and community support.

---

## **Announcing the Addition of a Facilitator for Butte Meetings**

*By Aaron Urdiales, EPA Acting Division Deputy Director Superfund and Emergency Management Division*

To further EPA's commitment to increasing resources in Butte, we have hired a professional facilitator to work on future public meetings, community discussion and technical meetings. Mike Hughes, from Hughes Collaboration, has over twenty years of experience helping communities in consensus building, facilitation,

mediation, training and shared problem solving. Mike will be joining us for the public meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup>, and will be helping guide ongoing public meetings with the Butte Community.

---

## **Free Lead Awareness Session for the Butte Community – September 28**

*By Jennifer Harrison, EPA Acting Regional Lead Policy Coordinator*

EPA, in partnership with the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, is offering a free “Understanding Lead” session September 28 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm **at the Butte Emergency Operations Center, 3619 Wynne Ave.** The seminar will help community members become more familiar with the numerous sources of lead and specific actions they can take to prevent exposure.

### **Who should attend this event?**

The session is intended for parents, daycare providers, educators, medical providers and others who care for or work with children 6 and under, as well as other vulnerable residents such as pregnant or nursing women. The session will include information about lead in soil but is not a Superfund meeting.

### **Receive professional development credit!**

Educators can request professional development credit through the Montana Early Childhood Project. If you wish to request credit, please register with same unique email you use for your Montana Early Childhood Project Log-in.

### **Don't forget to Register!**

You must [register](#) in advance to participate in this free session, and space is limited to 75 participants.

For more information about the session, visit [www.epa.gov/lead/community-lead-awareness-sessions](http://www.epa.gov/lead/community-lead-awareness-sessions).

For answers to questions or to let us know you need special accommodations, please email [CommunityLeadAwareness@erg.com](mailto:CommunityLeadAwareness@erg.com) or call 888-254-0818.

For more information about lead, lead hazards and their prevention, contact the National Lead Information Center (NLIC) at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) or visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

---

## **Butte EPA Website Updates**

*By Chris Wardell, EPA Community Involvement Section Manager*

EPA's recently enhanced [Butte EPA Website](#) is now easier to navigate. We have added to our [Frequently Asked Questions](#), posted the [Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit \(BPSOU\) Principals Meeting Summary](#), and developed an [interactive dashboard](#) on the biokinetic models (UBK, IEUBK) to develop the risk-based Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) EPA uses for specific parameters in final cleanup. You can also view a [static version of the dashboard \(PDF\)](#) (7pp, 401KB).

---

## **DEQ to begin Pre-design Investigation for Blacktail Creek Project**

*By Kevin Stone, DEQ Public Information Specialist*

DEQ is currently addressing data gaps by conducting a pre-design investigation (PDI) for the Blacktail Creek (BTC) project. This will ensure all necessary data is collected prior to moving forward with a remedial design. The PDI is a key step to ensure that a cost-efficient and science driven remedy is developed. The first step in the PDI will be a sonic drilling investigation to further characterize the extent of contamination. DEQ plans to drill in the BTC project area for two weeks, beginning August 28th, 2023. The drilling schedule will be Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm. Depending on sonic drilling results and analysis, additional investigation may be done to fill in any remaining data gaps. DEQ will develop a report on the results of this investigation once the data has been collected and evaluated and will update the public on these results and the next steps for completing the project.



Tailings, wastes, and contaminants found within the Blacktail Creek project area have led to increased risk to human and environmental health. In the 2020 BPSOU CD, DEQ, on behalf of the State of Montana, was assigned responsibility for implementing the Blacktail Creek Riparian Actions and received a settlement of \$20.5 million to complete the remedy. Once the remedy is completed, remaining funds will be transferred to the Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) for restoration activities.

## **September 7th Celebration of the Completion of the Parrot Tailings Waste Removal Project and BNRC Meeting**

At 5:00 pm on September 7, 2023, there will be a ribbon cutting and celebration of the completion of the Parrot Tailings Waste Removal Project (Parrot Project). Following the celebration, a scheduled Butte Natural Resource

Damage Restoration Council meeting will be held in the adjacent Butte Civic Center Annex. All members of the public are invited to attend. For further details please contact Jim Ford, Parrot Project manager (406-439-2108) or Pat Cunneen of the NRDP (406-565-6924)

## Resources

[EPA](#)

[Montana DEQ](#)

[Butte Natural Resources Council](#)

[CTEC](#)

[bpsou.com](#)

[Butte Silver-Bow](#)

[pitwatch.org](#)

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