

September 2023



---

### Onsite Material Comments Received

*By Charles Van Otten, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator*

The EPA received over 90 questions and comments related to the onsite material paper and is working on responses and developing a specific location on the Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area website where all answers will be posted. Additionally, we are going to share more information about the next steps regarding onsite material in the coming weeks. We appreciate the time and effort people put into their feedback and look to have the first batch of answers available the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to Charles Van Otten at [vanotten.charles@epa.gov](mailto:vanotten.charles@epa.gov) for any questions or concerns. Link to video of public meeting held on August 30<sup>th</sup> where the EPA presented details and listened to perspective on the use of onsite materials is available [here](#).

---

### Regional Administrator KC Becker's Op-Ed: "EPA delivering for Montanans with increased funding focused on communities"

**Published in the Helena Independent on September 5<sup>th</sup> (Excerpts below, full op-ed [linked here](#)).**

Over the past two years, the Biden administration and Congress have delivered a once-in-a-generation opportunity to clean up contaminated properties, protect air quality, upgrade water infrastructure, reduce toxic pollution and make meaningful progress on climate change in our communities. To date, the EPA has dedicated more than \$200 million for these types of projects in Montana through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), just a fraction of the total investments that will be made in the years to come.

[...]

Future funding under BIL and IRA will encompass a wide range of activities and benefits, including solar and renewable projects that will deliver jobs and energy diversification; pollution prevention projects that help businesses reduce waste and energy use; air monitoring projects that produce high-resolution, neighborhood data on pollution; and more Superfund cleanup actions that protect communities, restore land and improve water quality. We're also investing in people. EPA is adding more than a dozen new staff to our Helena office to strengthen the programs and partnerships that protect people's health and the environment.

[...]

Today, EPA is devoting more resources than ever to enhance the health, quality of life and long-term resilience of Montana's communities. As we do so, we will remain focused on meaningful engagement. I am a firm believer that progress on our most pressing environmental challenges must be made from the ground-up, starting with the neighborhoods where people live and raise their families. I look forward to working with all partners in Montana so that we may look back at these investments as transformative.

---

**DEQ Conducts Pre-design Investigation Fieldwork for Blacktail Creek Project**  
*By Kevin Stone, DEQ Public Information Specialist*



*DEQ contractors HGL and O'Keefe Drilling performing PDI sampling along Blacktail Creek*  
DEQ has performed fieldwork for the Pre-design Investigation required for the Blacktail Creek project. 43 bore holes with an average depth of 20 feet were taken over an 8 day period. HGL, DEQ's contractor will perform XRF analysis of the bored soil as outlined in the Pre-design Investigation Workplan. DEQ is also working to contract with a local firm for surveying services. Logan Dudding (of Butte) is taking on the role of DEQ Project Manager for the site on an interim basis.

---

**Assistance Available to Form a Community Advisory Group**

*By Chris Wardell Community Involvement Section Supervisor*

EPA provides additional assistance to communities through a variety of technical assistance resources, including Community Advisory Group (CAG) formation support. CAGs can provide a forum for community discussion of site-related issues and are made up of representatives of

diverse community perspectives. The CAG's purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to interface with the EPA and other parties in the cleanup efforts, and to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process.

For more information on these resources, please visit: [www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-technical-assistance-communities](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-technical-assistance-communities).

---

### **Events Calendar**

#### **ATSDR, DPHHS and Butte-Silver Bow County Health Department are Hosting a Public Meeting in Butte on September 26**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), in coordination with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and the Butte-Silver Bow County Health Department, is hosting a public meeting for the Butte Community on September 26th at the Maroon Activity Center (550 E Mercury St) in Butte. Residents can drop in any time between 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm to meet scientists, ask questions, and discuss arsenic exposure and health concerns. The agencies will consolidate all concerns received and then inform the community at a future meeting of possible public health actions in Butte. Community members who cannot attend in person can discuss health concerns and arsenic exposure by contacting Kai Elgethun with ATSDR at [irz6@cdc.gov](mailto:irz6@cdc.gov), or 208-391-8539.

For information on EPA's request to ATSDR to perform an Exposure Investigation for Arsenic, please see [EPA's FAQ here](#).

---

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

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 and will not include information about Superfund activities.

##### ***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).

---

### **Resources**

[EPA](#)

[Montana DEQ](#)

[Butte Natural Resources Council](#)

[CTEC](#)

[bpsou.com](http://bpsou.com)

[Butte Silver-Bow](#)

[pitwatch.org](http://pitwatch.org)

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