

**Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit (BPSOU) – Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RDRA)  
Progress Meeting – November 7, 2023  
Summary**

1. Preliminary Matters
  - Meeting Purpose – This is a working session. It provides an overview of progress on individual projects and an opportunity for interagency updates and discussion
  - Agenda development – Need for more input as this agenda is finalized – topics go to Josh
  
2. SBCCA Document Tracker (W&C)
  - The tracker shows studies and reports and connects them to comments received and the progress of design at 30%, 60%, 95% and helps ensure that comments are addressed
  - Grove Gulch – working through comments – expecting submittal before the holidays
  - Repository – confirming 4/24 date for geochemical analysis
  - Buffalo Gulch is next in design maturity 4/24 for 95% - need to ensure continuity with other projects and respond to 230+ comments before reissue
  - RSS Committee Recommended Repository – 9/24
  - Material Transportation Logistics Report – a working document – 6/23 date – Jacobs’ work may make
  - Haul Route – 3/31/24 – those dates hold – we may have to adapt – important to be clear about the need for some form of repository TBD and that begs the haul route question
  - Buffalo Gulch – 95% Design – 4/24
  - Subdrain pump station upgrades – Q 1 2024 at the earliest
  - Butte Reduction Works - Piezometers – not moving forward; PDI Evaluation – December 23
  - Diggings East – 4/23 – 60% Report
  - Diggings East and Northside tailings – will follow the same approach on pre-construction notice to EPA
  - Groundwater Remedy Optimization – Performance Evaluation Work Plan – 6/24
  - Copper Mountain – first submittal – Wrapping up field investigation at the end of the month; the goal is to minimize demobilizing and remobilizing
  
3. SBCCA Program Approach – Program approach has advantages for continuity – so far, so good – allows for moving individual pieces of the design forward separately
  
4. Lexington Wetlands – Construction going well – stormwater management, trails are staked, progress on parking lot; substantially completed for this year – return in the spring for plantings, signage
  
5. Grove Gulch – Received comments from the agency – air, confirmation sampling, capping of disturbed areas
  
6. Casey Street Water Line – The intent is to get contraction drawings finalized – construction early April next year once the frost comes out of the ground; everything looking good
  
7. Haul Road, Conveyor, Repository --- these are on the critical path
  - Haul Road Geotechnical Investigation – set to mobilize early December for analysis – material balance question – historic mine opening areas and old haul road
  - Haul Road Design – looking for information from Jacobs at the end of March 2024 for final design – this is provided for informational purposes only
  - Haul Road Permitting – Working successfully with BNSF on the crossing
  - Conveyor Evaluation and Design
    - o Need to work with MDOT; they have been on site

- This is in progress – will submit internal memo to AR, then design begins
    - Will begin procurement after that; 6 months to get it delivered
  - Kelley Mine Area Cultural Resource Inventory – expanded scope to C and E areas; will have it available when it is completed
  - Berkeley Pit Discussion – letter to the agencies ASAP
  - RSS Recommendations Report
    - Delay given the Berkeley Pit
    - Feasibility analysis comparing options against screening criteria – recommendation for agency review and approval
    - Public input – useful to explore the options and create understanding
    - Repository Siting Committee – important to emphasize their role
8. Buffalo Gulch
- Need to ensure that we are locking in on the language
  - Our assumption: with 60% design, if there are no comments there, we assume that this can move forward with certainty
  - 3-year potentiometric surface – use the Consent Decree, therefore 2018-2019-2020
  - Feedback from Jacobs – need information for dewatering and constructability purposes and BNSF questions; need to be ready to mobilize; interim work plans in place
9. Butte Reduction Works
- Waste Removal Corridor
    - Average 275' doesn't mean consistently 275'
    - Design is reaching the average
  - Design Progress – Underway
  - Geotechnical Investigation – Two investigations, north bridge completed last week, collecting data to allow bridge design; second one is underway – this week or next will drill east of Montana street to collect data
  - Cultural Resource Documentation – Photographer mobilized – consistent with Historic Preservation Act
  - Interim Work Plan – Demolition and Wells – In development; something coming to the agencies as soon as we are clear about our approach
  - Capillary Break Analysis – Average concentration – high zinc – will have to be conservative with management of these materials to prevent phytotoxicity; as the analysis matures, it will be integrated into the Buffalo Gulch design; getting a full appreciation of soil properties and phytotoxicity; Diggings East and Buffalo Gulch are those that are impacted by this decision
10. Diggings East – Ensuring consistency with Buffalo Gulch to prevent delay and confusion; same evaluation on soils management
- Will get the interim work plan out so we can deal with pre-excavation activities
11. Groundwater Remedy Optimization – Post-Remedy Groundwater Monitoring Network; some implementation issues; will give an update when we have something in hand
12. Blacktail Creek Hydraulic Control – Agencies deep into their review; will submit comments toward the end of the month
13. Copper Mountain (W&C) – Site Investigation Update; middle of the month; data summary reports to the agencies are forthcoming; important to convey that this is not a surface question; sports are safe

#### 14. Community Engagement

- AR is following the community engagement plan – feedback on anything we’re missing is welcomed
- Centerville Community Meeting (Oct 17) --- there were some public concerns – dust production, avoiding the cultural resources; we are integrating that feedback
- NRD Council of Commissioners Presentation (Oct 25) – rescheduled for tomorrow
- AR Council of Commissioners Presentation (Nov 1) – presentation went well – good feedback
- AR Community Open House (Nov 2) – hosted open house at Montana Tech – looking for ways to improve outreach to the broader community – social media, radio... hoping to increase attendance
- Potential open house from EPA – December 7<sup>th</sup> – Butte Brewery – developing the agenda – will know more next week – we will reach out to include many of you to see if you have something you’d like to highlight
- EPA is responding to on-site material questions – will post the FAQ
- Opportunities to Observe the Three Working Groups
  - o Committed to Materials Management Working Group when there’s a need to meet; Diggings East and Buffalo Gulch design packages will demonstrate how this will work
  - o Groundwater Modeling Meetings – EPA is working on comments for this one, so once the comments are in, we may have the right opportunity for a working session that can be observed by the public
- bpsou.com
  - o Calendar provides near real-time updates on activities
  - o Up and running for some time
  - o Valuable resource for the projects – construction updates
  - o Working on the Story Map to ensure that it is current and lets people know about detours, so they know what to expect day-to-day – likely available 3-4 months from now

#### 15. Round Table

DEQ – Encouraged by the open house on the repository

NRD

- Discussion on coordination and combining groundwater monitoring – will give AR a point of contact
  - Parrott – need to coordinate as areas are transferred to Butte Silverbow
- Q: Can you share the results?  
A: Yes, we will produce a construction completion report; will circulate a draft for your thoughts

BSB

- Greatly appreciate the coordination
- Reorganization of the department is in the future

AR

- Important to reiterate critical path
- Repository siting study and Berkeley Pit – the yes/no has implications for future projects; we will adapt
- Utilities and wells – important to have these settled so projects can move
- Project management approach is essential to performing efficiently, will be even more important as project scale goes up

#### 16. Other

- Question via text: update on government shutdown – we don’t know anything you aren’t seeing on the news; hope that it won’t impact ongoing work
- Continuing to make sure the technology is working for observers
- Send agenda input to Josh