



Dec 18, 2023

www.epa.gov/superfund/silver-bow-butte

Extending Pilot for Open Technical Meetings

Aaron Urdiales, Director, Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Over the last few months, we piloted a new approach to public engagement in Butte based on feedback from the community. We have piloted opening three types of technical meetings for public observation: remedial design/remedial action, materials management, and groundwater monitoring meetings.

So far, we have had three remedial design/remedial action meetings. Outside of a few technical challenges, we have received positive feedback from those attending or observing. Given this feedback, we are going to continue this pilot for the next six months and will work on scheduling all three types of technical meetings in the new year. The invites and meeting links to these technical meetings will be sent out from EPA via our list serv and announced on our website.

EPA's Meaningful Involvement Policy

On November 16, 2023, EPA announced the release of the draft policy, "[Achieving Health and Environmental Protection Through EPA's Meaningful Involvement Policy](#)," for a 60-day public comment period.

This policy updates [EPA's 2003 Public Involvement Policy](#) that guides EPA staff to provide meaningful public involvement in all its programs and regions. The revised policy builds on this premise and updates EPA's public involvement approach.

Read that draft policy here: [Achieving Health and Environmental Protection Through EPA's Meaningful Involvement Policy \(pdf\)](#) (1.38 MB)

EPA will be hosting three public informational webinars to provide an overview of the draft policy and to allow the public to ask questions.

The webinars are scheduled for the following dates and times:

- December 20, 2023 from 7 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. (ET) [Register Now](#)
- January 10, 2024 from 5 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. (ET) [Register Now](#)
- January 11, 2024 from 6 p.m.- 7:00p.m. (ET) [Register Now](#)

West Side Soils Operable Unit Update

Matt Dorrington, EPA Remedial Project Manager

EPA is currently reviewing the draft remedial investigation, a human health risk assessment, and ecological risk assessment. Once finalized, the agency will work to complete the Feasibility Study which will develop and evaluate remedial alternatives. While we can't make risk-related decisions until then, the existing data show that metals concentrations are not high enough to warrant a time-critical removal under CERCLA authority.

[The West Side Soils Public Database](#) contains a brief technical writeup about the validated soil and well data, a fact sheet, Excel* files with analytical results for each sample collected, and figures that show the sample locations. Results for samples collected on individual properties were sent to the property owners, and phone calls were made to

confirm receipt and answer any questions. Affected property owners will continue to be updated as new data is collected and validated. The EPA project manager provided an overall project update and sampling results overview to both the BSB Council of Commissioners and the Board of Health, on two separate occasions, earlier this year.

**Note: the Excel files are attached to PDF files. Download the PDF to your computer, then open it with Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader and the Excel attachment will appear in a panel on the left.*

Community Engagement and Upcoming Meetings

We continue to publish [updated Q&As](#) from the recent public feedback on the [onsite material position paper](#). If you have questions or suggestions for our website, please contact Charles Van Otten (vanotten.charles@epa.gov).

NEW: As Aaron Urdiales mentioned above, EPA will continue our pilot to open certain technical meetings for public observation into mid-2024. Executive summaries of these meetings will continue to be posted on our website.

Upcoming Meetings

January TBD RD/RA Technical Meeting: First Tuesday of each month at 9 AM. Open for public observation.

TBD: Sitewide Groundwater Technical Meeting. Open for public observation.

TBD: Material Management Technical Meeting. Open for public observation.

(EPA will update details for these meetings on our website and in the newsletter, and will send out invites via email.)

Updated Office of the Inspector General Email Address

Taylor Gillespie, EPA Public Affairs Director

A handful of people have reached out and mentioned that the OIG email address linked in the statement that was shared wasn't working. The updated email address that you can use to reach them is

OIG.PublicAffairs@epa.gov

Other Community Resources

- [Montana DEQ](#)
- [Butte Silver-Bow](#)
- [bpsou.com](#)
- [Butte Natural Resources Council](#)
- [pitwatch.org](#)
- [Clark Fork Watershed Education Program \(CFWEP\)](#)