



# EPA Announces Final Cleanup Plan for Libby and Troy



## *Investigation or Cleanup Complete at 7,100 of 8,000 Properties*

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected a final cleanup plan for remaining portions of the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site with the exception of the former Libby vermiculite mine and forested areas. This flyer provides a summary of the final cleanup plan for residential and commercial properties, parks and schools, transportation corridors and industrial properties.*

EPA selected a final remedy that is similar to the preferred alternative described in EPA's proposed plan. The remedy was selected following a 90-day public comment period and careful review of comments received. EPA developed a responsiveness summary to address comment from 15 citizens and several other stakeholders.

## How is the Final Remedy Different from EPA's Preferred Alternative?

The final remedy is essentially the same as EPA proposed. Based on public comment, EPA made the following adjustments with regard to long-term management:

- In response to requests from local government representatives, EPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are participating in an Institutional Control (IC) steering committee organized by Lincoln County. This steering committee includes members from local government entities as well as private citizens to relay community concerns and provide input on the development of the ICs with EPA.

- In response to concerns about ICs being vague, EPA will accept public comment on the final IC work plan and we will issue a supplemental document to the Record of Decision to clarify the IC plan. EPA understands that there is interest in an IC plan that can be modified to meet the community's changing needs.

### **Summary of Selected Remedy**

**Contaminated soil (Alternative S6).** Partially excavate contaminated soil and dispose at the former Libby vermiculite mine. The preferred alternative will address exposures above remedial action levels through excavation and disposal of soil. Institutional controls and monitoring required.

**Contaminated building materials (Alternative B5).** Remove and dispose of accessible contaminated materials. The remaining contaminated building materials will be encapsulated and interior cleaning will ensure remedial clearance criteria are met for indoor spaces. For both soil and building materials, the response action must meet the remedial cleanup goals to be considered complete. Institutional controls and monitoring required.

#### **Long-term management of LA.**

For both contaminated soil and building materials, a robust combination of institutional controls will be used to ensure the long-term protectiveness of the remedy by managing exposure to remaining contamination. Multiple controls are preferred to ensure that the remedy remains protective and that the best tools are used for various scenarios.

## How Will the Institutional Controls Be Developed?

The Record of Decision refers to institutional controls in each of the primary components. While the institutional controls need to be technically implementable, EPA and MDEQ recognize that the controls also need to be accepted by the community. EPA has committed to work with the State of Montana, Lincoln County, and the local community in developing the institutional controls that will be used to ensure protectiveness of the remedy. The recently formed Institutional Control steering committee is expected to be instrumental in the development process. Public comment will be an important aspect of the development of the institutional controls.

## What Does this Mean for Completing Cleanup?

The risk assessment shows that cleanups to date have been protective and EPA does not need to return to properties where previous removals were completed. The risk assessment also shows that we have flexibility with regard to cleanups and that it is often possible to leave favored areas of your yard undisturbed.

The majority of the properties in Libby and Troy (Operable Units 4 through 8) have already been investigated or remediated through past removal actions. EPA has completed investigations at more than 7,100 properties and cleanup at 2,275 of these properties.

We still need owners of about 700 properties in Libby and Troy to provide access for investigation. EPA estimates that between 200 and 300 of these properties will need cleanup during the remedial phase. We also need to conduct additional sampling at between 50 and 100 properties previously screened. We expect to complete investigations and remaining cleanup in Libby and Troy in two to three years.

EPA and DEQ will announce a final opportunity, or “last call” for investigations, early in 2016. Feel free to stop by the county’s Asbestos Resource Program office if you’d like to view a map showing the cleanup progress.

## Record of Decision

The Record of Decision, including the responsiveness summary, are available at EPA’s website: [www.epa.gov/superfund/libby-asbestos](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/libby-asbestos)

The document is also available at the following locations:

- EPA Information Center, 108 E. 9th Street, Libby, 293-6194
- Lincoln County Library in Libby, 220 West 6th Street, 293-2778
- Lincoln County Library in Troy, 207 3rd Street, 295-4040
- Lincoln County Asbestos Resource Program, 418 Mineral Avenue, Libby (406-291-5335)

## Questions?

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