



Region 10  
March 2017

# Public Comment Period

## EPA to Rebuild an Old Repository in Canyon Creek Area

### Community Open House April 5

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comments on its plans to rebuild a waste repository. The site is located in the Canyon Creek area, near Wallace, Idaho. It was once called the SVNRT repository. That repository was originally created by other non-EPA cleanup actions. The site is not being used and is leaking contaminants. The EPA now plans to reconstruct the repository to address the leaking contaminants and for future use. This action will triple the size of the current repository.

Everyone is invited to review and comment on the repository's draft design. We know these decisions affect local communities. We are committed to an inclusive, meaningful public participation process.

**Comments are due April 21.**

A Community Open House is slated for **April 5**.

***Please join us:***

### **Open House – April 5, 2017**

Drop in any time between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Wallace Inn**, Gold Room,  
100 Front Street, Wallace, ID 83873

See displays. Talk informally with project staff. Submit your comments. There will be no formal presentations.

*Hosted by the Citizens Coordinating Council on behalf of the Basin Commission*

Repositories are important for protecting public health. Soil from local cleanups contains metals like lead and arsenic. This soil needs to be safely contained. The sites are carefully chosen and engineered to securely hold the soil and reduce impacts to people and the environment.

## Comments Due April 21

Email comments to: [arthur.bonnie@epa.gov](mailto:arthur.bonnie@epa.gov)

Send written comments to:

**Bonnie Arthur**, EPA Region 10,  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ECL-122  
Seattle, WA 98101

**30 Percent Design Document:**

<https://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>



## Why is More Repository Space Needed?

Important environmental cleanups are under way in the area to protect people and the environment. Big cleanup projects are planned in the Canyon Creek area. The nearby Lower Burke Canyon Repository does not have enough room to hold all the cleanup waste that will be generated in Canyon Creek. Existing repositories elsewhere in the Basin not only don't have this capacity, but if they did, it would require transport of waste through more community areas. Remediating the SVNRT repository will address the leaking contaminants. Expanding it will give us the needed capacity for cleanup projects within Canyon Creek, without creating an additional repository elsewhere in the Basin. The new repository will shorten haul distances, speed up the cleanup, and help avoid transport of waste through multiple residential communities.

## Plans for the Repository

The repository site is about a half mile away from the existing Lower Burke Canyon Repository. It is located slightly southeast of Gray's Bridge. Depending on its design, it may cover around 24 to 32 acres depending on acquisition of adjacent properties. The Coeur d'Alene Trust will lead repository design, construction, and operation under the EPA's direction. The Coeur d'Alene Trust hires local engineering and construction firms and requires that at least 80% of the workers come from the local labor pool. Repository construction could start in 2018 with site access improvements. Over time, construction will include development of access roads and continued use of the LBCR decontamination facility. Construction activity will primarily take place in this specific area.

For the repository site itself, first a new clean repository base with adequate drainage will be built next to the existing SVNRT waste. Then, the SVNRT waste (about 500,000 cubic yards) will be moved into this new space. This transfer of waste will allow the drainage system to be expanded into the existing footprint of the SVNRT repository and create additional space for future waste. Waste will be elevated above groundwater. Surface water flows will be diverted around this area. These actions will stop the seepage of metals contamination out of the repository now and into the future. Once the site is ready, new waste from area cleanups will be placed on top and around the reconsolidated SVNRT repository waste. Early estimates are that the repository will hold up to an additional 1.5 million cubic yards of waste, following reconsolidation of the SVNRT repository waste. Eventually, the repository will be covered with a clean cap .

## Design Options

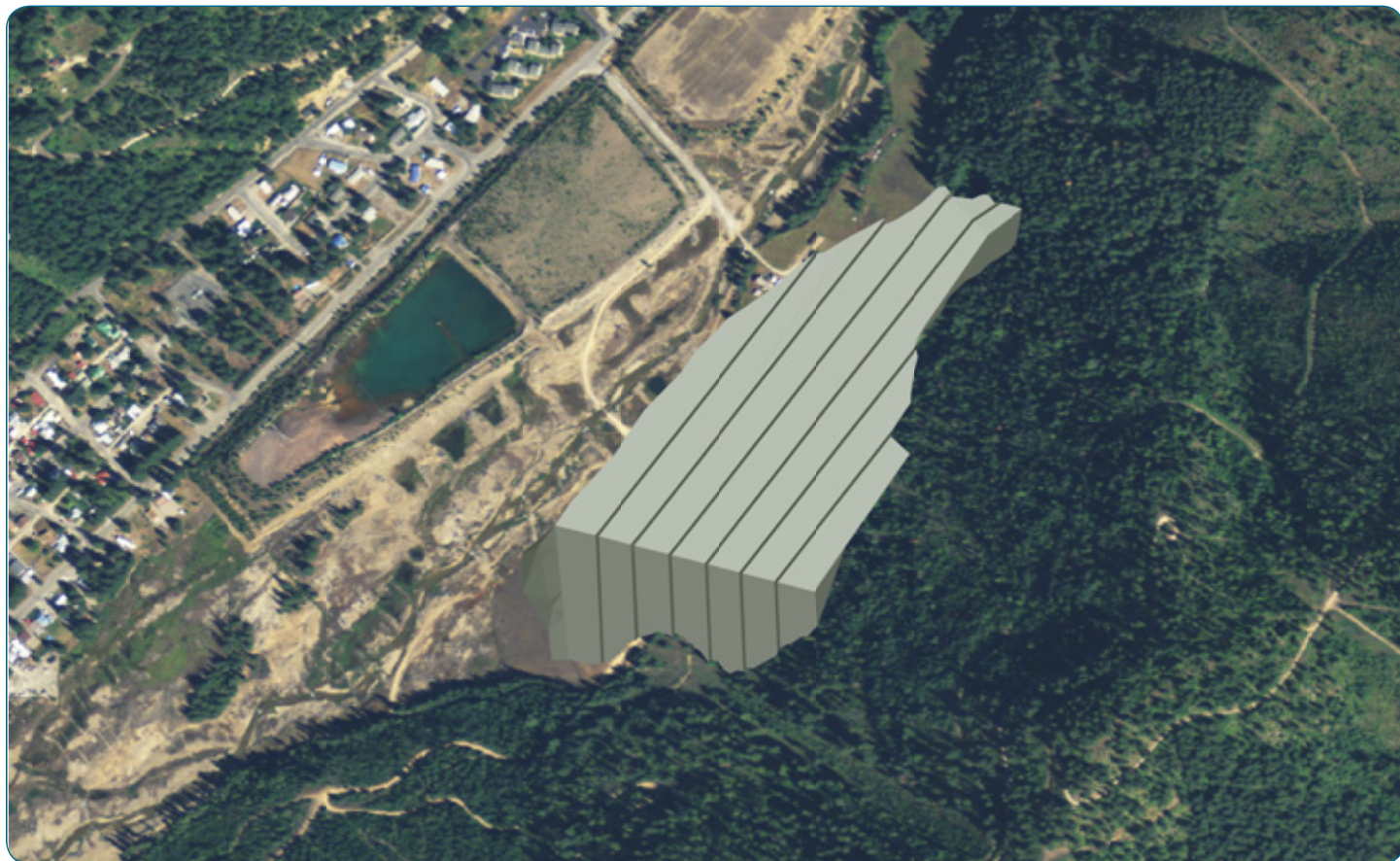
Two design options have been identified:

Option 1 – Develop Repository to the East	Option 2 – Develop Repository to the North
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity of up to 1.5M cubic yards additional capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity of 1.5M cubic yards additional capacity, and potentially expandable beyond 1.5M</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed upslope of the current repository</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed to the North and slightly upslope of the current repository</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24-acre footprint (estimated)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32-acre footprint (estimated)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will require placing waste over known groundwater spring locations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will not require placing waste over the known groundwater spring locations</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and maintaining public access during repository development will be difficult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public access road coordination would be easier; likely able to design a public access road to be installed during initial development that can stay in place throughout life of repository</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single lane, two-way traffic required for haul trucks between repository and Gray's Bridge Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-way traffic would be used along the length of the haul route</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to LBCR decontamination facilities via new access road in southeast corner of LBCR (across from existing stormwater pond)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to LBCR decontamination facilities via new access road either in the southeast corner of LBCR or along Canyon Creek side of LBCR; access would be easier and more cost effective</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple power lines / power pole relocations to be coordinated with Avista</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single power line / power pole relocation and coordination with Avista</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extra 'borrow material' (clean soil for capping repositories and remediation sites) readily available and easily accessible</li> <li>Easily accessible/developable salvaged soil stockpile location</li> </ul>

### Option 1



### Option 2



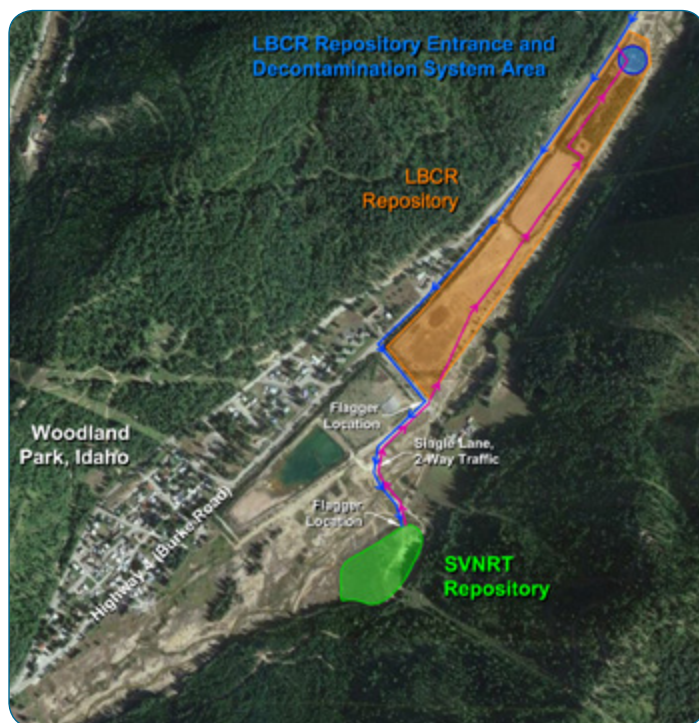
## Truck Traffic Considerations

The EPA and the Coeur d'Alene Trust are committed to minimizing impacts to the local community. To reduce impacts from truck traffic, two potential haul route options have been developed. We'd like your comments on which option you prefer (see below.) Haul routes being considered for each full-scale design option are as follows:

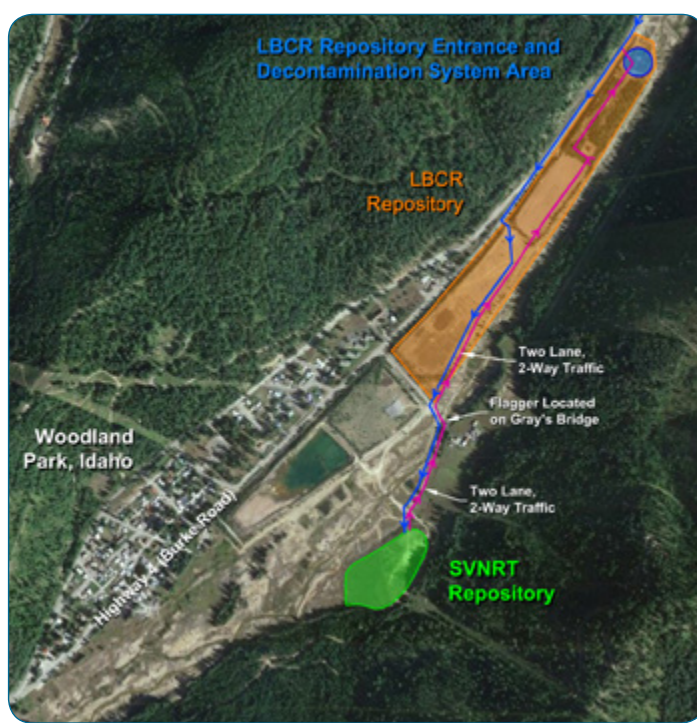
- **Option 1** – Enter the repository via Highway 4, Gray's Bridge Road, and a one lane, two-way haul road over Canyon Creek. Haul trucks will exit the repository via the same one lane, two-way haul road over Canyon Creek, and enter the LBCR through a new access road constructed onto STI 4 from Gray's Bridge Road, and will then exit at the LBCR decontamination facilities.
- **Option 2** – Enter the repository via Highway 4, Gray's Bridge Road, and a two lane, two-way haul route. Haul trucks will exit the repository via the two lane, two-way haul route, as well as Gray's Bridge, and enter the LBCR through a new access road constructed onto STI 4 from Gray's Bridge Road, and will then exit at the LBCR decontamination facilities.

Trucks will be decontaminated before re-entering public roads. Truck drivers will be required to follow safe speed limits, operate only during daylight hours, and cover their loads.

### Repository Access Haul Route #1



### Repository Access Haul Route #2



## Measures to Reduce Other Community Impacts

- Access gates and perimeter fencing will be installed around the repository to prevent unauthorized entry. The fencing will prevent recreational use of the repository area.
- Water trucks will be used during construction as a measure to control dust.
- To limit impacts to the view scape, the repository will be designed to blend into the existing hillside. The repository will be naturally sloped and revegetated.
- Typical operating hours are expected to be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

## What Types of Waste Might Come to the Repository?

All waste has to meet criteria. Waste might include:

- Mine Wastes
- Basin Property Remediation Program Waste
- Institutional Controls Program (ICP) Waste
- Paved Roads Waste
- Remedy Protection Waste

## Possible Timeline

The lifespan of this repository is uncertain at this time. It will depend on the timing of all the cleanup work in the Canyon Creek area. Here is a rough estimate:

**2018** – Site access improvements at the repository.

**2020-2021** - Removal and consolidation of SVNRT repository waste onto the new repository footprint.

**2022 and beyond** – Full-scale repository development and use as cleanup work in Canyon Creek begins.

## SVNRT Repository Background

The old SVNRT repository was developed in 1995. It took in about 610,000 loose cubic yards of mine wastes removed from the Canyon Creek floodplain. The SVNRT is a big source of metals contamination for Canyon Creek and area groundwater [see image below]. The EPA's Record of Decision calls for the seeps to be collected and piped to the Central Treatment Plant in Kellogg, along with other water sources of contamination in Canyon Creek. This action is many years from being implemented. Because the SVNRT repository received only a layer of cover soil, and was not capped with a liner, the site is also a source of potentially contaminated dust. The Coeur d'Alene Trust acquired the property in 2015, and in response to community requests to EPA, fenced the repository. Before the fence, ATV riders sometimes rode on the property, creating an exposure hazard. Rebuilding this repository will help keep the metals out of the creek and area groundwater faster than the current action in the ROD, and reduce potential exposure to people much sooner. It will also provide more space to securely contain waste removed from cleanups in Canyon Creek.



*Groundwater springs with metals at the old repository site contaminate the creek.*

## Considering “Citizen Criteria” for Site Selection

In 2009, the EPA and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality worked with the public to develop criteria for selecting repository locations. Here are the citizen criteria, listed in order of importance:

- Impacts to people living and working near the repository
- Preservation of development potential
- Size (large size better than small size)
- Impacts to the floodplain
- Impacts to surface water, fish and wildlife
- Minimize trucking costs
- Truck traffic
- Impacts to wetlands
- Location relative to mapped faults and landslides

The EPA considered these criteria in addition to previous site screening work performed in 2002 when considering this location. During 2002 the site was given an overall score of “average,” and received a “poor” rating for the proximity to local residences. The “poor” rating was based on the distance to the single residence at the end of Gray's Bridge Road. The Coeur d'Alene Trust and EPA are working closely with the nearby residents to address this concern and will include design features or make other provisions that mitigate potential impacts from the repository site.

## When making your comments, please consider:

- Do you prefer Design Option 1 or 2? Why?
- Do you prefer Haul Route Option 1 or 2? Why?
- Are you comfortable with the general configuration of the design?
- Do you have concerns about traffic, dust, or other nuisance issues?
- Are you concerned about impacts to your property or community?
- What should we name the repository? Some ideas include:
  - Canyon Complex Repository
  - Gray's Bridge Repository
  - Canyon Valley Repository
  - Canyon Creek Repository
  - Bell Gulch Repository
  - Lower Burke Canyon Repository Annex

## Comment Schedule

**March 22, 2017:** Public Comment Period Begins

**April 5, 2017:** Public Open House

**April 21, 2017:** Public Comments Due

**July 2017:** Response to Comments

### ***For More Information***

CONTACT: **Bonnie Arthur**, EPA Project Manager • 206-553-4072 • 800-424-4372, ext. 4072  
[arthur.bonnie@epa.gov](mailto:arthur.bonnie@epa.gov)

**30 Percent Design Document:** <https://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>

**Cleanup Facebook Page:** [www.Facebook.com/CDAbasin](http://www.Facebook.com/CDAbasin)

**Documents are available at these locations:**

**North Idaho College Library**

Molstead Library  
1000 Garden Avenue – Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-769-3355

**Wallace Public Library**

415 River Street – Wallace, ID 83873  
208-752-4571

**Spokane Public Library**

906 West Main Avenue – Spokane, WA 99201  
509-444-5336

**Kellogg Public Library**

16 West Market Avenue – Kellogg, ID 83837  
208-786-7231

**EPA Field Office**

1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-664-4588

**EPA Seattle Office**

Superfund Record Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue – Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372

**St. Maries Library**

822 W. College Avenue – St. Maries, ID 83861  
208-245-3732

***Thank you so much for your interest and involvement!***

***We look forward to hearing from you.***

*The EPA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the open house, such as requiring information in a certain format (Braille, large print), please notify Andrea Lindsay at 206-553-1896 • 800-424-4372, ext. 1896 or by email at [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov)*

 *TDD or TTY users, please call 800-877-8339 and give the operator Andrea Lindsay's phone number.*

*Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.*



**Public Comment Period: – EPA to Rebuild  
an Old Repository in Canyon Creek Area**  
*Community Open House April 5*  
*Comments Due April 21*