

The Consent Decree will be the subject of a 30-day public comment period beginning with publication of the federal register notice for the settlement. During the public comment period, the Consent Decree may also be examined on the DOJ website, <http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/open.html>.

The consent decree and other information related to the Milltown Site are available on the internet at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltowncfr/reservoirou.html>.

Comments should be sent to:

Kelly Johnson
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611
Reference U.S. v. ARCO (D.Mt.),
DOJ Case Number 90-11-2-430

What Led to the Consent Decree?

The Consent Decree is the final agreement in a long process of study that led to the selection of a remedy. The Selected Remedy was published in a *Record of Decision* in December 2004. The *Record of Decision* is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltowncfr/reservoirou.html>.

This remedy is remarkable in many ways, merging remediation and restoration and laying the groundwork for future development. Area residents, the local government, and many other stakeholders have been and will continue to be actively involved in the future of the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers in southwestern Montana.

Description of the Selected Remedy

EPA's selected remedy for the MRSOU addresses contamination from more than a century of mine waste washing downstream, creating some 6.6 million cubic yards of

"Today's agreement is an important milestone that sets the stage for the long-awaited cleanup of this area. I commend all the parties involved on their ability to come to agreement for the greater public and environmental good," said Robbie Roberts, EPA's Regional Administrator in Denver, Colorado. "The cleanup that will result from this agreement is a tremendous undertaking and a testimony to the leadership of the State of Montana and Missoula County. We are removing a dam to give new life to these rivers and the local community."

contaminated reservoir sediments. Those sediments have polluted the local drinking water supply and threaten the local fishery.

The remedy described in the *Record of Decision* provides many benefits:

- Permanent, long-term protection of public health and the environment
- Recovery of the Milltown drinking water supply
- Use of existing waste management areas for waste disposal
- Substantial elimination of contaminant release from ice-scouring and catastrophic events
- Return of two major waterways (the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers) to a free-flowing state
- Unrestricted fish passage
- Substantial improvement in the native and recreational fisheries, especially for trout
- Redevelopment possibilities for the area

These objectives will be accomplished by removing the primary source of groundwater contamination, removing the dam to prevent future impoundment of new sediments, and changing hydrologic conditions to accelerate natural attenuation of groundwater contamination. This approach allows natural attenuation processes to restore the aquifer over time, and ensures that remaining contaminated material is secured from uncontrolled release.

State of Montana Restoration Plan

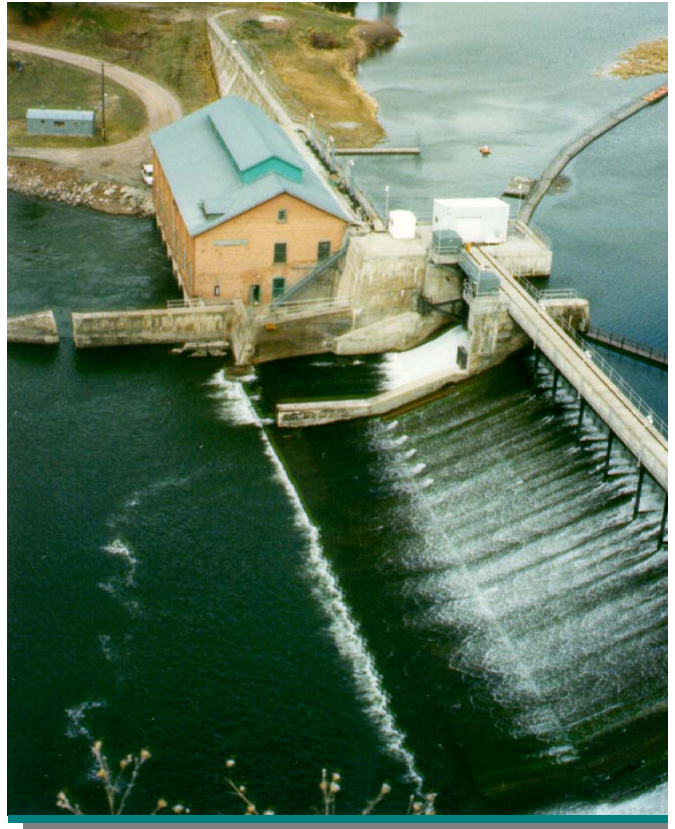
After dam spillway and sediment removal, the State of Montana's restoration plan for the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers near Milltown Dam will be implemented. This plan was developed by the State with the Salish and Kootenai Tribes and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Channel and floodplain reconfiguration and revegetation are the main activities aimed at restoring the rivers in the Bonner / Milltown area. The plan also calls for removal of all structures associated with the dam, including the powerhouse and right abutment, in order to widen the floodplain. The goal is to restore the ecological and hydrological functions of the rivers and their floodplains within the constraints of the site. The plan will help to restore bull trout in the upper Clark Fork basin and diverse fish and wildlife habitat. The plan will also improve boating, hiking, and other recreational opportunities. There have already been several opportunities for public and local government input on the restoration plan, and there will be further opportunities as the actual restoration design is developed. The State also looks to coordinate other restoration planning and recreational amenities with the local community.

Milltown Redevelopment Working Group

The Milltown Redevelopment Working Group, a community-based group, has crafted a redevelopment plan. The Group presented its formal recommendations for redevelopment of the Milltown Reservoir area to the Missoula County Commissioners in March 2005. Later that same month, the Commissioners officially adopted the redevelopment recommendations and forwarded the report to the appropriate state and federal agencies. EPA will continue to working closely with the redevelopment group, the State of Montana, and Site Trustees.

What are the Next Steps?

As shown in the timeline on the first page, the MRSOU will see a lot of activity during the coming years. This year, the cleanup project will hit a major milestone with the removal of the Stimson Dam on the Blackfoot River. In addition, the cleanup plans may be finalized in



Milltown Dam

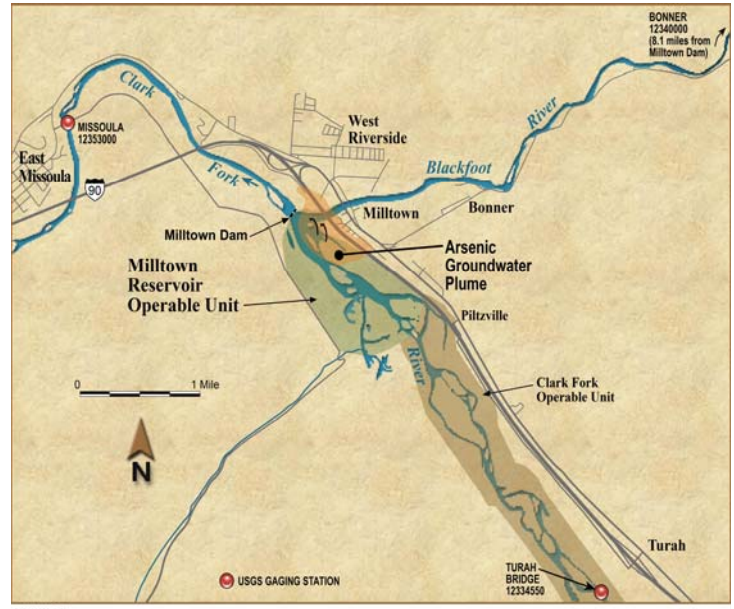
time to begin remedial activities at the site in 2006.

Removal of Stimson Dam

Although not part of the remedy, the Stimson Dam (located approximately one mile upstream on the Blackfoot River) will be removed prior to removal of the Milltown Dam. This is being done through a cooperative effort under the USFWS National Fish Passage Program. Removal of the Stimson Dam will enable passage of bull trout and other fish up the Blackfoot River, once the Milltown Dam is removed. Its removal will also make the Blackfoot safer for river recreationalists. Removal of the Stimson Dam is scheduled for fall 2005.

Will There Be Opportunities for Public Involvement During Design?

Yes! Once the Consent Decree is finalized, site preparation and cleanup design begin in earnest. EPA has already formed a “Design Review Team” to provide input into the design process. This team is composed of EPA, the State of Montana, Site Trustees (US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes), ARCO, NorthWestern, Missoula County, and the Clark Fork River Technical Assistance Committee. EPA is committed to supporting public involvement throughout the cleanup process and is providing funding in support of Missoula County, CFRTAC, and the Milltown Redevelopment Working Group to ensure that the views of the local community are heard.



Milltown Reservoir Sediments Operable Unit Site Map

For More Information

Please call or write:

Diana Hammer, EPA
(406) 457-5040
hammer.diana@epa.gov

Russ Forba, EPA
(406) 457-5042
forba.russ@epa.gov

Keith Large, DEQ
(406) 841-5039
klarge@mt.gov



EPA Montana Operations Office
Federal Building
10 West 15th Street, Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626