

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Bunker Hill Superfund Site, Northern Idaho

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

June 2008



Page Waste Repository: Maintenance and Studies this Summer

This summer, there will be some maintenance and other work going on at Page waste repository. The work will be done by EPA (U. S. Environmental Protection Agency), DEQ (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality), and the Upstream Mining Group (UMG). This fact sheet gives you an update of those activities.

Fixing Erosion Trouble Spots

One piece of work that will take place soon is repair of eroded areas on the repository's north and south slopes that resulted from runoff. This work will help stabilize the slopes and prevent contaminants from being released.

The work will involve re-contouring to make some slopes less steep. Also, crews will install drainage ditches and sediment basins to control drainage. You may see construction vehicles during this work.

Some of the repairs have already begun. UMG has moved debris that had been placed along the repository's south slope to the top of the repository.

Operations Planning

Another effort under way this season is operations planning. Yard cleanups in the Box have come to a close. So, Page repository is now shifting from being a mostly yard-cleanup waste repository to being the Box ICP (Institutional Controls Program) repository. With this transition, EPA, DEQ, and UMG are doing planning to help make sure that the site is managed well over time, to protect people and the environment.

Factors being considered include:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Access and restrictions
- Waste acceptance criteria
- Waste segregation, reuse, and placement
- Storm water pollution prevention plans
- Engineering and environmental monitoring
- Site health and safety

One operations change has already been made. Access to Page is now more restricted. To provide control of materials that are disposed in Page, Panhandle Health District has installed a gate with a card reader and a camera. People who comply with the ICP and have permits will have access to the repository.

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You may see some work going on around the Page waste repository this summer.

Environmental Studies Planned

Page waste repository can hold a limited amount of material. One possible way to address long-term capacity issues is to expand the repository.

This summer, the agencies will study wetlands and surface water and ground water flows in the Page area. The findings from these studies will help to make decisions later about a possible expansion. The agencies will do wetlands assessments and evaluate flooding concerns. They will also analyze soil, site stability, local hydrology, and water quality. Study results will help the agencies make sure that any expansion will not worsen local flooding. Results will also help determine how to best “mitigate,” or offset, any future impact to wetlands.

Background

The Page waste repository serves only the “Box.” The Box is a 21-square-mile area along I-90, in the Silver Valley in northern Idaho. It includes the communities of Kellogg, Smelterville, Pinehurst, Wardner, Page, Elizabeth Park, Montgomery Gulch, and Ross Ranch. The Box is part of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site.

Use of Page repository began in 1990. It has been the disposal place for the waste soils from Box property cleanups and some Box development activity. It also takes in waste from the local Institutional Controls Program (ICP), which is designed to protect environmental cleanups that have taken place. The soils contain contaminants such as lead and arsenic, and must be safely contained. The Page repository isolates the soils, to protect public health and the environment.

The Page repository accepts metals-contaminated wastes. The repository will not accept household refuse, electronics, information technology wastes, household hazardous wastes, wood waste, or construction waste that is not permitted by Panhandle Health District (PHD) under the ICP. Access to Page requires an ICP permit. If you are planning a project that will require access to Page, call PHD at 208-783-0707.

For More Information

Bruce Schuld, Project Manager, DEQ, Boise, ID
208-373-0554, bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov

Anne McCauley, Project Manager, EPA Region 10, Seattle, WA
206-553-4689 or toll-free 800-424-4372, mccauley.anne@epa.gov

EPA Cleanup Web Site: yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda

Documents

Kellogg Public Library
16 West Market Avenue
Kellogg, ID 83827
208-786-7231

North Idaho College
Molstead Library
1000 W. Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-769-3355

Wallace Public Library
415 River Street
Wallace, ID 83873
208-752-4571

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

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

Coeur d'Alene Field Office, EPA
1910 NW Boulevard, Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-664-4588

EPA Seattle Office
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494



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*Bunker Hill Superfund Site
Page Waste Repository: Maintenance and Studies
Summer 2008
Northern Idaho*

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Andrea Lindsay at 206-553-1896. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay
Service at 800-877-8339.*

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