Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup
A Repository May be Placed at Mission Flats
Your Comments Are Welcome

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are cleaning up metals contamination in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. Often, the cleanup involves taking away soils that are contaminated with lead, cadmium, arsenic, or zinc. Contaminated soils that are removed during the cleanup are placed in "repositories." Repositories are carefully chosen places where the soil is kept and maintained over time to reduce impacts to human health and the environment.

Through the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC), DEQ and EPA have been working to identify possible locations in the Basin to place repositories. Public participation and comment are a key part of the selection process.

This paper gives information about the possibility of siting a repository at Mission Flats. It also provides information about how you can comment. A flow diagram is attached showing the steps in the process of finding and siting a repository.

To Comment or For More Information

Submit written or verbal comments and questions to DEQ:

Kellogg office: 1005 W. McKinley Ave. 83837,
attn: Robbin Simmons (208)783-5781 or Robbin.Simmons@deq.idaho.gov.

- Boise office: 1410 N. Hilton 83706, attn: John Lawson (208)373-0141

Or, contact EPA:

- Coeur d'Alene office: 1910 Northwest Blvd., 83814, attn: Ed Moreen (208)664-4588

You can also contact BEIPC:

- Kellogg office: 1005 W. McKinley Ave. 83837 attn: Terry Harwood (208)783-2528

For more information, visit the BEIPC website at www.basincommission.com, go to Tech Group, then Repositories.

A Repository Could be Placed on a Parcel of Land Located at Mission Flats

Location: A private landowner and the DEQ have discussed a possible repository north of Interstate 90 in an area that is approximately across the interstate from the Cataldo Mission. There are about 90 acres of land, most of which are now covered with water. However, on the southern third of the property, there are 25-30 acres of land that are not covered with water that DEQ and EPA are considering for use as a repository. A map of the area is attached.

Why this location? This parcel is privately-owned, and currently has mine tailing materials that were deposited over many decades. The materials that overlay the soil have metal concentrations well above acceptable levels. By covering these materials with other clean-up materials, putting a barrier on top and then final cap of clean material, the area could offer a safe and clean surface for reuse. This site is centrally located to cleanup areas, which would help the cleanup efforts to be more efficient and cost effective.

Frequently Asked Questions about Locating a Repository at Mission Flats

What is a repository? A repository is a carefully chosen location for holding contaminated cleanup materials. Repositories can be large or small depending upon their location. After they are full, they may be returned to a natural environment or be available for development into other uses. If the owner of the site decides to develop it into a commercial use, for example, the site may be covered in concrete or asphalt, which the owner/operator must maintain.

Why is this parcel a good repository site?
Mission Flats is a good potential site because it is:
- Already contaminated – the 90-acre area already contains about 300,000 cubic yards (cy) of tailing material; the 25-acre area contains about 80,000 cy.
- Accessible to the highway – truck traffic can use the existing Mission exit to access the site.
- Relatively flat – construction on this site would be easier because the site is nearly flat.

Has a siting decision already been made? No. The siting of a repository in this location must pass through the extensive evaluation process shown on the attached flow chart before a decision is made. While no site is perfect, each site considered is evaluated for:
- impacts to people and the environment
- location and helpfulness to the clean-up process
- existing contamination
- cost to operate and maintain

Public comments are an important part of this process, and all comments will be considered.

How long would this repository be active and how much material would it hold? The site could hold about 300,000 cy of material, if it were filled to a height of 16 feet above the current ground surface. This amount of fill would bring the site up to roughly the height of the nearby interstate. The site likely would be active April through the first part of November, as needed, for
5-10 years.

What kind of material would go into this repository? Only materials from the cleanup of the Coeur d' Alene Basin would go into the repository. The site would not hold materials like public refuse, hazardous chemicals like organic solvents or large amounts of wood waste or construction waste. Typically the materials would be soils and sediments impacted by mining and tailings deposited by the Coeur d'Alene River.

What would the site look like after work is completed? Final land use has not been decided but it would likely be reforested. However, since the property is privately owned, the final land use may be determined by the landowner. A buffer of trees and vegetation around the site would reduce the visibility of the repository.

What is known about potential flood impacts? Preliminary investigations are being conducted about potential flood impacts. Kootenai County Planning and Zoning and FEMA have been involved in meetings and discussions about this site and flood issues.

Who would be responsible for this repository?
-The DEQ and the EPA would be responsible.

Would local citizens be affected? The most likely impacts would be traffic, noise and dust. Measures would be taken to reduce these impacts:
- Traffic---Improved access would be evaluated near the interstate exit ramp.
- Noise---A buffer of trees would be maintained. Also, the noise of the interstate would likely overshadow the potential noise from this project.
- Dust---The roadways and fill materials would be watered or treated with a salt that binds dust, similar to the material used on many construction sites.
- Erosion ---Erosion controls will be used to help ensure that the materials do not get carried off by rain and snow melt waters.

Who would I contact if there were a problem with the repository? There would be a designated project manager. Typically this person would be a contractor hired by the DEQ to manage the site. Contact information would be shared well in advance of the construction of the project. Until that time, Robbin Simmons can be contacted at the number/email address listed on the front page.

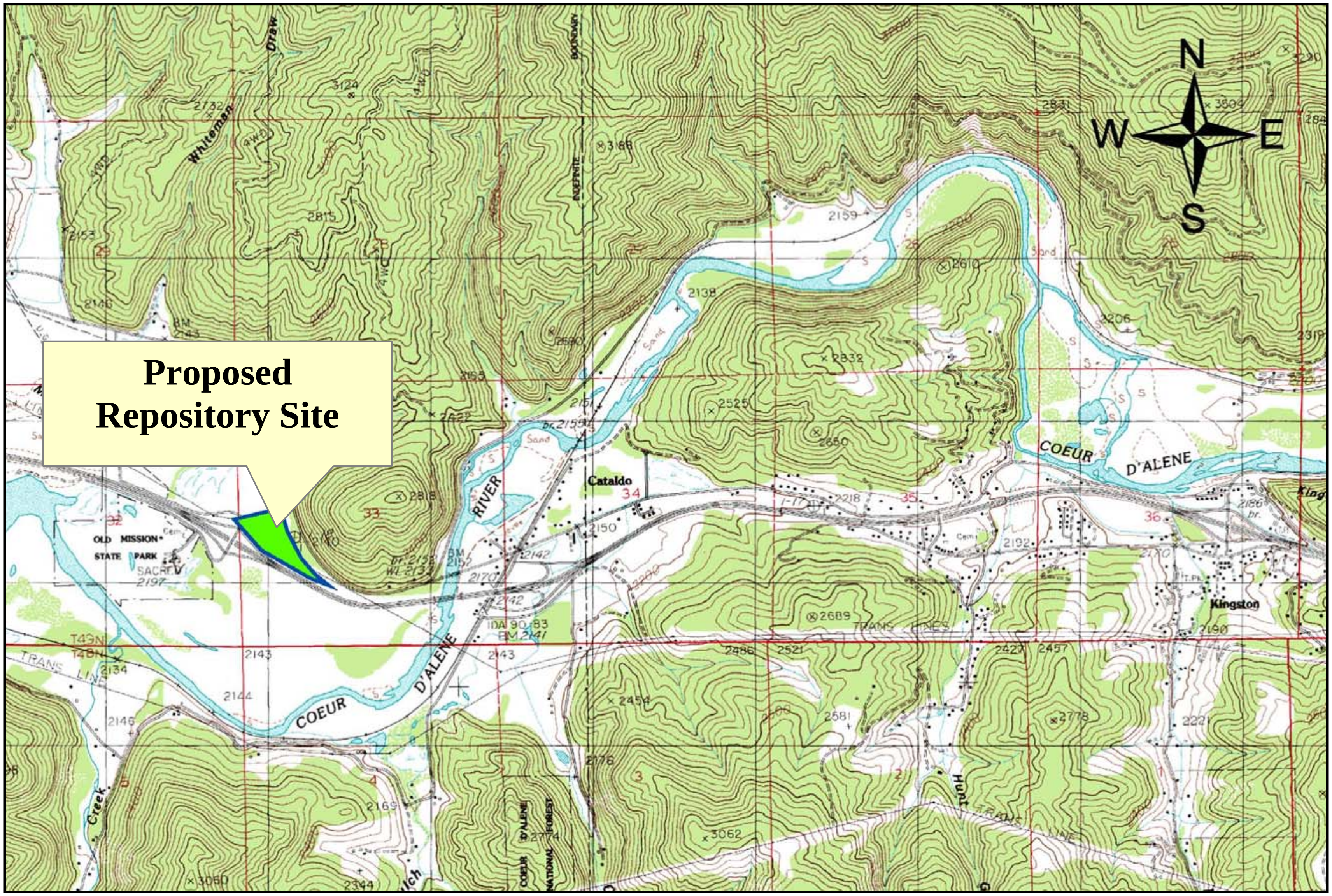
When would the repository go into use? The timeframes for construction and life expectancy are not yet known. First, this site would need to pass the evaluations for human health and the environment, and then a design would be completed, making a schedule clearer. If the site is approved, it is anticipated that construction would begin in 2006.

What would the months and hours of operation be? The months of operation would coincide with basin-wide construction activities, typically operating April through early November. During those months, the hours of operation would be approximately 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

What would be the benefit of this repository?
There may be many benefits:
- Regardless of the final land use, the site would be reclaimed. This would reduce the potential for humans and animals to have direct contact with tailings contaminants.
- The site could be reforested and returned to a natural state.
- The site could be available for future development, provided a clean barrier is maintained.
- Rehabilitation of this area could potentially improve the value of nearby properties.

Where could I see similar local repositories?
- The Big Creek Repository (under construction) is east of Kellogg off I-90's Big Creek exit.
- The Page repository is located between Smelterville and Pinehurst.
- The Moon Creek repository constructed by the US Forest Service is located up Moon Creek north of Kellogg. The USFS has more detailed information on this site.

Would the repository look like the Central Impoundment Area (CIA) in Kellogg? No.
- The CIA holds about 20 million cy of material. This site would likely hold less than 2% of that.
- This site would likely be revegetated to fit into its surroundings. It is not likely that the side slopes would be covered with rock.


Proposed
Repository Site
N
W
E
S
Cataldo
Kingston
OLD MISSION
STATE PARK
COEUR D'ALENE RIVER
COEUR D'ALENE
Whiteman
Draw
Creek
Hunt

Repository Scoping and Development Process