

BASIN BULLETIN



Updates on the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Cleanup

March 2017

Reconstructing an Old Repository

Community Open House April 5

Comment Period March 22 – April 21

Watch soon to learn about a proposed repository in the Canyon Creek area. The repository site was once called the SVNRT repository. That repository was originally created by other clean-up actions not conducted by the EPA. The site is not being used and is leaking contaminants. The EPA now plans to reconstruct the repository for use. You will be invited to review and comment on the repository's design.

The public comment period is expected to run from **March 22 to April 21**. An Open House is slated for **April 5**. Everyone is invited.

Please join us:

Open House: April 5, 2017

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

Wallace Inn, 100 Front Street, Wallace, ID 83873

See displays. Talk informally with project staff. Submit your comments.

Hosted by the Citizens Coordinating Council

CONTACT: Bonnie Arthur, EPA • 206-553-4072 or

800-424-4372 ext. 4072 • arthur.bonnie@epa.gov

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. Stay tuned for a separate notice with details.

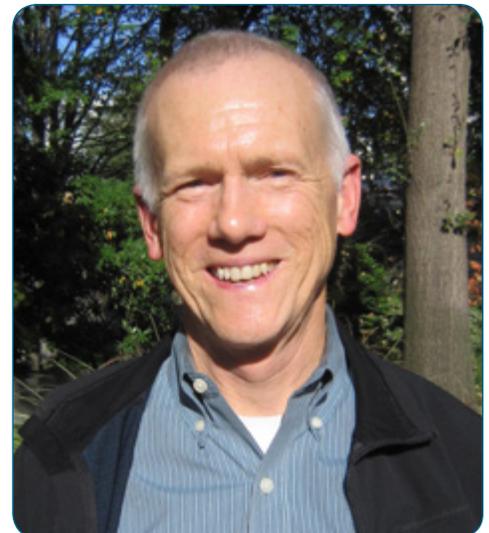
A Note from the EPA Cleanup Team Leader:

Protecting the Health of People and the Environment – The Work Continues

The CDA Basin Cleanup team is looking forward to another year of progress. As the weather clears, trucks will begin to move, and construction projects will get under way. This year's slate of work includes more roads paving, remedy protection work, property cleanups in community areas, continued operation of repositories, cleanup work up in Ninemile, and projects in the Lower Basin. We also want to invite you to share your comments and ideas about the repository in the Canyon Creek area (see article above). One way to stay up to date on all the work is by following our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin>. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we take steps together, to protect the local environment and people's health.

CONTACT: **Bill Adams**, EPA • 206-553-2806 • 800-424-4372 ext. 2806

Email: adams.bill@epa.gov



City of Kellogg Utility Project: Replacing Water, Sewer Lines



The City of Kellogg is beginning phase 2 of a \$30 million infrastructure improvement project. This is the largest integrated utility project in its history. The work includes replacement of nearly all sanitary sewer and water lines, in combination with the EPA's Paved Roads program, to address roads which serve as barriers to underlying contamination. More than 75 percent of the City of Kellogg is covered with some type of barrier due to an estimated 5 million cubic yards of metals-contaminated soils and tailings. Protection and maintenance of these barriers is a critical part of the Superfund cleanup. Funding for the overall project consists of about \$16 million from the EPA's Superfund Program, city bonds,

USDA Rural Development Grant, Community Development Block Grant, USDA Loan, and a water district bond. In total, over 60,000 lineal feet of sewer lines are being replaced, with an equivalent amount of paving once the utilities are replaced. The project requires close coordination with EPA, Panhandle Health District, and IDEQ to ensure that the work does not pose a risk to residents and excavated contaminated soils are disposed of appropriately in a local repository.

CONTACT: **Craig Cameron**, EPA • 509-376-8665 • cameron.craig@epa.gov

Recreational Sites Strategy Response to Community Input Available

Thank you to everyone who took the time to review and comment on the proposed Coeur d'Alene Basin Recreational Sites Strategy. The strategy lays out a foundation for reducing health risks from lead and other metals at recreation areas. You can now find a "Response to Community Input" online. Your participation is helping us create a sensible approach that reflects local needs and values. If you have additional ideas, questions or comments, please feel free to contact:

Dana Swift • dana.swift@deq.idaho.gov
208-373-0296

Craig Cameron • cameron.craig@epa.gov
509-376-8665



Response to Community Input: <http://go.usa.gov/x9SGQ>

Proposed Strategy: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/60179045/cda-recreation-strategy-1016.pdf>

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Central Treatment Plant Upgrade: Contract Work Okayed

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a Notice to Proceed in February. That means contract work can begin on the **Central Treatment Plant** in Kellogg. The work is part of the EPA's efforts to clean up contamination in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. The project is expected to take about four years. Some field work may occur this year.

AMEC Foster Wheeler Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., of Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, was awarded the \$48,409,058 contract. The contractors will design and carry out construction related to:

- Upgrade and expansion of the treatment plant.
- Upgrade of support facilities such as the sludge pond.
- Installation of a system to extract and convey contaminated groundwater for treatment at the CTP.

The contractor will operate and maintain the facility throughout design, construction, commissioning and one year after.

"This is a big step forward, for both the community and the environment," said Sheryl Bilbrey, director of EPA's Superfund cleanup office in Seattle. "When finished, the groundwater collection system and upgraded treatment plant will reduce the single highest source of dissolved zinc pollution to the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River by up to 90 percent. For the City of Kellogg and neighboring Silver Valley communities, we believe this contract will also create local jobs and give the economy a real economic boost."

The public access trail that skirts the northern edge of the Slag Pile Area and Central Impoundment Area between Bunker Avenue and Government Gulch Road will be closed during the project. Increased traffic on nearby streets can be expected during construction.

Contact: Ed Moreen, EPA • 208-664-4588 • moreen.ed@epa.gov



Forecast 2017: Lower Burke Canyon Repository



Trucks will begin running again to the Lower Burke Canyon Repository when the weather clears. We expect the majority of loads to come from the Wallace sewer project. A smaller number will come from remedy protection projects in Mullan and from property cleanups in the Upper Basin. Estimated truckloads of waste material to LBCR:

- 21,000 cubic yards from the Wallace sewer project – 2,300 truckloads
- 2,000 cubic yards from remedy protection projects in Mullan – 223 truckloads
- 4,000 cubic yards from BPRP projects in the upper basin – 445 truckloads

⇒ Continued

⇒ *Continued*

Forecast 2017: Lower Burke Canyon Repository

Truckloads are estimated based on the use of typical end dump trucks. These numbers will be spread out over the course of the year, from spring to fall.

We understand having large trucks drive through the area is a very real concern to many people. There are residences, children playing outside, and other considerations. The trucks can be loud, and they are carrying cleanup waste. Please be assured that truck drivers are required to follow safety practices, including safe speed limits, operation only during daylight hours, covering of loads, decontamination procedures, and dust control as necessary. We are taking other measures as well, such as posting a speed radar sign and communicating safety practices to contractors that are delivering waste to repositories, to help reduce the impact on the local community. Thank you, everyone, for your patience.

CONTACT: **Bonnie Arthur**, EPA • 206-553-4072 • 800-424-4372, ext. 4072 • arthur.bonnie@epa.gov

Big Creek Repository Expanding



Changes are in the works at the Big Creek Repository. Its capacity will soon increase by 127,000 cubic yards. The expansion will take place in the east area of the site. The existing footprint of the repository won't change. This expansion will extend the life of the repository for several years. It also reduces the need for even more repositories to be sited and constructed. Work will take place this year. The design takes into account structural stability, erosion potential, and drainage controls. Once it is filled and closed, the overall repository will be covered with a one-foot-thick clean cap. Waste compaction limits how much rain and snow melt seeps through, which helps protect area groundwater and surface water. Monitoring of water quality continues and the repository is inspected weekly.

CONTACT: **Craig Cameron**, EPA • 509-376-8665
cameron.craig@epa.gov



Basin Commission Considers Its Public Involvement Process



The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission considered the findings of a “Public Participation Situation Assessment” at its February meeting. The assessment resulted in recommendations for the Commission’s public involvement process.

The recommendations relate to role clarification, communications, meeting notifications and format, agenda design, and more. In response to the findings, the commissioners plan to start by clarifying the role of both the BEIPC and its Citizen Coordinating Council. The board has received recommendations from the CCC and has requested recommendations from commission staff, to support further consideration. The independent assessment was conducted for the BEIPC by Wendy Green Lowe of The Participation Company. The EPA funded the assessment as part of its ongoing support to the Commission and its Citizens Coordinating Council.

THE REPORT: <https://go.usa.gov/xXawn>

CONTACT: **Terry Harwood**, Executive Director, Basin Commission • 208-783-2528 • terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov

Monitoring Basin Repositories: Changes Coming

In 2016, an “optimization review” was performed by EPA Headquarters and national technical and policy experts. They reviewed water quality monitoring at the Big Creek Repository and the East Mission Flats Repository.

The EPA and IDEQ requested the review to help improve monitoring and to better understand the wider environment around the repositories. Based on the findings, EPA, with IDEQ and the CdA Trust, has approved several enhancements to the monitoring. They will be rolled out over the next few years.

First, reporting will be further standardized for Basin repositories. This includes monitoring frequency, analyses, statistics, and presentation of information. The standardization will help with the Five Year Review, which is a check-up of remedy effectiveness. Second, “statistical prediction limits” will be refined for EMFR and developed for BCR. These limits will help determine if there are performance problems to be addressed. Third, monitoring of surface and groundwater at BCR will now include monitoring of the Big Creek Annex.

Fourth, two new monitoring wells will be installed near EMFR in 2018.

The new wells will help us better understand groundwater flow and its interaction with pre-existing contamination in the area. Finally, the agencies will develop contingency plans in the unlikely case that repository activities cause water quality standards to be exceeded.

CONTACT: **Craig Cameron**, EPA

509-376-8665 • cameron.craig@epa.gov

DOCUMENT: <https://go.usa.gov/xXavS>



2016 Blood Lead Screening Results: Levels Continue to Decrease



The Panhandle Health District has released the 2016 annual summer blood lead results. Results show that blood lead levels continue to decrease in the Silver Valley.

PHD's Lead Health Intervention Program (LHIP) screens for lead poisoning in children. Those living in northern Idaho's Silver Valley are vulnerable to lead poisoning, in part due to the presence of heavy metals left over from past mining practices. A cleanup is under way and much progress has been made, but risks still exist in the area.

For 2016, PHD offered a \$30 incentive for children between 6 months and 6 years of age in the Box and Basin areas of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site.

184 children in the Box and Basin were voluntarily tested. Of those, 17 children tested above the Center for Disease Control's recommended reference value of 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). Children who test over 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ are offered free consultations and follow-up testing.

In addition, 37 children between the ages of 7 and 15 participated, none of which had a blood lead above CDC's reference value.

"In 1983, 25 percent of Silver Valley children had blood lead levels greater than 25 micrograms per deciliter," Andy Helkey, LHIP Manager explained. "Today, blood lead levels above 10 micrograms per deciliter are rare. I attribute the success not only to the cleanup of local yards and public places, but also to parents in our community taking precautions to avoid lead exposure."

Although results continue to improve year to year, PHD will continue to educate and monitor blood lead levels. According to the CDC, health effects associated with lead are the same whether it enters the body through breathing or swallowing. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in the body, especially the nervous system. No safe level of lead exposure has been identified. Lead is especially dangerous for young children, whose bodies are still developing.

For more information about lead exposure, poisoning and prevention, or to view the 2016 summer screening results visit <http://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/icp-play-clean>

Partnering for Healthy Communities

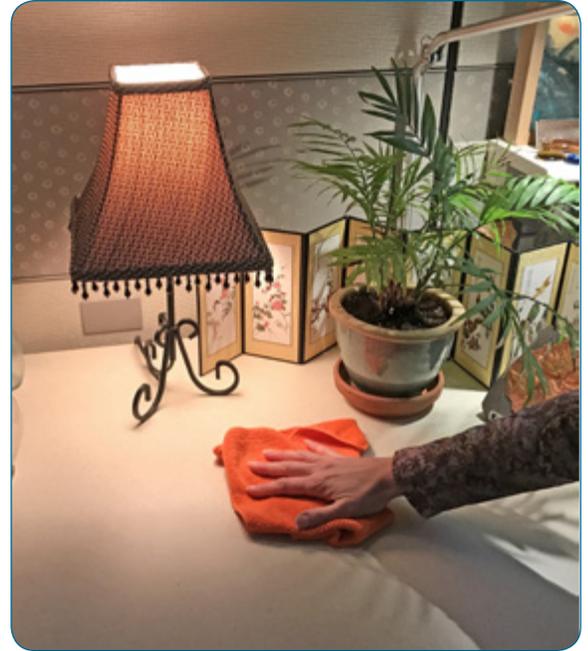
Environmental and health agencies that serve the CDA Basin area will meet with each other this spring. The aim is to begin a collaborative conversation around community health, related to ongoing risks from lead and other metals. The meeting will help the organizations learn about current efforts, explore gaps, and highlight ways to work together.

CONTACT: **Andy Helkey**, Panhandle Health District • 208-783-0707 • ahelkey@phd1.idaho.gov

Time for Spring Cleaning!

Spring cleaning in the Silver Valley is more than just a yearly tradition, it is a simple way to help protect the health of your children. Did you know the Center for Disease Control has identified lead based paint and lead contaminated dust as the two main exposure sources for children? So, how does lead dust find its way into your home?

Many homes in the Silver Valley were built before lead based paint was banned in 1978. Deterioration of lead based paint inside and outside of the home can raise the interior lead dust levels, especially if the paint is peeling or cracking. Even lead based paint in good condition can be a source. For example, opening and closing a window creates surface friction that can generate dust. Home renovation projects can be a significant exposure source if not done properly. Private property owners are encouraged to contact Panhandle Health District before beginning renovation projects to learn more about ways to prevent exposure.



Contaminated soils encountered while recreating in non-remediated areas of the Coeur d'Alene Basin can also contribute to lead in house dust. Contaminated soil can travel home on the family pet, clothing and on toys.

To keep your home free from lead dust:

- Wet mop and damp dust weekly.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter often (PHD has a free vacuum loan program).
- Clean or remove shoes and dirty clothing before entering your home. If a mud room or closet is used to store these items, make sure it's cleaned often.
- Clean play areas including the toys and containers holding them. Especially if these toys are brought in from outside.
- Repair peeling or disturbed paint, specifically around moving parts like windows or doors.
- Separate your family from areas in the home being renovated or remodeled. Especially do so if an area that often goes undisturbed like the attic or a crawl space is re-opened after a long undisturbed period.

For more information and how to test your children for lead:

Panhandle Health District • 208-783-0707 • <http://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/icp-play-clean>

Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality • 208-783-5781 • <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/bunkerhillsuperfundsite>

Sampling Private Water Supplies



Drinking water from private water supplies (such as wells) will continue to be sampled in 2017 as part of the Basin Property Remediation Program. Water samples are collected from kitchen faucets in homes participating in the program. This year, some previously sampled private water supplies will also be sampled.

CONTACT: **Scott Peterson**, IDEQ • 208-783-5781
scott.peterson@deq.idaho.gov

Alan Davis, Coeur d'Alene Trust • 208-783-0222

Video Shines Spotlight on Community

A new video about the community's role in the CDA Basin Cleanup is now available. It's called "Coeur d'Alene Basin: Partnering with Community for a Successful Cleanup." It's just 8 minutes long. Check it out: <https://youtu.be/ZBITaxahAcw>

The EPA sends a big "Thank You!" to everyone in the local community. Local participation has been crucial to accomplishments in the CDA Basin Cleanup.



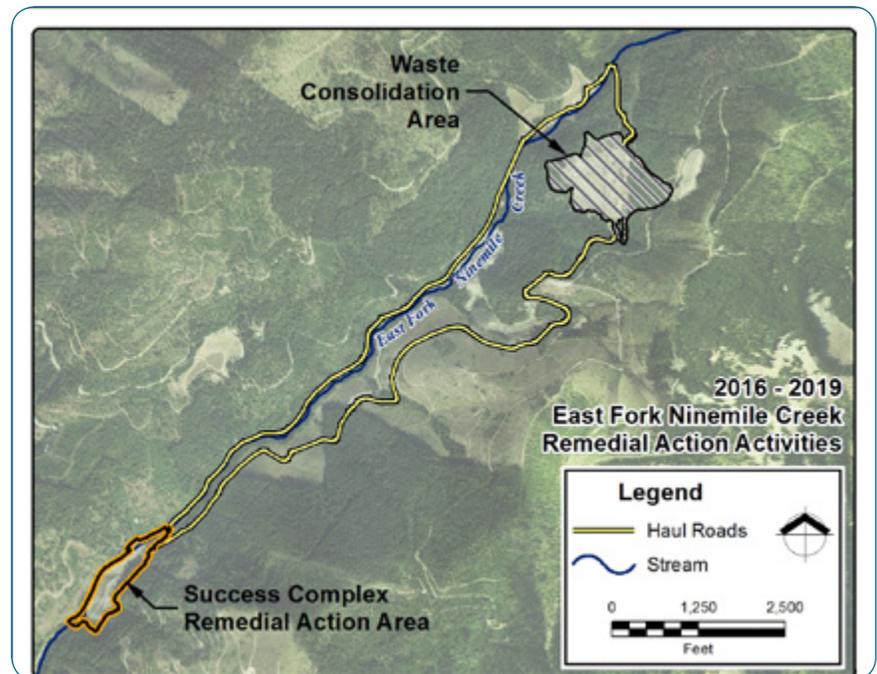
Cleanup at Success Mine Continues in 2017

Year 2 of cleanup work at the old Success Mine is set to begin this spring after the snow melts. The CDA Work Trust expects the Success cleanup to take 4 years. Trucks will haul contaminated material like soil and mine tailings from Success and place it in the Waste Consolidation Area. The WCA is a much smaller, isolated location that will store contaminated material from work in East Fork Ninemile. Regular local roads will remain open. The access roads between the Success Complex and the Waste Consolidation Area will close to the public during work hours. Work is being carried out under the EPA's Record of Decision for the Superfund cleanup. The project will help control sources of heavy metals like lead.

The work protects the local ecology, people recreating, and communities downstream.

CONTACTS: **Tracy Chellis**, EPA, 206-553-6326 • 800-424-4372, ext. 4772 • chellis.tracy@epa.gov

Dan Meyer, CDA Work Trust • 208-783-0222



Lane Marsh: Testing Soil Caps to Protect Water Birds

Last spring, the CDA Basin team installed 8 test plots in Lane Marsh. The test plots are designed to help us evaluate the benefit of applying thin layers of clean soil over contaminated wetland sediments. Placing this “cap” could help protect water birds from lead. The first year of monitoring is now complete. Data is showing that, even with capping, the vegetation growth is mostly strong. There also appears to be very little movement of the lead contamination up through the cap. Study of the test plots will continue at least through 2017.

During the spring migration, thousands of birds flock to Lane Marsh and other contaminated wetlands in the area. Here, lead concentrations are often toxic to Tundra swans and other waterfowl. The focus of the pilot project is

to evaluate the methods, costs, and effectiveness of placing several thin layers of clean sediment over time to reduce waterfowl exposure. The project will also look at whether this method would reduce the effect of recontamination from large floods. If proven successful it could be applied at a larger scale in the Lower Basin. The EPA is evaluating this approach as part of an overall strategy to increase the amount of healthy, usable waterfowl habitat in the area. Lane Marsh is located in the Lower Basin along Highway 3.



CONTACT: **Kim Prestbo**, EPA • 206-553-0239 • 800-424-4372 ext. 0239 • prestbo.kim@epa.gov

Checking Up on Local Water Birds



Each spring, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts bird surveys in the CDA Basin. Waterfowl monitoring helps us understand how weather and water conditions affect how birds use wetlands. Some wetlands in the area have lead at levels that can harm or even kill birds who feed there. Water levels determine how much access to food exists for birds during spring migration. During spring flooding events, their feeding habitat becomes inundated with water, limiting access to food sources. During these times, waterfowl are attracted to areas within the Basin where they can find and access food. Understanding when and where they feed is important for developing strategies to reduce waterfowl lead exposure and death during migration. Watch our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CDAbasin for bird photos and updates on the spring survey.

CONTACT: **Tracy Chellis**, EPA • 206-553-6326
800-424-4372 ext. 6326
chellis.tracy@epa.gov

EPA Issues Final Plan: Forecasting Basin Cleanup for the Next 10 Years

The EPA has issued its final Superfund Cleanup Implementation Plan, 2016-2025. The document spells out general plans for doing cleanup work in the Coeur d'Alene Basin over the next decade. The EPA received two comment letters during public review in 2016. The comments resulted in editorial and clarifying changes.

Cleanup for the next 10 years:

- Finish property cleanups in the Basin with emphasis on high risk homes with children and pregnant women.
- Complete repair of roads that may have been damaged by cleanup activities, so that those roads can serve as barriers to underlying contamination.
- Complete actions to protect cleanup work that has already been done.
- Construct a drain to intercept contaminated groundwater near the Central Impoundment Area in the Box and pipe it to the Central Treatment Plant (CTP).
- Upgrade and expand the CTP to treat groundwater in addition to the ongoing treatment of water from the Bunker Hill mine.
- Continue high-priority cleanup work in the East Fork of Ninemile Creek.
- Begin work in Canyon Creek to control sources of contamination.
- Utilize the data and improved understanding of the Lower Basin developed since the Record of Decision, to conduct pilot and full scale cleanup projects to address risk.
- Continue managing repositories.

FIND THE FINAL PLAN ONLINE: <https://go.usa.gov/xXa6x>

CONTACT: **Bill Adams**, EPA • 206-553-2806 • 800-424-4372 ext. 2806 • adams.bill@epa.gov



Protecting Cleaned-Up Areas

Remedy protection work will continue this year in the basin. In Mullan, work will pick up where it left off last year along Mill Creek. In 2016, we completed the lower half of Mill Creek. This year, we expect to complete the upper part. Also in Mullan, once the weather clears and the city completes its utility work in the Copper Street/ Boulder Creek neighborhood, we will officially cap off last year's remedy protection work by paving. Near Kingston, we be upgrading roadside drainage along Valley View road. These projects protect past cleanup from the impacts of flooding in community areas. Looking forward to another year of progress!

CONTACT: **Anne McCauley**, EPA • 206-553-4689
800-424-4372, ext. 4689 • mccauley.anne@epa.gov



Welcome, Bonnie Arthur!



The CDA Basin team welcomes new project manager Bonnie Arthur. Bonnie will be working on our environmental monitoring program, supporting repository work, and helping with efforts to reduce health risks at recreation sites. She recently came to EPA Region 10 after working on mine cleanups in California and Nevada for EPA Region 9. Bonnie has a background in Environmental Toxicology/Economics. Bonnie spent her 2016 vacation near Salmon and looks forward to working on the CDA Basin cleanup with all of you, as well as getting to know north Idaho. She is located in our Seattle office and can be reached at 206-553-4072, 800-424-4372, ext. 4072 • arthur.bonnie@epa.gov.

Warm Goodbyes and Big Thank You's... Jan Olsen and Bruce Schuld

Hearty hugs and thank you's to two long-time cleanup partners. Bruce Schuld and Jan Olsen will retire this year from IDEQ. Over the years, Jan and Bruce have made massive contributions to the cleanup and forged strong relationships in the communities they serve. They are both recognized for their commitment to protecting people's health, running an efficient and sensible cleanup, and caring for the well-being of the local communities. We will miss you!



Pictured above: Jan, Bill, Bruce

Documents

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

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

Kellogg Public Library

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

EPA Community Involvement Contact

Andrea Lindsay

 Lindsay.Andrea@epa.gov

 1-800-424-4372 ext. 1896

Opportunities to Get Involved

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Terry Harwood
208-783-2528 • <http://www.basincommission.com>

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

CHAIR: Jerry Boyd
509-220-1453 • basincommission.com/cc.asp

The Basin Bulletin is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency three times a year. The Basin Bulletin offers updates on the Superfund cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. For mailing list changes, to send comments on this newsletter, contact the editors, or submit articles for consideration, contact Andrea Lindsay as noted. Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

Alternative formats are available.

For reasonable accommodation, please call

 Andrea Lindsay at 206-553-1896

 TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.



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**Learn More About the
Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup
on the Web**

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



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- Much More!

Want Timely Updates? Visit us on Facebook!



One of the best ways to stay up-to-date on the cleanup work is to sign up for our Facebook page. Watch for two or three short posts a week. We invite you to check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin>

