



ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

East Mission Flats, Cataldo, Idaho



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 — Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

June 2007

An Update on East Mission Flats: Waste Repository Plans

For the past six years, EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and DEQ (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality) have been carefully reviewing possible sites for new waste repositories. A repository is a place to put contaminated material, mostly soil, from Superfund cleanup work. Wastes generated from the new Basin Institutional Controls Program (ICP) will also go to a repository. There is not enough space in the existing repositories to hold all the material that is likely to result from the cleanup.

In 2004, East Mission Flats was identified as a new location for a repository to serve the lower Coeur d'Alene Basin. Today, planning continues for the East Mission Flats waste repository. The repository is located two miles west of Cataldo, Idaho. Work is under way now to design the site so that it protects human health and the environment and meets the needs for the ICP in the local communities.

Public Comments on Technical Design Due July 6

In response to requests, DEQ has made available for public review a technical document about the site. This "30% Design" gives site background information and includes draft engineering plans for using and configuring the site. The document can be viewed in the locations listed on page 3. Submit comments by e-mail, fax, or mail to Ms. Teri Gregory at teri.gregory@deq.idaho.gov, or DEQ, 1410 North Hilton, Boise, ID 83706. Comments are due by close of business **July 6, 2007**. You may also submit comments through the DEQ website (see page 3). The DEQ website has a comment section linked to the "30% Design" document.

East Mission Flats: Background

Basic Information: East Mission Flats is on the north side of I-90. The site is across from the Cataldo Mission, out of view of the the Mission, near Exit 39. DEQ announced its purchase of the 19-acre site in 2006. The DEQ will operate the repository, assisted by the same contractor that

**You Are Invited:
Public Site Tour June 22**

The public is invited to tour East Mission Flats to learn more. The tour is focused on the proposed site design and will give people an opportunity to view the repository location.

It will take place **Friday, June 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** EPA and DEQ project staff will show the site, talk about plans, and answer questions. Participants are encouraged to review the "30% Design" report before June 22 and bring questions about the repository. Dress for the outdoors. Be prepared to walk on uneven surfaces. Please park at the Cataldo Mission. From I-90, take Exit 39, and go to the parking lot next to the Mission. Shuttle service from the Mission to the repository site will be provided.

Please register for the tour by June 14 so that we can be sure to have the appropriate accommodations. To register, call **Andrea Lindsay** at 800-424-4372 x1896 before June 14. Feel free to leave a message and your phone number; you will get a return call to confirm your registration.

operates the Big Creek Repository east of Kellogg. EPA provides funding and coordinates on site development.

Under the ICP, run by the Panhandle Health District, residents will be able to dispose of contaminated yard soil at the repository. Eventually, as Basin yard cleanups progress, contractors will bring in

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East Mission Flats: Background (continued)

waste from cleanup work in the lower Basin. At first, the site will not be heavily used, and access from Canyon Road will be more than adequate to handle traffic. However, as more contractors use this site and traffic increases, the DEQ will construct a separate access from the Dredge Road adjacent to Exit 39 off of I-90.

Why This Location? This site was chosen for many reasons. There is a need for a repository to serve lower Basin cleanups; no other repository exists in this area. The site is already highly contaminated with metals. In fact, this site is in the Mission Flats area, which contains the largest load of mine tailings in one general location in the entire Coeur d’Alene Basin. No clean land will be used. This site has been impacted for decades, and contaminated materials will be placed only where there is existing contamination. While there are wetlands nearby, the site is not wetlands.

The site is centrally located near areas where cleanup will take place for years to come. This makes the cleanup efforts more efficient. The site is accessible to and from the highway, and truck traffic can use the existing Mission Exit 39 without driving through residential neighborhoods. The site is nearly flat, making construction easier and less expensive. Finally, when completed, East Mission Flats will be able to hold nearly 700,000 cubic yards of material, which could serve the cleanup needs locally for more than a decade.

Supporting the ICP: The Basin Institutional Controls Program (ICP) goes into effect on July 1. Under the ICP, waste from local community cleanups will need a place to go. DEQ is preparing a small part of East Mission Flats now to take in a limited amount of waste to support the ICP beginning in July. This limited use of the site won’t interfere with the future design of the repository.

Protecting the Environment

EPA and DEQ are committed to protecting the environment. The Superfund cleanup is helping to make the area a cleaner, safer place. Part of that cleanup involves hauling away contaminated material and putting it in repositories.

Although East Mission Flats is already contaminated, steps will be taken to prevent more environmental problems. The site is near wetlands, in the floodplain of the Coeur d’Alene River, an area prone to flood. The site is protected from high energy water during a large flood event. Because the site is affected by slow-moving water during flooding, the potential for erosion is much lower. The site is protected by I-90 to the south, the Canyon Road to the north, and the Dredge Road to the west. The Coeur d’Alene River is on the other side of I-90. The agencies have worked with Kootenai County Planning and Zoning, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and consulting engineers that specialize in

hydraulic and geotechnical designs to carefully consider flood issues and flood controls.

Erosion controls will help ensure that materials do not get carried off by rain and snow melt waters. Groundwater wells will be placed around the site and will be regularly monitored, along with local surface water, to help assess site conditions. Roads and the site itself will be watered or treated to control dust. Steps will be taken to minimize any nuisance to local neighbors. The site will be gated and have controlled access.

The site is expected to fill up after a decade or more of use. When full, it will be capped with a barrier and clean material, offering a safe and clean surface for reuse. A buffer of trees and vegetation around the site will reduce the visibility of the repository.

An Important Area

East Mission Flats will be built and operated in a way that is sensitive to the historic importance of this area to the Coeur d’Alene Tribe and local citizens. The DEQ has coordinated closely with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. Part of that effort includes a plan to limit digging on site. Whenever significant disturbance beneath the cover of contaminated sediments occurs, the DEQ will have an archaeological expert on site. That expert will monitor construction activities to make sure that disturbances are recorded and cataloged, whenever needed. The DEQ will monitor views from the Cataldo Mission annually. A more complete description of the site and the proposed mitigation strategy can be found in the “30% Design” report.

Keeping the Community Informed

EPA and DEQ will continue to provide information on East Mission Flats and the search for more repositories. Watch for updates in future issues of the EPA Basin Bulletin, meetings of the Basin Commission and its sub-groups, and on the web. DEQ will respond to public comments on the 30% Design by September 2007.

DEQ and EPA hosted public meetings in July 2005 and March 2006 to discuss East Mission Flats planning with interested community members. Door-to-door visits with local neighbors took place in May 2005. From 2005 to 2007, the agencies briefed the Basin Commission and its Technical Leadership Group and Citizens Coordinating Committee. Past issues of EPA’s Basin Bulletin also gave updates.

Learn More

Ed Moreen, EPA Project Manager
208-664-4588
moreen.ed@epa.gov

John Lawson, DEQ Project Manager
208-373-0141
john.lawson@deq.idaho.gov

Andrea Lindsay, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 206-553-1896 or 800-424-4372

Debra Sherbina, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 206-553-0247 or 800-424-4372

Where to View the “30% Design” Document:

North Idaho College
Molstead Library
1000 W. Garden Avenue
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814

Kellogg Public Library
16 West Market Avenue
Kellogg, ID 83827

St. Maries Library
822 W. College Avenue
St. Maries, ID 83861

IDEQ Coeur d’Alene Office
2110 Ironwood Pkwy.
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814

www.deq.idaho.gov/public/comment.cfm
(Waste Management Section)

IDEQ Boise Office
1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706

IDEQ Kellogg Office
1005 West McKinley
Kellogg, ID 83837

EPA
1910 Northwest Blvd. Suite 208
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814



If you need materials in an alternative format, please contact Andrea Lindsay. TTY users please call 800-877-8339.



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

East Mission Flats Site
Cataldo, Idaho
June 2007



Planning for the East Mission Flats repository is under way now. A public tour of the site is planned for June 22. **Public comments on the technical design are due July 6.** Find details inside.

◊ *Working with you for a better environment* ◊



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