Columbia Falls Aluminum Reduction Plant Site

National Priorities List ("NPL") Fact Sheet

April 2016

The decision to list the Columbia Fall Aluminum Reduction Plant Site on the final NPL is approaching. Once listed on the final NPL, that decision cannot be reversed and the site will not be taken off the NPL until the project is completed.

Site redevelopment, job creation and increased tax revenue are being cited as reasons to list the site on the final NPL. Contrary to the expectations of some in Columbia Falls and elected officials, historical experience of Montana NPL sites show the opposite is true. Case studies in Montana show that final listing of the site on the NPL does not lead to redevelopment that brings high paying jobs and tax revenue.

Research using EPA information indicates that, although a few NPL listed sites in Montana have been partially reused, these projects have not brought significant jobs and tax revenue to local communities. Where reuse has occurred, most projects are parks, a golf course or public buildings:

- There are 18 sites on the NPL in Montana; none have ever been removed from the list. With the exception of a small power plant that created 11 jobs, industrial reuse has not occurred at any Montana site that was finally listed on the NPL

- Industrial redevelopment has occurred at one Montana site proposed for NPL listing but never put on the final NPL: The Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex was proposed for NPL listing in 1994 but the listing was never finalized. The site is now used for switching and temporarily holding rail cars.

- Parts of four of the 16 final NPL sites in Montana have been redeveloped:

    - Milltown Reservoir Sediments Site, Milltown: The State of Montana opened a park on the former reservoir site. In addition, the Clark Fork Coalition, a not-for-profit conservation organization, has opened a sustainable cattle ranch and learning center on the property.

    - Anaconda Smelter, Anaconda: A government authority built a golf course funded, in large part, by site owner ARCO. In 2014, the golf course requested additional funding from ARCO to continue operations[1]. A regional prison was developed on part of the site. NorthWestern Energy constructed a natural-gas-fired electric generation facility on the site that employs 11 people.

[1] http://mtstandard.com/news/local/old-works-golf-course-may-close-permanently/article_481b3795-d730-59db-beff-e7698e968e78.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

- Silver Bow Creek, Butte: A park with a sports complex, baseball fields, a driving range and volleyball courts has been created on the site. A memorial to those who died in Butte area mines also has been erected.

- Moat Industries, Columbus: The Town of Columbus built a public works building and parking area on part of the site.

- The EPA has designated two Montana NPL sites as "ready for reuse" Only one has been developed so far:

  - Moat Industries, Columbus: This is the same site as described above. The Town of Columbus built a public works building and parking area on part of the site.

  - Idaho Pole, Bozeman: EPA and the local community have coordinated to redevelop the site. There has been no redevelopment at this time.

- The EPA is trying to help other sites develop but despite planning and other activities at these sites, they have yet to be redeveloped:

  - East Helena Site, East Helena: In 2011, the EPA Superfund Redevelopment Initiative funded a community planning charrette and reuse planning process that produced a "revitalization concept plan" for the site. The site has not yet been redeveloped.

  - Libby Groundwater Contamination Site, Libby: The EPA and the state are working with businesses and officials of the Kootenai Industrial Park to support reuse of the area.

Montana NPL Sites Redevelopment Activity				
Site Name and Location	**NPL Status**	**NPL Listing Date***	**Site-Wide Ready for Anticipated Use?****	**Redevelopment Activity**
Industrial use				
The Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex	Proposed	n/a	n/a	Train yard switching and train storage
Some redevelopment with a few jobs and some tax revenue				
Milltown Sediments, Milltown	Final	September 8, 1983	No	State Park, cattle ranch and learning center
Anaconda Smelter , Anaconda	Final	September 8, 1983	No	Golf course, prison and power generating station
Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area, Butte	Final	September 8, 1983	No	Park and sports facilities; a monument
Moat Industries, Columbus	Final - Ready for Re-use	June 10, 1986	Yes	Town of Columbus Public Works Building
Government planning and coordination but no redevelopment yet				
Idaho Pole, Bozeman	Final – Ready for Re-use	June 10, 1986	Yes	Government coordination
East Helena Site, East Helena	Final	September 21, 1984	No	"redevelopment conceptual plan" developed in 2011
Libby Groundwater Contamination Site, Libby	Final	September 8, 1983	No	Government coordination

Montana NPL Sites Redevelopment Activity				
Site Name and Location	**NPL Status**	**NPL Listing Date***	**Site-Wide Ready for Anticipated Use?****	**Redevelopment Activity**
No Redevelopment Activity				
Libby Asbestos, Libby	Final	October 24, 2002	No	None
Barker Hughes Mining District, Monarch	Final	September 13, 2001	No	None
Basin Mining Area, Basin	Final	October 22, 1999	No	None
ACM Smelter and Refinery, Black Eagle, MT	Final	March 10, 2011	No	None
Montana Pole and Treating, Butte, MT	Final	July 22, 1987	No	Construction of remedy complete – no redevelopment
Flat Creek IMM, Superior, MT	Final	September 23, 2009	No	None
Lockwood Solvent Ground Water Plume, Billings, MT	Final	December 1, 2000	No	None
Upper Tenmile Creek, Helena, MT	Final	October 22, 1999	No	None
Smurfit-Stone Mill, Frenchtown, MT	Proposed	n/a	No	None

* From https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-priorities-list-npl-sites-state#MT

**From https://www.epa.gov/superfund/search-superfund-sites-where-you-live