


Erin Appert

From: Dom Goble <dgoble@m-m.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Erin Appert
Cc: April Derbyshire
Subject: FW: BNSF Superfund Site - Somers, MT

Good afternoon Erin,

Can the below email exchange be provided to the Planning Board for the July 10 Planning Board Public Hearing to review the new information regarding the BNSF superfund site?

Thank you,

 **Dom Goble, PE**
Water-Wastewater Engineer, Morrison-Maierle
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From: Rappe, Jason <Rappe.Jason@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:53 PM
To: Dom Goble <dgoble@m-m.net>
Subject: RE: BNSF Superfund Site - Somers, MT

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Looks good. No revisions on my end.

Jason Rappe
Remedial Project Manager

From: Dom Goble <dgoble@m-m.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 8:17 AM
To: Rappe, Jason <Rappe.Jason@epa.gov>
Subject: BNSF Superfund Site - Somers, MT

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Good morning Jason,


Thank you for your revisions and comments. I added your revisions to my below comments. Please let me know if this is all accurate:

- Remediation of the BNSF site lasted for approximately 30 years. Remediation was for contaminated soils and groundwater. Soil remediation included excavation of contaminated soils and sediments and placing them in a lined land treatment unit. Backfill of the excavated area with clean soil and restoration

of habitat. Groundwater remediation included a water treatment system to remove and treat cresosote contamination and injection of clean water back into the ground, in-situ biosparging (air injection) to aid in the natural breakdown process, and institutional controls limiting access to the groundwater.

- The BNSF Somers Former Tie Treat Plant is not currently undergoing active remediation. The site has not been closed out and there is still relatively mobile contaminates underground. These contaminates, while not posing a risk, need to meet remediation requirements before closeout can happen. The site is being monitored twice a year to monitor residual contaminants, groundwater flow, and contaminated groundwater limits.
- There is an area that is being monitored along Somers Road near the s-curve on a monthly frequency due to elevated levels of creosote. The higher frequency is to ensure this area is contained and the contaminated groundwater does not spread.
- Groundwater at the source was contaminated from 5 to 55 feet below ground surface. Humans can encounter contaminated groundwater through wells or if the groundwater reaches surface water. Snowmelt and rainfall have an impact on groundwater levels.
- DEQ/EPA requested the County get involved to create a Controlled Groundwater Area (CGA) to ban groundwater wells within the CGA. Pumping groundwater can impact the direction of flowing groundwater. The CGA is the yellow boundary shown in the attached pdf from EPA.
- The proposed development does not include any proposed wells within the subject property and the proposed mains within the proposed subdivision are outside the CGA. If Somers Water and Sewer District needs to upsize water mains outside of the proposed subdivision, then coordination with EPA/DEQ will occur.
- The contaminated groundwater is flowing west towards School Addition Road and a portion is flowing south towards Flathead Lake.
- Bottom line is that DEQ/EPA is monitoring the site closely and DEQ/EPA wants to ensure that everyone is aware of the superfund site.

Have a great day,

 **Dom Goble, PE**
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