

12 - Berg Lumber Mill Site City of Lewistown

Project Description

The Berg Lumber Mill Site [also known as the Lewistown Groundwater Investigation] is a 31-acre site resting upgrate from Big Spring Creek located on the outskirts of Lewistown. This remediation project assessed the extent of illegal industrial contaminant disposal and proceeded to remove the material from the site. Auxiliary benefits to the area included the improvement of water quality within Big Spring Creek, a recreational destination for local residents.

History

1972 – A sawmill was constructed by George Berg along Joyland Road in Lewistown.

2001 – April: A former Berg Lumber employee complained to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality [MT DEQ] of improper disposal of petroleum hydrocarbons, Pentachlorophenol, and transformer fluids, as well as the open burning of a sawdust pile. This resulted in a Phase I Environmental Assessment [EA] being undertaken by the Enforcement Division of MT DEQ. Pioneer Technical Services completed this EA in October 2001.

2004 – August: A Phase II EA was conducted, which consisted of soil and groundwater sampling and analysis.

2007 – August: Further soil sampling and the installation of a monitoring well to assess the extent and magnitude of contaminated soils and groundwater are undertaken.

2008 – June: \$10,502 was allocated by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation [DNRC], so that a grant proposal could be prepared for a DNRC Resource and Development Grant [RDG]. An EPA Brownfields Grant was also prepared using these funds.

2009 – April: A \$300,000 DNRC Resource and Development Grant [RDG] was approved for site clean-up. Per grant requirements, ownership of the Berg property was transferred from the estate of George Berg to the City of Lewistown in June 2009. In September 2009, an additional \$200,000 for site clean-up was



Figure 12-1 – This photo displays a portion of the surface detritus that remains on the Berg Lumber Mill site. This will be removed throughout the course of this project. [Photo: H. Janssen, August 2010]



Figure 12-2 – These structures left on the Berg Lumber Mill Site are laced with lead-based paint and insulated with asbestos-based insulation. They will require removal. [Photo: H. Janssen, August 2010]

approved by the EPA Brownfields program. This was provided in the form of a 128A grant, which is specifically designed for clean-up that serves to restore communities and the ecological systems that support them. In December 2009, AMEC Geomatrix [Missoula] received a contracting award for environmental and engineering services related to the remediation of this site.

2010 – Shumaker Trucking and Excavating [Great Falls] is awarded the remediation contract for the site.

Chronology

A Phase I EA occurred at the site in April 2001. This was followed in August 2004 by a Phase II EA to determine the extent of pollution at the site. In April 2010, it was determined that in addition to soil and groundwater contamination, the presence of asbestos and lead-based paint would require the removal of several existing structures on the property [Figure 12-2].

Design and planning work for the project began in February 2010, at the behest of the City of Lewistown City Planner, Duane Ferdinand.

Present work consists of removing the DEQ estimated 10,000yds³ of contaminated soil. Samples taken from the most-affected areas have not measured contamination to a depth exceeding 12". Soil is presently excavated and placed on semi-trailers [capacities range from 32-40 yds³ per trailer]. It is hauled to the High Plains Landfill in Great Falls, a distance of 115 miles, one-way. Owing to the distance involved in disposing of this waste in a landfill certified to accept such material, five trucks make this journey, twice per day. Roughly 320-400 yds.³ of waste are removed and disposed of each day, with excavation activities at the site continuing throughout the workday.

Current Project

Remediation activities will continue in spring 2011, with impacted soils continuing to be excavated and disposed of at the High Plains Landfill. The City of Lewistown Planning Director will determine future site use, which will become either a public fishing access to Big Spring Creek or, alternately, a public park.



Figure 12-3 – A pile of rubbish on the Berg Lumber Mill Site awaiting disposal at the High Plains Landfill in Great Falls. [Photo: H. Janssen, November 2010]



Figure 12-4 – Contaminated soils were stockpiled while awaiting transit to the High Plains Landfill. [Photo: H. Janssen, November 2010]



Figure 12-5 – Topsoil was loaded into semitrailers for transit and disposal. Each semitrailer was capable of transporting 32-40yds³ of soil per trip. There is an estimated 10,000 yds³ of contaminants at the Berg site that will require disposal. [Photo: H. Janssen, November 2010]

Cost and Source of Funds

Total project cost for the Berg Lumber Mill site remediation equaled \$510,502.

In 2008, the Montana DNRC allocated \$10,502 for the purposes of drafting an EPA Brownfields proposal and an RDG grant. The DNRC approved a \$300,000 RDG grant, while the EPA Brownfields program provided an additional \$200,000 in the form of a 128 A Grant.

Project Design

Project Design and planning was conducted jointly by Duane Ferdinand, the City of Lewistown Planning Director, and AMEC Geomatrix [Missoula].

Pre-Project Planning & Testing

Project sampling and planning was first conducted by Pioneer Technical Services [Butte] with a second Environmental Assessment conducted in 2004.

RDG grant and Brownfields assessment work was conducted by Tetra Tech EMI [Helena] in 2008. For their services they received \$9,167.07, reflecting 121 hours of billed labor. Their services included administrative support [4.5 hrs.], editorial review [2.5 hrs.], a staff geologist [31 hrs.], and a senior scientist [83 hrs.]. The wage rate range was \$53-80/hr.

AMEC Geomatrix [Missoula] began planning work and testing in February 2010. The following figures reflect their labor from February to November 2010:

AMEC Geomatrix has received \$86,314.53 to date. Labor provided by AMEC consists of a CAD/Graphics employee [46hrs.], Senior engineer II [151.1 hrs.], Project engineers [517.65 hrs.], Senior engineer I [18.5 hrs.], administrative project support [24.5 hrs.], a staff engineer [19.5 hrs.], and a professional level XIII engineer [49 hrs.]. \$80,463.75 has been billed for 826.25 labor hours. The average AMEC hourly wage on this project equals \$97.38/hour, including overhead and indirect costs. \$250 was provided to Pace Laboratories [Milwaukee, WI] for the processing of 6 test samples.

Project Labor

Shumaker Trucking and Excavating [Great Falls] was awarded the contract for remediation activities in 2010 for \$243,990. All contractors' wages are based upon Davis-Bacon prevailing wages. The labor supplied by Shumaker has thus far consisted of Truck Driver 2 [318 hrs.], Excavator Operator 2 [54 hrs.], Loader Operator 2 [51.5 hrs.], and a project Superintendent [104 hrs.]. To-date Shumaker has received \$60,213.59 for their labor, materials, and indirect costs for work performed at the Berg Lumber site. This figure reflects 527.5 hours of labor.

Asbestos abatement at one of the surface structures was undertaken by Schroeder Contracting [Billings]. For this service, Schroeder received \$3,000. This employed 2 employees for a total of 40 hours. Schroeder employee wages range from \$18-20/hr.

Contaminated soil was disposed of at the High Plains Landfill [Great Falls] at a cost of \$7/ton.

Project Oversight

Project oversight is being conducted by Duane Ferdinand, the City of Lewistown Planning Director, and AMEC Geomatrix.



Figure 12-6 – Contaminated soil being secured for transit to the landfill. This action is mandated by state regulations and prohibits the impacted soils from becoming airborne while in transit. [Photo: H. Janssen, November 2010]



Figure 12-7 – A historic warehouse that will be removed from the site owing to its contamination with lead-based paint and asbestos has sat neglected for many years. [Photo: H. Janssen, August 2010]



Figure 12-8 – One of several piles of rubbish on the Berg Lumber Mill Site property awaiting disposal. [Photo: H. Janssen, August 2010]



Figure 12-9 – Topsoil being removed from the Berg Lumber Mill Site. Contaminated topsoil was removed to a depth that has not yet exceeded 12" throughout the property. [Photo: H. Janssen, November 2010]