



Idaho Department of  
Environmental Quality



Bunker Hill Superfund Site, Northern Idaho

April 2011

Join the Bunker Hill Task Force, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 21, 2011 for a Community Open House to learn about a proposed expansion of the Page Repository.

Drop in any time between 7:00 and 9:00 P.M. at the Kellogg Middle School Library located at 810 Bunker Avenue, in Kellogg, Idaho.

This will be an information sharing meeting. There will be no presentations, no formal comments taken, we simply want to share information and hear your ideas for making the proposed expansion work.

- Talk one-on-one with project managers and Task Force members;
- Find out how an expansion of the Page Repository will continue to serve community needs;
- Ask questions;
- Share ideas;
- Learn about challenges and solutions with repository siting.

We can only improve the proposed expansion with your ideas. We encourage you to attend.

## **We want to hear your ideas about wetlands development**

We are interested in your ideas about wetlands development near the repository and near Coeur d'Alene Lake. What are your thoughts on how we can enhance these wetlands once the repository is built?

## **Why does the Box need a new repository?**

The existing Page repository, located west of Smeltonville, Idaho, has been in operation for about 20 years and is now reaching capacity—filling up. The proposed expansion will add about 15 acres into the West Swamp and 21 acres in the East Swamp in three to five acre phases over the next 100 years. This work does not create a new repository; but it adds approximately 1.4 million cubic yards of capacity to an existing one.

Repository expansion and changes to waste stream management strategies will ensure that local residents, businesses, governments and contractors have a place to safely dispose of contaminated soils from excavation activities. Proper disposal of contaminated soils under the Institutional Controls Program (ICP) is an important way to protect people's health.

As the Page Repository fills up, EPA and DEQ have been actively looking for an accessible, safe, controlled place to put contaminated wastes. Over the years, we have heard from citizens, mayors, commissioners and community leaders about repository siting and are now proposing to expand the current Page Repository.

The primary concern we heard was that a future repository should not use commercially developable land and it should be easily accessible to Bunker Hill Box residents and developers. We also heard that a repository should not harm the quality of life in The Box or harm designated recreation areas.

We believe that this proposed expansion takes into consideration the input and concerns we have received while still meeting the Institutional Control Program's long term repository needs. The proposed expansion plan includes changes in how we manage our waste.

It calls for greater "reuse" of materials and implementation of the "Community Fill Program," which combined can significantly reduce the amount of Institutional Controls Program (ICP) waste (approximately 400,000 cubic yards). That waste would otherwise be sent to the Page Repository.

## What is the proposal?

The current Page repository is located on an old tailings impoundment area. The current proposal is to fill contaminated wetlands that have developed on the old adjacent mill tailings area. Filling in wetlands is normally not what EPA and DEQ would prefer to do.

However, expanding the repository and making significant changes to ICP waste stream management provides the Community, EPA and DEQ with a long-term (100 year) ICP waste stream management strategy.

## Repositories make good sense

*At the Bunker Hill Superfund site, metals contamination used to be found almost anywhere on the valley floor, in most gulches where historic mining occurred, and on the hillsides in the Box from previous smelter emissions. The cleanup removes a surface layer of contamination and places the material in soil repositories. Repositories secure and manage contaminated soil and reduce the surface contamination. They protect people and wildlife. Long term repository solutions are necessary to continue civic development.*

## What will happen to the wetlands?

The wetlands surrounding the Page Repository are very contaminated. As a part of the proposed expansion, a Draft Clean Water Act 404 analysis has been conducted.

This ensures that mitigation or re-creation of wetland values that would be lost because of the proposed expansion takes place. The plan for mitigation is to develop wetlands in the 15 acre West End Infiltration (WENI) area across the bike trail from the West Swamp and at Blue Creek near Coeur d'Alene Lake.

## About the Institutional Controls Program

*The Institutional Controls Program, or ICP, is a locally enforced set of rules and regulations to control contamination. It is run by the Panhandle Health District (PHD).*

*The ICP was set up to make sure clean soil and other protective barriers stay in place over contaminated soil, and that contaminated materials are managed safely. This will protect people's health and the environment.*

*For more information, call PHD at (208) 783-0707, or visit [www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/institutionalindex.cfm](http://www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/institutionalindex.cfm)*



## Open House

-  **Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2011
-  **Times:** Drop in any time between 7:00 and 9:00 P.M.
-  **Location:** Kellogg Middle School Library,  
810 Bunker Avenue, Kellogg, ID. 83837

## How can I find out more?

### Contacts

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### Documents

Documents for this project are on the DEQ web site noted below. There you will find:

- Draft Clean Water Act Section 404 Analysis – Page Repository Expansion
- Wetland Mitigation Plan WENI Area, Smeltonville, Idaho
- Wetland Mitigation Plan Blue Creek, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
- Archaeological and Historic Survey Report

### Select project documents can be viewed at:

 Kellogg Public Library  
16 West Market Avenue  
Kellogg, ID 83827  
(208) 786-7231

 EPA Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-4494



## Learn More on the Web

### Page Repository

[www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/prog\\_issues/mining/page\\_repository.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/prog_issues/mining/page_repository.cfm)

### EPA Cleanup

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



Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Caryn Sengupta at 1-800-424-4372 x 1275. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-081  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

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## **Proposed Page Repository Expansion April 21, 2011 Open House**

### ***Look Inside for***

- ***What is the proposal***
- ***How to learn more***
- ***How to make your voice heard on this project***