

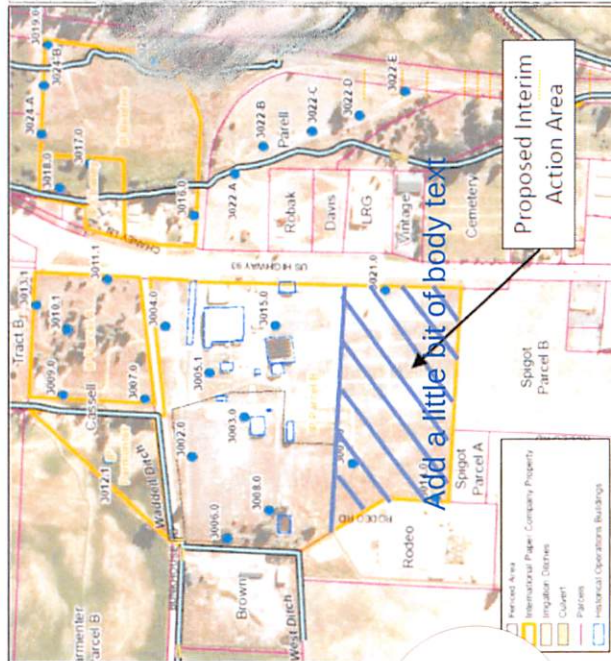


RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
215 SOUTH 4TH STREET
SUITE A
HAMILTON, MT 59840

59840002700 0001



S&W Sawmill October 2021 Site Update



**International Paper will Voluntarily
Cleanup a Portion of the S&W Sawmill
Property for use as Rodeo Ground
Parking.**

The S&W Sawmill Facility (S&W Facility) is located approximately a half-mile north of Darby, Montana, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 93 and Bunkhouse Road. Environmental contamination from the historic sawmill is being regulated as a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CECRA), or "state

Contact

Robert Roll
DEQ Waste Management and
Remediation
Division
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-6438
1-800-246-8198 (toll free)

More Information

Additional information can be found at DEQ's Waste Management and Remediation Division Helena Office at 1225 Cedar St. in Helena, Montana. Some of the documents are also available for review at the Darby Public Library in Darby Montana.



RECEIVED

NOV 01 2021

Ravalli County Commissioners

--	--	--	--	--

Future Activity, Interim Cleanup Action on Parcel B:

Investigation and cleanup are being addressed by the lead liable party, International Paper (IP), under the oversight of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

In 2020, the Darby Rodeo Association (DRA) approached IP and DEQ about using a portion of the S&W Facility for event parking. IP reviewed the S&W Facility data and identified a portion of its properties that had only low-level surface soil contamination that could be remediated to allow for event parking. IP voluntarily proposed an interim action to DEQ to cleanup a 10-acre area on the S&W Facility adjacent to the rodeo grounds (see attached figure). DEQ approved IP's interim cleanup action proposal in August 2021. Additional cleanup actions may be required in this area in the future, and final cleanup actions for the entirety of the S&W Facility will be detailed in the Record of Decision (ROD).

In August 2021, IP collected data at the property to characterize the surface soils to determine where the excavated soils can be transported to and disposed. IP intends to perform excavation work to implement the interim cleanup action at the end of 2021. After removal, IP will return to collect additional samples from soils left in place to ensure that the soils left in place meet the cleanup levels calculated to be protective for commercial/industrial/recreational use, which is the appropriate cleanup level for an area used for event parking.

DEQ anticipates IP's excavation activities to occur during the months of November through January. IP will be required to have road signage for the additional truck traffic entering and leaving Highway 93 during this time period as well as ensure that best practices are employed to reduce dirt and dust in the air and on the highway. This voluntary interim action will not delay DEQ's determination of final cleanup activities (the ROD) at the Facility.

S&W Facility Status

In 2018, IP submitted the first draft of their Feasibility Study Work Plan (FSWP). The FSWP serves as a roadmap for evaluating cleanup options appropriate for the Facility. Data gaps discovered concerning the local irrigation ditches resulted in the FSWP being delayed until adequate data could be collected to address the outstanding questions.

In 2019 and 2020, IP performed investigation activities on the irrigation ditches that are adjacent to, or near, the S&W Facility. Those activities included collecting surface water and sediment samples, as well as investigating surface water and groundwater interactions. IP completed this investigation at the end of 2020 and has integrated that new data and information into addendums to previously approved documents that evaluate risk and calculate cleanup levels for the S&W Sawmill Facility (currently under review by DEQ in 2021).

Additionally, IP performed a bench-scale pilot study to investigate one of the proposed strategies in the FSWP: in-situ solidification. This technology is primarily intended to address contamination leaching to groundwater by mixing a slurry of additives into soils to create a solidified mass. This study and associated data will be incorporated into the revised FSWP.

DEQ anticipates that IP will complete the FSWP early in 2022 and the Feasibility Study (FS) report in early 2023. DEQ will then prepare the Proposed Plan, which will identify DEQ's preferred remedy for cleaning up the Facility. The Proposed Plan will be made available for review and public comment. DEQ anticipates completion of the Proposed Plan in mid-2023. Upon completion of the public comment period, DEQ will evaluate comments received, make any necessary changes to the final remedy, and issue the ROD. The ROD is DEQ's final selection of the remedy for cleaning up the Facility. IP will be required to implement the actions required in the ROD and will prepare documents outlining the implementation strategy and specific engineering design work needed to implement DEQ's selected remedy.