

## Governor Supports Milltown Record of Decision

(HELENA)—Governor Judy Martz expressed her full support today for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Record of Decision (ROD) on the removal of the Milltown Dam and cleanup of the contaminated sediments.

As one of the major environmental actions of her administration, the Governor said, "EPA is to be commended for its constructive approach in integrating the State's natural resource restoration actions with the remedy. Integration of these actions will allow a variety of benefits, including cost-savings, enhanced protectiveness, a more natural river environment, improved fish passage, and greater recreational opportunities, in the Milltown area and upstream and downstream as well."

"This cooperative cleanup action will not only benefit people today, but more importantly, serve as a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations of Montanans, who will be able to enjoy the restored environment and recreational opportunities offered by the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers," Governor Martz said.

The ROD is the culmination of years of negotiation between EPA, the State, the Atlantic Richfield Company, and NorthWestern Energy.

The Governor, as the natural resource damage trustee, and appropriate State agencies, perform other consultation functions in selecting and implementing the remedy. Accomplishing integration of restoration, as well as many of the details involved in the Milltown cleanup, will require additional agreements by all parties.

Gov. Martz said, "We look forward to working with EPA, the other state and federal agencies involved, and the responsible parties to see that the cleanup plan for Milltown is fully, quickly, and effectively implemented."