



# Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site

December 2006

## Dust Fact Sheet

### Site Contacts

There are several sources for additional information on the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site.

- **EPA**
  - Charlie Coleman, Remedial Project Manager, 457-5038—overall site issues
  - Wendy Thomi, Community Involvement Coordinator, 457-5037—communications
- **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**
  - Dan Strausbaugh, Montana Office Representative, 457-5007—public health issues
- **Montana DEQ**
  - Larry Scusa, Lead Project Manager, 841-5036—overall site issues
  - Joe Griffin, Project Manager, 841-5042—groundwater
  - Catherine LeCours, Project Manager, 841-5040—community soils
- **Anaconda Deer Lodge County**
  - Becky Guay, ADLC Chief Executive, 563-4000—overall site issues
  - Jim Kuipers, Consultant to ADLC, 782-3441—overall site issues
- **Anaconda Environmental Education Institute (TAG Group)**
  - Milo Manning, Technical Assistant, 563-5538—overall site issues
- **Atlantic Richfield Company**
  - Steve Ferry, Project Manager, 723-1818—overall site issues

To be added or deleted  
from EPA's Direct Mail List,  
please call toll free  
1-866-457-2690 X5034

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### DUST—What's the Problem?

Dust at the Anaconda Site is created when winds scour the top of the Opportunity Ponds, causing particles to become airborne. Depending on weather conditions and wind direction, this dust bothers many nearby residents. Blowing dust can be a nuisance and a health hazard.



Some residents have respiratory conditions or illnesses that are aggravated by breathing excessive dust. In addition, some people fear the dust may contain metals (such as arsenic, cadmium, or zinc) associated with the contamination related to historic smelting activities. There has been limited ambient air sampling to date, so no one can say with confidence what contaminants may get into the air when dust is blowing at the site. Steps are now being taken to get that data (page 2).

Atlantic Richfield submitted a **Revised Dust Management Plan** on November 15, 2006. EPA, DEQ and ADLC are reviewing the Plan which contains the details of all dust suppression activities occurring at Opportunity Ponds.

Improved dust control measures should improve conditions near the site significantly, but it is always possible that an extremely windy day could cause some dust. If this happens, it is best to take measures to avoid breathing dust, if possible. This may include staying inside, closing doors and windows, using a HEPA air filter indoors, and dusting your home frequently to remove settled dust. You should call EPA, if you see a lot of dust! This will help us solve the problem and ensure that dust control measures are working and are sufficient. EPA contacts are on page 3.

### Local Citizens Formed a Group to Provide Input on Dust and other Issues

Since Opportunity residents are closest to the dust problem, they have formed a local group— Opportunity Citizens Protective Association (OCPA). EPA, DEQ, ATSDR, the County, and the Anaconda Environmental Education Institute (the Anaconda Technical Assistance Group) all meet periodically with OCPA to hear their perspective about the dust and other issues. If you'd like to be involved with OCPA, please call Serge Myers (797-3334), George Niland (797-3343), or Maureen Holbrook (797-1978).

## Community Members Ask, "What's in the Dust?"

To answer this question, EPA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, ADLC, and Atlantic Richfield are doing several things.

First, Atlantic Richfield placed two sets of **stationary air monitors** on the perimeter of the Opportunity Ponds area in spring 2006. The south monitoring site is between the disposal area and the town of Opportunity. The north monitoring site is downwind, between the disposal area and the State Hospital at Warm Springs. Monitors collect samples every third day. Samples are analyzed for particles with a diameter of up to 10 microns and for metals on a limited basis.

Second, **ATSDR reviewed past data** from the Opportunity Ponds. The Agency concluded that the dust at

Opportunity Ponds is not expected to pose a public health risk from metals. **ATSDR will review future data** to identify public health concerns.

Finally, EPA, DEQ, and Anaconda Deer Lodge County are working to set up **additional monitors**. These monitors will be different than the others because they will:

- measure particles with a diameter of 2.5
- be frequently analyzed for metals
- monitor 24 hours a day, every day
- yield real-time data (data that can be seen very quickly) for particulates

The new monitors may be operational as early as January 2007.



Dust coming from Opportunity Ponds



Applying polymer surfactant

## What's Being Done about the Dust?

In October and November 2006, Atlantic Richfield applied a **new dust suppressing polymer surfactant** called *Envirotac II* over 950 acres of exposed Opportunity Ponds tailings surfaces. This glue-like substance helps keep the particulates on the ground. In addition, the following work is being done to suppress dust.

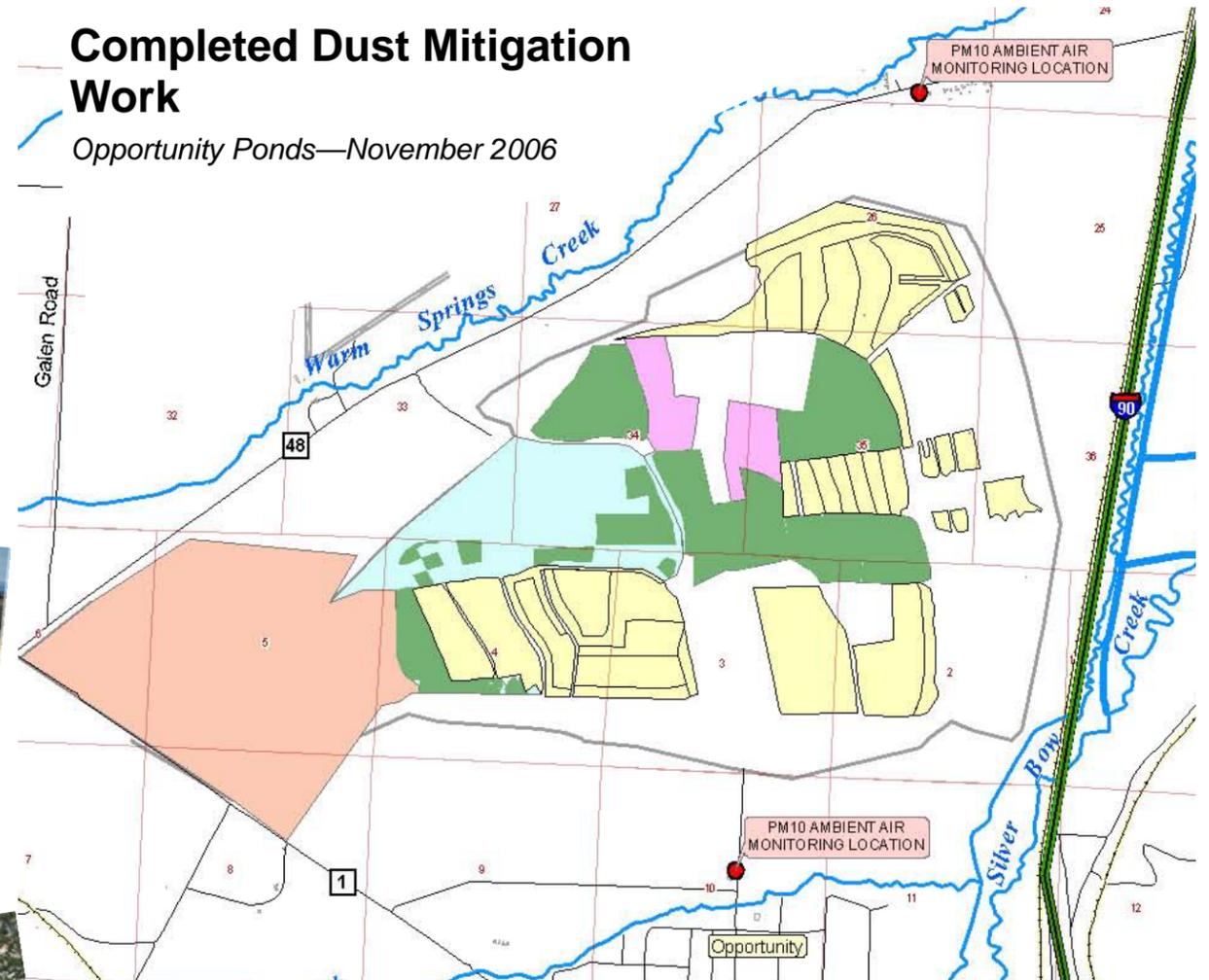
- **Short-term practices** will continue until final reclamation is completed.
  - \* maintenance application of polymer surfactants
  - \* maintenance applications of magnesium chloride to control road dust
  - \* temporary seeding
  - \* routine use of water trucks
  - \* work stoppage when necessary
  - \* additional tailings areas that haven't received polymer surfactant and will not support vegetation will receive polymer surfactant in 2007
- **Final Reclamation.** Cover soil and vegetation should eliminate dust issues for the entire Opportunity Ponds area. This final action is targeted to be completed by 2011.



Water truck at East Borrow Area

## Completed Dust Mitigation Work

Opportunity Ponds—November 2006



### Legend for completed actions

- Polymer application
- Seeded areas
- Interim cover
- Remedial construction completed
- Streamside tailings materials

## What to Do If You See Dust at the Ponds....

EPA requires strict dust control measures for the construction areas. This includes watering of roads and borrow areas, mulching of treatment areas, use of magnesium chloride on haul roads, and (when necessary) work stoppages when fugitive dust leaves the Atlantic Richfield site.

**If you observe dust problems, please contact EPA's oversight personnel:**

**Ken Brockman 491-1933 or Larry Smith 491-1620.**