

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number:

6

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EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1/21/05
HB 7

GRANT PROPOSAL

Reclamation and Development Grants Program

Belmont Shaft Failure and Subsidence Mitigation Project

Project Sponsor:

**Butte-Silver Bow Local Government
155 W. Granite
Butte, Montana**

Presentation to:

**Long Range Planning Subcommittee
Montana Legislature
Helena, Montana**

January 21, 2005

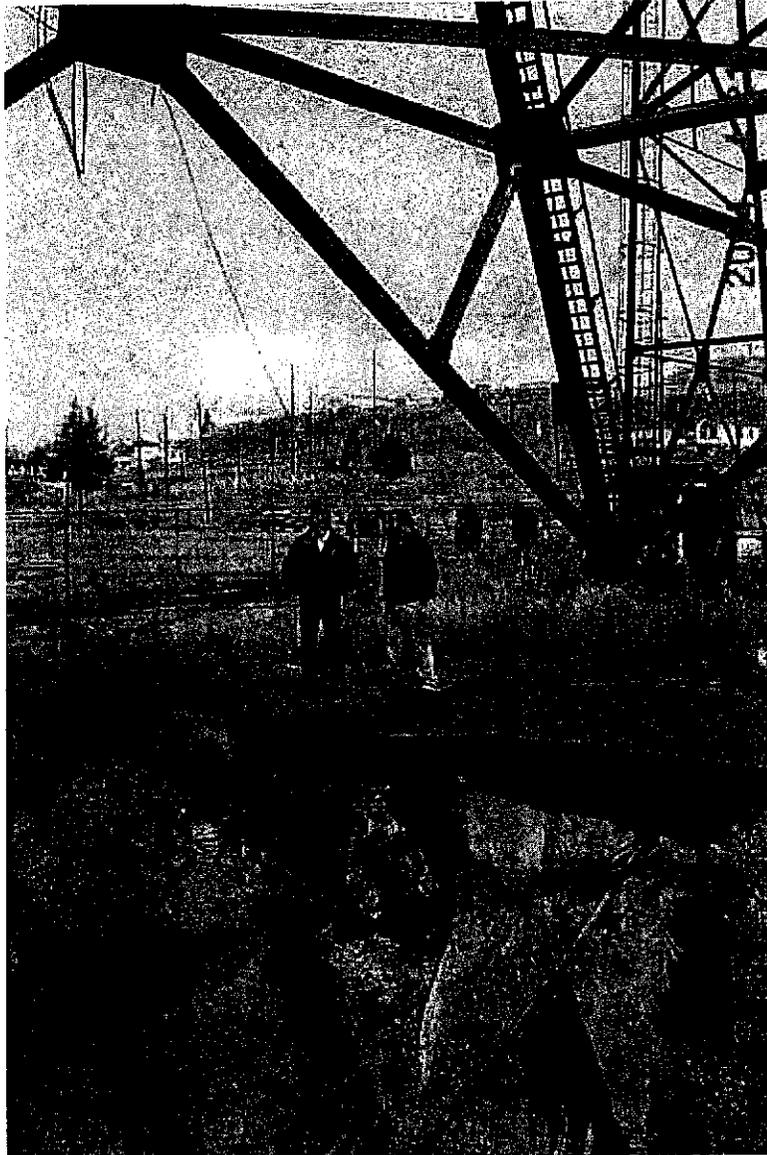


Figure 1

This view of the Belmont Mine Shaft, looking northwest, shows the extent of the shaft collapse. Personnel from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology examine the void. Visible under the steel turn sheets, are the backfilled utility tunnels, which run under the mine yard to the Hoist House. The hole is currently more than 50 feet by 60 feet and over 40 feet deep.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

- To mitigate public safety hazards from mine shafts and subsidence
- To assure the long term integrity and safety of the shaft caps and covers
- To assure the long term stability and integrity of the historic mine headframes
- To preserve and protect the Belmont and other historic headframes
- To protect property values from damage from shafts and/or subsidence
- To promote redevelopment of Butte properties by immediately addressing shaft failures and/or subsidence
- To protect properties surrounding the Belmont Shaft, which have been reclaimed in the past decade, primarily through the Superfund cleanup program
- The Belmont shaft is a serious and immediate safety threat. The headframe is in serious jeopardy.
- The mine shaft stabilization tasks in Butte are critical and RIT support is vital.

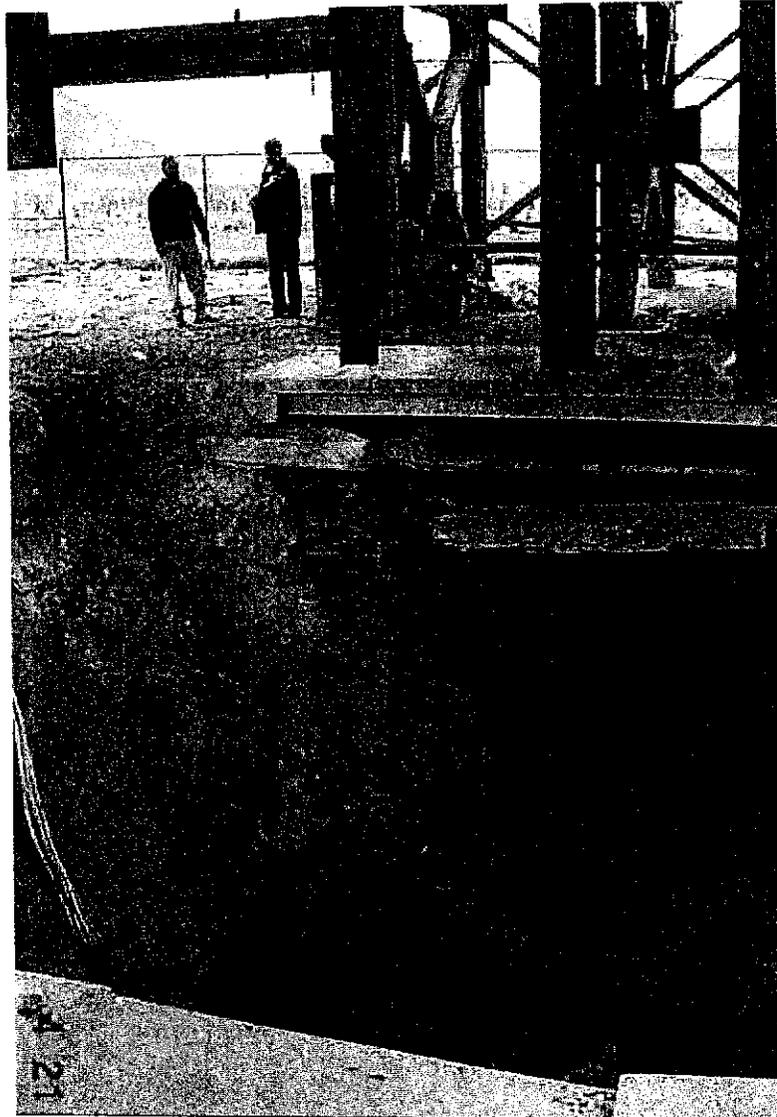


Figure 2

This view of the Belmont Mine Shaft, looking southeast, also shows the extent of the shaft collapse. Personnel from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology examine the void. Visible under the headframe are the unsupported footings of the headframe. Also visible are the remnants of previous shaft capping efforts by the State of Montana's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Bureau (AMRB). Under the headframe can be seen the single remaining pre-stressed concrete cap installed by the AMRB during the 1980s.

This site needs to be stabilized immediately.

PROJECT SCOPE:

- To stabilize the Belmont Mine shaft as well as the Otisco Shaft, the Buffalo Shaft, the Orphan Boy Shaft, and the Parrott Mine Shaft.
- To immediately mitigate safety concerns at these sites
- To secure the services of a professional mining / engineering design contractor
- To secure the services of a general contractor with experience in mining and mine shaft work
- To immediately investigate and address continuing mine shaft openings throughout Butte and Silver Bow County
- To minimize long-term maintenance costs
- To improve Butte neighborhoods and spur development of properties
- Without the RIT/RDGP grant funds, the citizens of Butte will continue to be placed at risk. Additionally, Butte stands to lose irreplaceable historic mine structures and continue to suffer reduced property values

Technical Approach

- Prepare final Engineering Designs and Bid Specifications
- Select a general contractor with experience in and around mine shafts
- Stabilize the Belmont shaft first as the most in need of immediate repair
- Stabilize other failing AMRB mine shafts covers, specifically including the Buffalo Shaft, the Otisco Shaft, the Orphan Boy Shaft and the Parrott Shaft
- Monitor the condition of other AMRB reclaimed mine shafts
- Continue the current Mine Subsidence Mitigation Program

Breakdown of Shaft / Subsidence Program Costs

Item 1: Labor Salaries, Wages and benefits <u>provided by B-SB County</u> for personnel including professional, technical and administrative support staff	\$70,269
Item 2: Contracted Services for professional Engineering Design and preparation of Bid Specifications	\$30,000
Item 3: Contracted Services for Construction / Mining Contractor, including all materials, labor and equipment to complete field mitigation work. \$10K to be <u>provided by B-SB County</u>	\$280,000
Item 4: Materials and supplies <u>provided by B-SB County</u> including travel, communications, and miscellaneous contingency costs	\$25,554
<hr/>	
Total construction materials and labor:	\$405,823
B-SB County Share	- \$105,823
Total Grant Application	\$300,000

*Estimates only, based on known construction pricing and a thorough knowledge of the project sites.
All costs are subject to formal bidding procedures.*

Figure 3 Follows

This is a front-page article in The Montana Standard newspaper of November 11, 2004, entitled, "Saving Blueberry". A person walking in the hills west of Butte lost his dog down a 66 foot deep mine shaft, known as the Miller Fraction. In an extremely dangerous rescue attempt, the dogs owner was lowered down the inclined mine shaft on the end of a rope attached to a four wheeler ATV. Fortunately, no one was injured or killed and the dog was rescued.

The shaft was backfilled by County staff using funds from the previous Mine Shaft Failure Mitigation Program.

There are literally thousands of such mine shafts scattered throughout Butte-Silver Bow and it is critical that RIT RDGP support be available to address these emergency safety hazards as they arise.

Saving Blueberry

Puppy rescued from 66-foot mine shaft west of Butte



DOUG ROWING, happy with the safe recovery of Blueberry from the bottom of a mine shaft west of Butte Wednesday, hopes the hole can be filled before someone less lucky than his pup encounters it.

BELOW, Doug's father, Melvin Rowing, drops a weighted measuring tape to the bottom of the open mine shaft where Blueberry had fallen in.

Photo by Doug Rowing for the Montana Standard

By LARRY MCCANNERY
of The Montana Standard

On Tuesday, more than a day after his puppy, Blueberry, disappeared, Doug Rowing decided to try one last search in the stark, sagebrush-swept landscape between the Butte-Silver Bow landfill and the Big M, where the youngster and heaght was last seen.

In the middle of a shower and shave, he felt compelled to hop on a four-wheeler and look some more. He got dressed, and with dark closing in, he ventured to a small hill he hadn't remembered before.

"I just had a feeling. I can't really explain it," Doug said of his split-second decision to drive to that Christmas hill. "I just had a feeling that in the acres of open space scarred by mining activity, I just stopped there. I don't know why."

He turned off the four-wheeler, stopped, and started calling for Blueberry. A faint whimper emerged from a large hole in the ground. Blueberry had been trapped for a day, almost 70 feet down in a dark, nearly 66-year-old mine shaft.

AN ORDINARY DAY

On Monday, Blueberry was among a trio of lambs taking a run on his land, west of Montana Tech that has become popular with dog owners. Four-wheel enthusiasts target steep, grassy mountain slopes and hills as Doug's father, Melvin Rowing, let the dogs see their exercise and then whistled for the pups. He turned his back, heading back to his vehicle.

Then I looked back and

See BLUEBERRY, Page 47



PALESTINIAN LEADER YASSIN ABU BAKHRA, showing in the West Bank in March, died Thursday. Unhappily forced into the world spotlight to achieve his lifelong Palestinian struggle.

Arab leader dead at 77

Terrorist national to his people

By Paul Newman
Associated Press Writer

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Oct. 10 — People's night in an Arab city today as the death of a Palestinian leader, Yassin Abu Bakhra, aged 77.

The Frenchman had been in the city for several days. He had been in a coma since he was hit by a bullet in a car.

Palestinian leader Yassin Abu Bakhra, Arab side confirmed in a conversation at Arab's headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

White House spokesman said the man was in a coma for several days. The government had no comment.

The Palestinian leader was shot in the chest by a sniper's bullet in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

East Middle School

\$100,000 donated for track redo

Anonymous donation made in name of Charlie and Betty Merrifield

By MARGARET L. HAYES
of The Montana Standard

Someone has made the Butte

The district announced on Wednesday the anonymous donation, which will must be approved by the Butte school board Monday night. In addition to the donation, the district will spend \$150,000 in matching tax money and the Butte Athletic Council and Butte High Boosters Club also pledged a

also will apply for a Nike grant. The entire project, including resurfacing and other improvements, is expected to cost between \$300,000 to \$350,000 — something the district can't afford on its own. The improvements would make the track one of the best in the north west, said Superintendent Charles