

# Libby Asbestos Superfund Site Overview

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The Libby Asbestos Superfund Site, which is on the Superfund National Priorities List, is divided into eight operable units (OUs) for management for the remedial decision and action process. Remedial action work has been completed for all OUs, with the exception of the Mine Site (OU3). For the towns of Libby (OU4) and Troy (OU7) remedial action was completed in 2019, with EPA's declaration that the remedy is operational functional in April 2019.

**Operable Units 1 (Riverfront Park; former Export Plant) and 2 (Former Screening Plant):** Remedial action is complete and both OU's are in long-term maintenance and operation (O&M).

- DEQ is working with the city of Libby, on OU 1, to petition for delisting the site from the National Priorities List.
- Operable Unit 2 was partially delisted in April 2019.

**Operable Unit 3 (mine site):** Currently, in process of Remedial Options Analysis (Feasibility Study). W.R. Grace is the responsible party and is working with EPA, as the lead agency, and the State, as the consulting agency, to determine the appropriate remedial action for the Site. For remedial purposes, the OU has been subdivided into two areas – the mine site itself and the forested area around the mine site.

**Operable Unit 4 (Town of Libby):** Transitioning into Operations and Maintenance.

- Remedial actions have been substantially completed. DEQ is working with Lincoln County and EPA to establish appropriate institutional controls to transition the site into the operations and maintenance phase.

**Operable Unit 5 (previous mill site):** Transitioning into Operations and Maintenance.

- This OU is now managed by Lincoln Port Authority/Kootenai River Development Council. There also are other landowners on OU5. EPA and the State are working with these parties to prepare for re-use of the OU, including the development of ICs. OU5 overlays a separate federal Superfund site – Libby Groundwater – which was established because of groundwater contamination that was not related to asbestos.

**Operable Unit 6 (BNSF rail corridor):** Remedial action complete and in long-term maintenance and operation (O&M).

- DEQ is working with EPA and BNSF to refine institutional controls for the corridor.



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## **Operable Unit 7 (Town of Troy):** Transitioning into Operations and Maintenance

- Remedial actions have been substantially completed. DEQ is working with Lincoln County and EPA to establish appropriate institutional controls to transition the site into the operations and maintenance phase

## **Operable Unit 8 (U.S. and State Highway Corridors):** In Operations and Maintenance

- DEQ continues to work with EPA, the Montana Department of Transportation, and the county to refine necessary O&M actions. Institutional controls have been established.

Establishment of clear institutional controls is necessary for existing property owners, future property owners, and economic redevelopment activity within the boundaries of the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site. Institutional controls could include development of a building permit program to track changes to homes and businesses that still retain Libby Amphibole Asbestos (LAA) in inaccessible spaces; education programs for the public and commercial business on how to deal with LAA when encountered; maintenance of the Lincoln County asbestos landfill cell; and other administrative approaches that protect the remedy, and protect human health and the environment. EPA is required by law to review the long-term O&M program every five years to ensure protectiveness.

The general Superfund Process is as follows;

- Preliminary Assessment (prior to listing on the National Priorities List)
- Petition for Listing
- Site Investigation and Risk Assessment (Remedial Investigation)
- Remedial Options Analysis (Feasibility Study)
- Remedy Selection with Public Engagement (Proposed Plan)
- Record of Decision (ROD)
- Remedial Design and Action
- Declaration of Remedy Operational and Functional
- Operations and Maintenance
- Delisting



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