

Message

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Sent: 4/25/2018 2:57:58 PM
To: Susan Dunlap [susan.dunlap@mtstandard.com]
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Subject: Article Response
Attachments: Travonia Mine Pumping My initial Involvement1.docx

Susan,

Another great article. Love the Robert Molar quote!

In my initial activist involvement I became involved with the rising water in the Travonia and Emma Mines in Butte known as the West Camp System in 1984.

Throughout this process in dealing with the rising mine water and trying to address the problem with a responsible solution, the community and its leaders were continually misinformed by Environmental Agency Representatives {John Wardell and Russ Forba} that they had “on the shelf technology” to adequately address the issue if and when a problem arose. As the contaminated water rose to the point where discharge to Silver Bow Creek was inevitable there was in fact no “on shelf technology” available as promised by the agencies to address the issue. Through the efforts of myself and local folks like Don Peoples, Ted Duaine, Tom Piercy and others the situation was ultimately addressed. And agency folks wonder why folks like me question the actions or better put inaction of the EPA and the State? The answer is obvious!

FYI---I am attaching the section of my Historical Report, The Berkeley Pit---An ecological Time Bomb, written at the request of Ellen Crain of the Butte Archives.

Most people don't realize this, but the West Camp Mine water is currently pumped on a monthly basis and discharged to the Colorado Tailings Passive Lime Treatment System to keep the level below the established West Camp Critical Water Level of 5435'. **Water in the West Camp System {Travonia and Emma Mines} as with the water in the Berkley Pit and East Camp System must be pumped treated and eventually discharged to Silver Bow Creek in perpetuity! Folks like me have always advocated for a quality treatment plant to be placed in the Metro Sewer Treatment Plant Area for treating this water.** Obviously because of the incompetence of the EPA that did not happen. Instead we have at the groundwater discharge point from the Basin {the established Berkeley Pit Critical Water level of 5410'} the Colorado Tailings Passive Lime Treatment System that sits in the middle of the Flood Plain and stores contaminated mine tailings that could be released in a massive flood as has happened in the past.

Thought you and the others might find this of interest.

Fritz