



**Montana Environmental Trust Group, LLC (METG)
Trustee of the Montana Environmental Custodial Trust**



METG
Montana Environmental Trust Group

Cynthia Brooks, President

Alicia Voss, Lead Project Manager

Jim Ford, Hydrogeologist and RCRA Project Manager

February 24, 2011



Montana Environmental Custodial Trust

Agenda

Introductions

RCRA Corrective Action Update

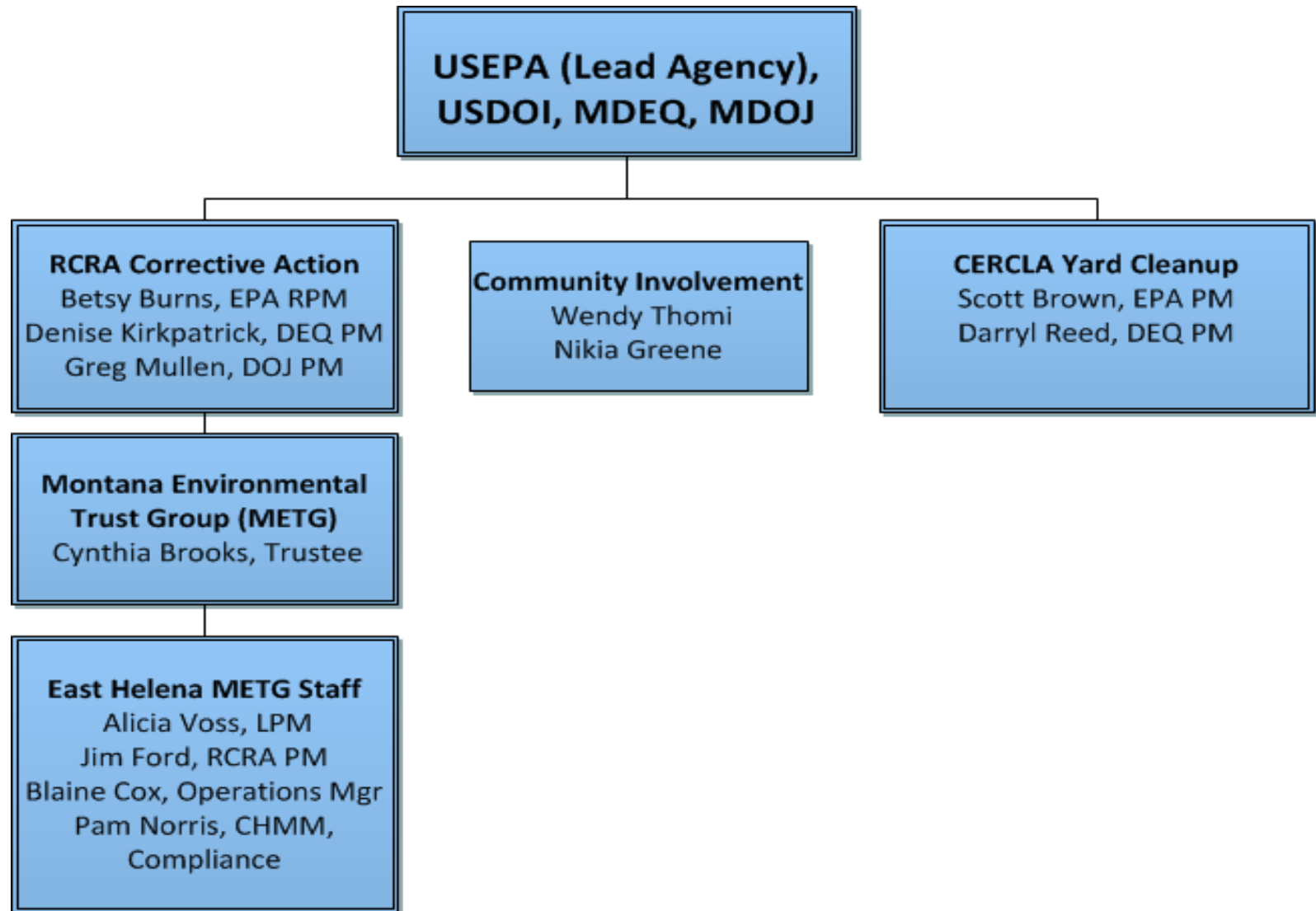
East Helena Operations

Groundwater Update

CERCLA Yard Cleanup Update

Questions and Answers

Montana Environmental Custodial Trust





Meeting Format – Let's open things up

Have Questions? – Ask anytime

What will we discuss tonight?

What does a Trustee do?

**What are we doing at the smelter
now?**

What are we planning to do?



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East Helena Operations

- ✓ Water Treatment Plant
- ✓ Demolish Asarco Residences
- ✓ Preserve Manager's House
- ✓ Prospects for Slag Reprocessing
- ✓ Website Development
- ✓ Site Security Changes

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Community Use of Trust Land

- ✓ East Helena Rodeo
- ✓ Fireworks Display
- ✓ Fun Run
- ✓ Christian School 10K Run
- ✓ Barrel Races

Land Use

Cleanup is the priority/Reuse is the plan

- ✓ **Compatible with cleanup requirements**
- ✓ **Jobs creation and increase tax rolls for EH**
- ✓ **Collaborate with beneficiaries and community stakeholders**
- ✓ **Community assets (open space, Manager's house, parks)**
- ✓ **Custodial Trust Land Use Study**



Cleanup Obligations under the EPA Consent Decree

- 1. Complete investigation of contamination on and off smelter property**
- 2. Focus on groundwater**
- 3. Determine who or what is at risk from contamination**
- 4. Evaluate cleanup options and technologies**
- 5. Implement the cleanup**



Groundwater Update

Jim Ford

Hydrogeologist, RCRA Project Manager



Our Groundwater Goals

- 1) Protect public health and the environment from site contamination
- 2) Delineate areas of contaminated groundwater
- 3) Develop cleanup strategies to reduce areas of contamination



Groundwater Problems

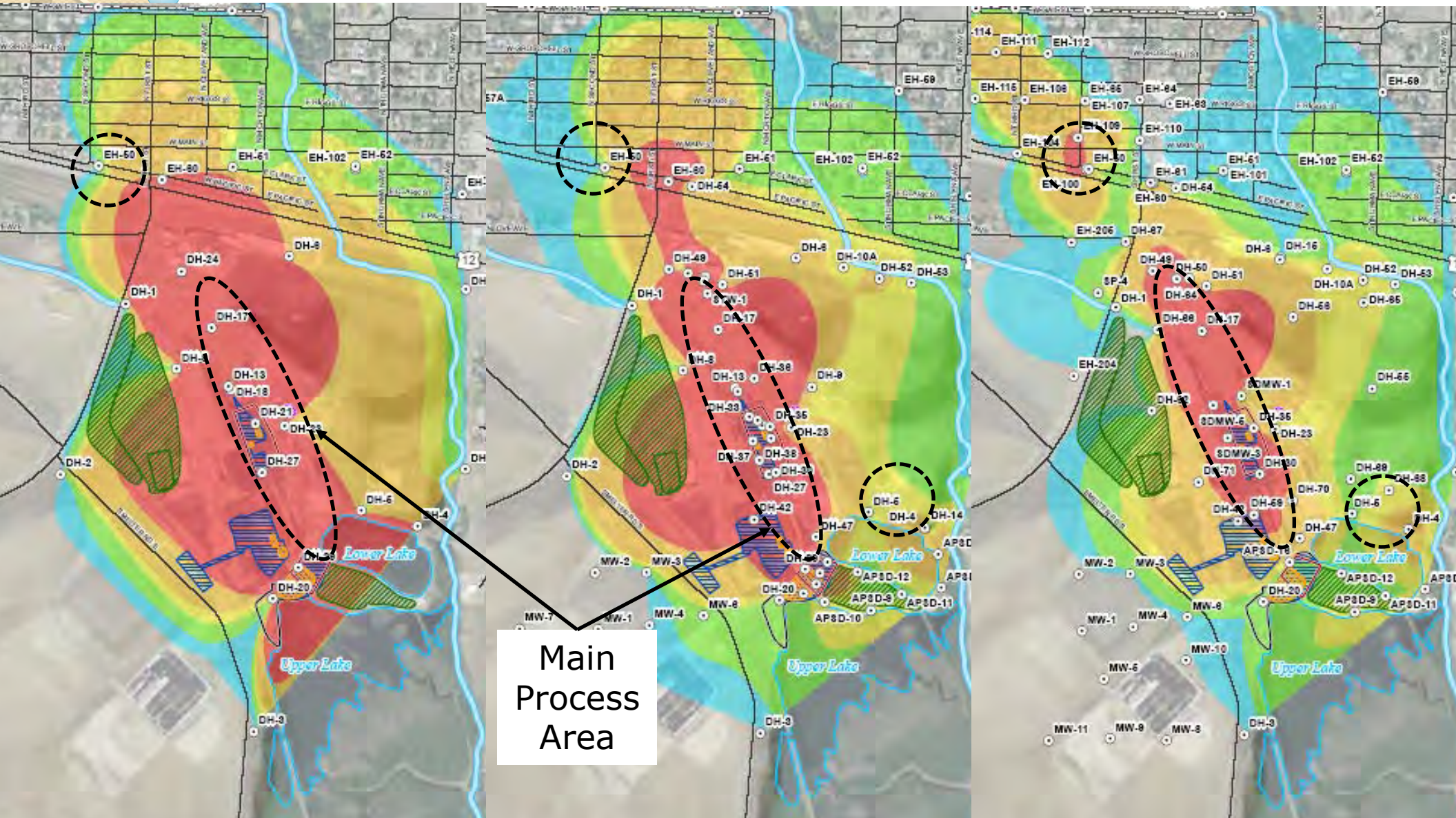
- Arsenic and selenium exceed drinking water standards (Primary MCLs) on and off site
- Antimony and cadmium exceed drinking water standards on site
- Sulfate, total dissolved solids, and manganese exceed secondary drinking water standards on and off site

Changes in Arsenic Concentrations

1990

2000

2010



Arsenic (As)

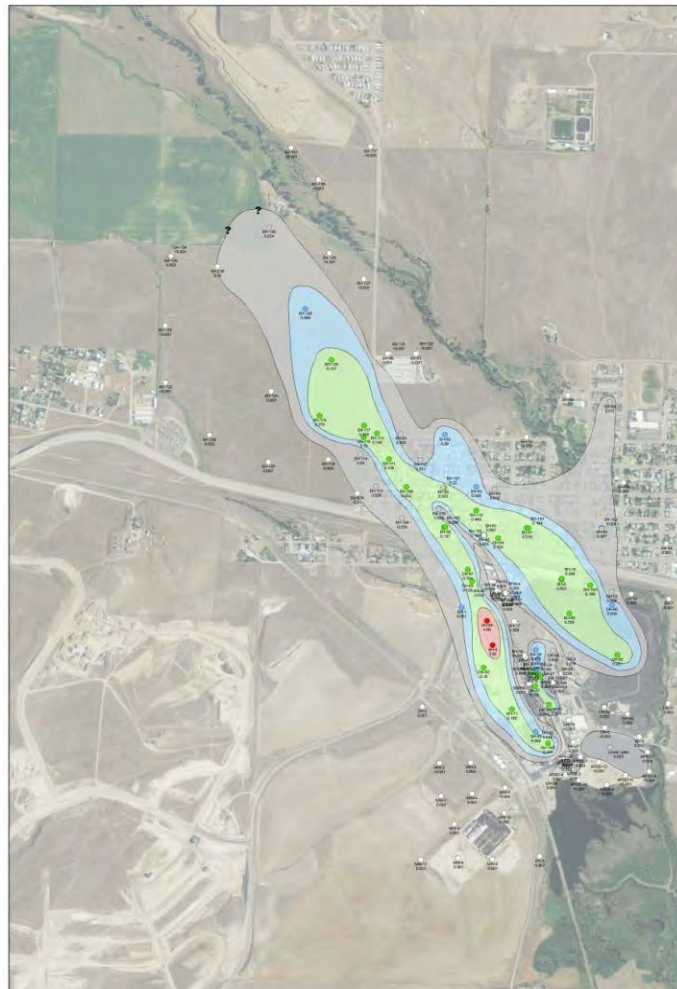
- Some downgradient migration from the smelter
- Not very mobile in groundwater
 - prefers to attach to soil
- Concentrations on smelter still high

Selenium

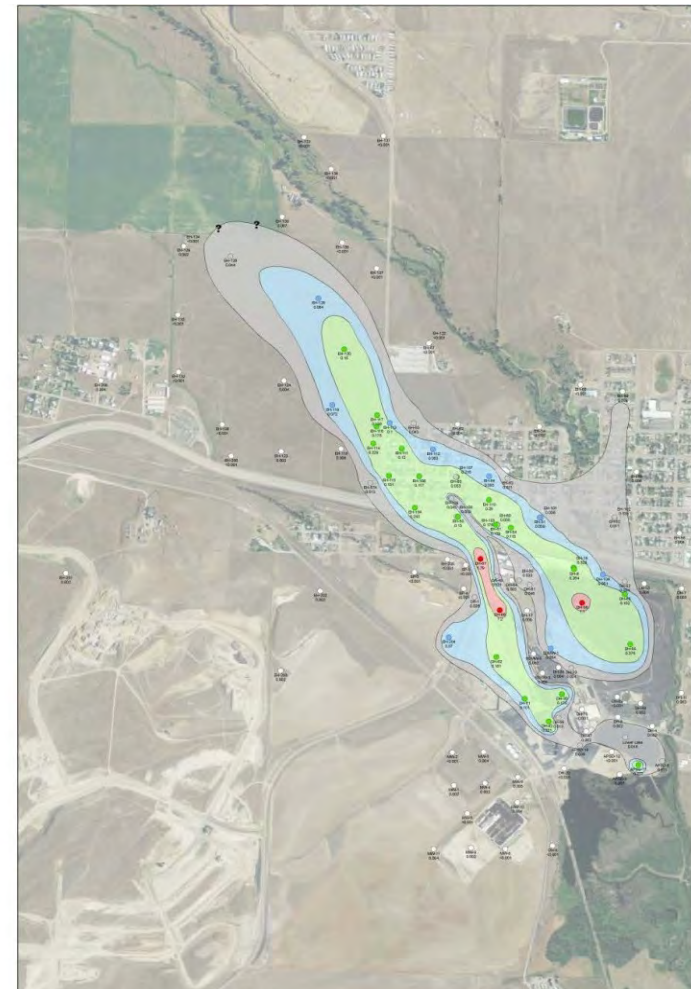
2008

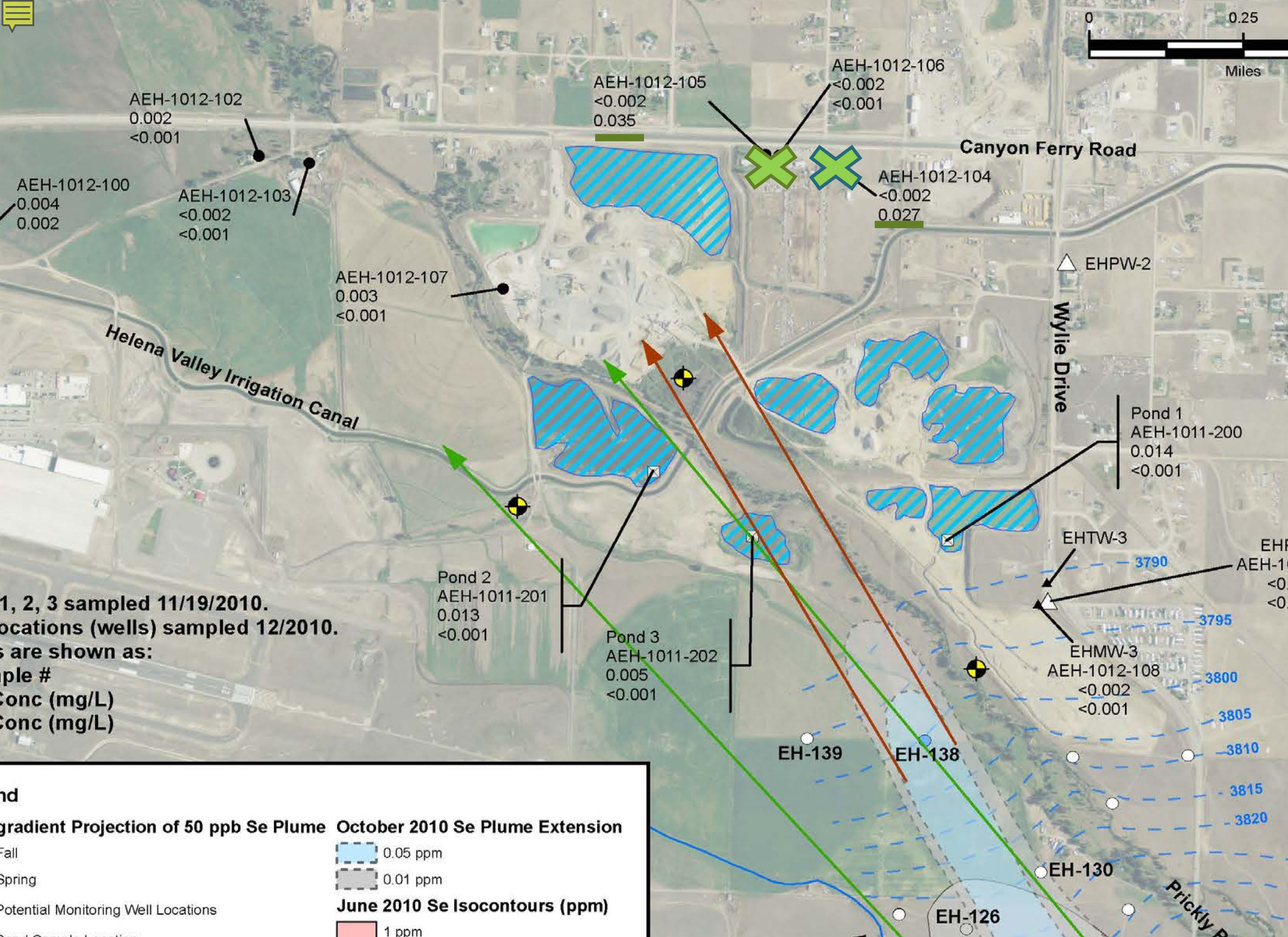


2009



2010





Selenium (Se)

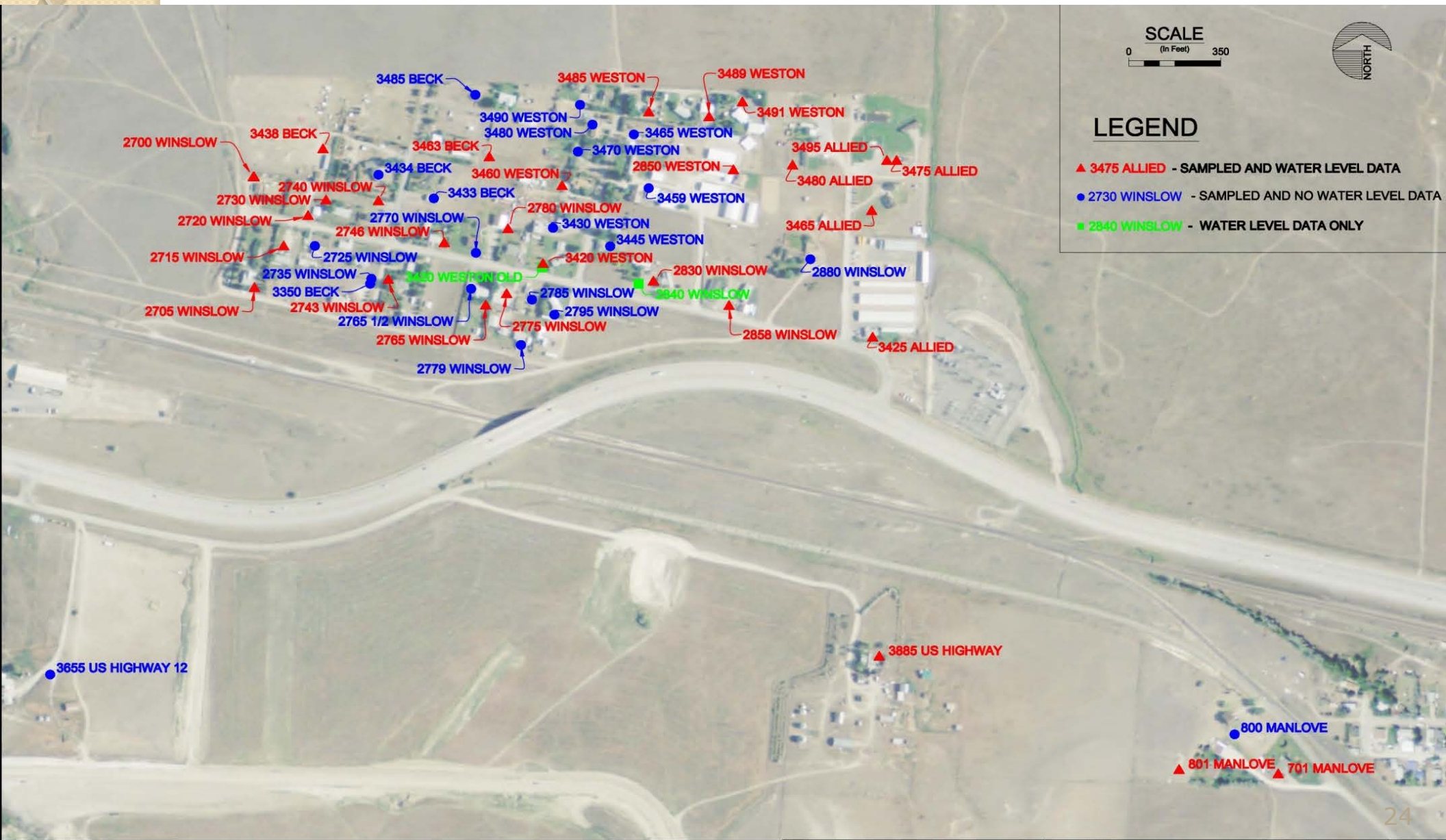
- High concentrations in groundwater migrating off site
- Geochemistry indicates mobile Se(VI) form (i.e. likes to stay in solution and not attach to soil)



Where do we go from here?

1. Fully delineate the Se plume
2. Fill any groundwater data gaps this summer and fall
3. Evaluate possible groundwater remedies based on the data

Seaver Park Wells





Hydrogeologic Conclusions

1. There is naturally-occurring arsenic in Seaver Park groundwater
2. Septic systems may be contributing arsenic to Seaver Park groundwater
3. Other possible sources of arsenic: Wilson Ditch, old ore concentrator, railroad line, other manmade sources
4. May never know with certainty the exact contribution from each source of arsenic to the groundwater



Seaver Park Groundwater Path Forward

EPA is further reviewing the groundwater chemistry data, the historical activities in the vicinity of Seaver Park, and information on background arsenic in the Helena Valley to determine the next steps



Update on East Helena Yard Cleanup


Scott Brown, CERCLA Project Manager

What's the plan for 2011?

- 1) Hire an environmental engineering consultant
- 2) Complete the groundwater investigation
- 3) Plan for interim cleanup actions beginning in 2012
- 4) Evaluate a long-term groundwater remedy
- 5) Continue site operations

2012 to 2015

- Plant demolition
- Clean up sources of contamination on site
- Evaluate groundwater remedies and implement the selected remedial options
- Return the land to beneficial uses
- Involve the East Helena community in the process



Questions?
Let's discuss.

A. S. & R. CO. SMELTER, EAST HELENA, MONT.



