

**DRAFT**  
**LUTTRELL LEACHATE TREATMENT PLANT**  
**REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA**

November 2022

Prepared for:

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**REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**LUTTRELL LEACHATE TREATMENT PLANT**  
**RIMINI, LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA**

Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START V)

Contract No. 68HE0820D0001

Task Order 68HE0820F0071

TD# 2071-2106-08

DTN 0460

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 8

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## PAGE 1

### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 tasked the Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to aid with the effective interim operation and effluent sampling for evaluating the treatment process of the Luttrell Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP). The primary objectives of the project were to follow procedures outlined in the previous Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual and revise operations to achieve adequate daily treatment volume and metals removal to **a)** drain the entire volume of the leachate pond during the operating season (June through October) and **b)** meet effluent discharge standards for metal contaminants of concern (COCs) established for the land application disposal (LAD) system. Development of this report and monitoring activities were authorized under the EPA Region 8 START V Contract 68HE0820D0001, Task Order 68HE0820F0071, Technical Direction (TD) 2071-2106-08.

### PROJECT GOALS

The Luttrell LTP receives acid mine drainage water containing high concentrations of dissolved and suspended heavy metals from the Luttrell Repository. The LTP reduces metals concentrations and adjusts hydrogen ion concentration (pH) to a neutral level before releasing the treated water to a LAD system. The project goals were to:

1. Treat and discharge entire volume of leachate pond to LAD system
2. Maintain effluent metal contaminant concentrations at or below established levels
3. Recommend and/or make operational changes to improve treatment efficiency
4. Document operational changes in an updated O&M Manual

### SITE DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

The Luttrell LTP is an interim facility designed to treat leachate from the Luttrell Repository located at the headwaters of the Tenmile and Basin Creek watersheds (**Figure 1**). Located south of Rimini in Lewis & Clark County near Helena, Montana, the Site is located in the 53-square mile Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area (UTCMA), which includes approximately 150 active and abandoned mine land (AML) sites in the historic Rimini Mining District. Mining for gold, lead, copper, and zinc began in the district in the 1870s and continued through the 1930s. Waste rock containing heavy metals was used as fill for roads, yards, and local waterways, resulting in soil and groundwater being contaminated with heavy metals (EPA 2017).

From its headwaters, Tenmile Creek flows 28 miles before entering Lake Helena. The upper 13 miles of Tenmile Creek are in the Upper Tenmile Mining Area National Priorities List (NPL) Site. Tenmile Creek originates at the continental divide at an elevation of 7,200 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and drops to 4,380 feet amsl at the northern boundary of the Site near the confluence with Sweeney Creek. Tenmile Creek is a primary source of drinking water for the City of Helena.

From mid-October through late-May, the Site is inaccessible, and the Luttrell LTP is non-operational. Precipitation that falls over the Luttrell repository during the fall, winter, and spring either directly infiltrates or accumulates, melts, and then infiltrates through the repository waste material, eventually draining from the lined catchment underlying the repository into the 750,000-gallon LTP leachate retention pond through one of two leachate pipes: the east leachate pipe (ELP) or the north leachate pipe (NLP). Leachate accumulates in the pond in this way until late May or early June, when adequate snowmelt in the area allows for access to the Site and the seasonal start-up routine begins. LTP start-up, routine LTP operation, operator intensive duties, LTP winterization, and other system details are included



## PAGE 2

in **Appendix A: Luttrell Leachate Treatment Plant Operating Procedures.**

Water pH levels draining into the leachate pond can range from pH 3.7 (ELP) to pH 5.3 (NLP), with an average LTP influent pH of 5.2. COCs include aluminum, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, manganese, and zinc. Flows and metals concentrations from the NLP and ELP vary with the time of year, with lower flows concentrating metals in the leachate during the drier parts of the summer. The Luttrell LTP treatment process involves increasing the pH with the addition of caustic soda, creating floc with the addition of a polymer coagulant, promoting sedimentation of the floc by slowing the flow through two clarifiers, neutralizing the pH with the addition of muriatic acid, and finally dispersing the treated effluent using a LAD system. The sludge created from the treatment process is dewatered in sediment bags that gravity drain back into the leachate retention pond. The remaining sediment is hauled in the bags up to the Luttrell Repository and staged to be covered. The LAD system uses an array of sprinklers to distribute treated effluent with COC concentrations reduced to specified limits (**Table 1**) to minimize loading in the soils and to promote the natural attenuation of any remaining metals.

<b>Table 1: Land Application Disposal (LAD) Discharge Standards</b>		
<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Maximum Concentration milligrams per liter (mg/L)</b>	
	<b>LAD South</b>	<b>LAD East</b>
Aluminum	8.42	1.42
Arsenic	1.08	1.09
Cadmium	0.34	0.25
Copper	2.25	2.26
Lead	1.45	1.47
Manganese	54.41	57.20
Zinc	47.80	44.83

Water samples were collected for sulfate and total metals analysis throughout the operational season to monitor the effluent being discharged to the LAD system and to establish baseline metals concentrations for leachate and influent water. Samples were shipped to ALS Laboratory within 24 hours of collection and analyzed for sulfate and total metals including UTCMA COCs aluminum, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and zinc. LAD effluent samples were collected and analyzed on a weekly basis during the operational season to confirm that LAD discharge standards were being met, while leachate and influent samples were collected and analyzed once at the beginning of the operational season. All LAD effluent samples analyzed throughout the operational season (**Table 2**) show metals concentrations considerably lower than the established LAD discharge standards except for manganese in the samples from 8/15/22 and 8/22/22 (**Table 1**).

<b>Table 2: Land Application Disposal (LAD) Sampling Results</b>											
<b>Sample ID</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Matrix</b>	<b>Concentration milligrams per liter (mg/L)</b>							
				<b>Aluminum</b>	<b>Arsenic</b>	<b>Cadmium</b>	<b>Copper</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Manganese</b>	<b>Zinc</b>	<b>Sulfate</b>
LT-WTP-LAD-20220624	6/24/2022	LAD	Water	0.32	0.0047	0.015	0.031	0.00035	16	1.1	940
LT-WTP-LAD-20220715	7/15/2022	LAD	Water	0.078	0.0019	0.019	0.010	0.000057	21	0.51	1300
LT-WTP-LAD-20220718	7/18/2022	LAD	Water	0.058	0.0018	0.016	0.0087	0.000048	17	0.36	1320
LT-WTP-LAD-20220725	7/25/2022	LAD	Water	0.16	0.0047	0.031	0.043	0.00049	27	1.6	1550
LT-WTP-LAD-20220801	8/1/2022	LAD	Water	0.063	0.0023	0.015	0.017	0.00017	12	0.73	1690
LT-WTP-LAD-20220815	8/15/2022	LAD	Water	0.015	0.0016	0.038	0.0055	0.000054	58	0.35	2180
LT-WTP-LAD-20220822	8/22/2022	LAD	Water	0.032	0.0022	0.051	0.016	0.00017	70	0.75	2460
LT-WTP-LAD-20220829	8/29/2022	LAD	Water	0.018	0.0020	0.014	0.0066	0.000049	23	0.38	2470
LT-WTP-LAD-20220909	9/9/2022	LAD	Water	0.019	0.0027	0.014	0.0064	0.000054	22	0.30	2810
LT-WTP-LAD-09122022	9/12/2022	LAD	Water	0.016	0.0025	0.010	0.0063	0.00017	17	0.36	2950

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### TREATMENT OVERVIEW

- 2022 Treatment Season: 6/15/2022 – 9/12/2022 (64 operational days)
- Total volume of leachate treated: 815,000 gallons
- Average volume of leachate treated per day: 12,800 gallons
- Approximate volume of sediment hauled to Luttrell Repository: 34 cubic yards

### TIMELINE OF WATER TREATMENT PLANT ACTIVITIES

Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) began remedial activities on June 15, 2022, and completed remedial activities on September 12, 2022.

The following provides a timeline of remedial activities and associated tasks at the Luttrell LTP:

- June 13 – June 19
  - ERRS contractors arrived on site and began preparing the LTP for operation, which included the following activities:
    - General LTP maintenance, including repairing/replacing damaged piping, influent totalizer, LAD effluent pump, and effluent sludge pump.
    - Contracting necessary rental and material delivery services.
    - Inspection of LAD system to identify necessary maintenance.
    - Repair of LAD system.
    - Testing overall operation of LTP.
  - ERRS begins daily LTP operation, treating leachate water to optimize caustic, acid, and polymer chemical feed rates, operational run times, and clarifier flush intervals and times.
- June 20 – June 26
  - START takes preliminary samples to determine baseline metals concentrations of leachate/influent water and effectiveness of WTP metals removal.
  - START and ERRS conduct hourly monitoring of treatment processes (pH, flow rate, chemical feed rates) at multiple points throughout the treatment train.
  - START and ERRS conduct daily monitoring of field parameters (pH, temperature, specific conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and oxidation reduction potential) of influent and effluent from the NLP and ELP.
  - ERRS flushed all LAD lines on the north and south branches, cleaned all LAD sprinkler heads, and ensured all individual LAD lines functioned as intended.
  - ERRS repaired the gas-powered effluent sludge pump.
  - ERRS tested the two backup metering pumps to ensure that their operation was sufficient and flushed both pumps with clean water.
  - ERRS cleaned and calibrated all pH meters on site.
  - ERRS began using the Horiba water quality meter for monitoring daily field parameters (pH, temperature, specific conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and oxidation reduction potential).
  - ERRS continues maintenance on non-functional equipment.
  - ERRS completed installation of the totalizer after repair.
  - Water samples taken include the following:
    - LAD effluent (6/24/2022)
    - NLP (6/24/2022)
    - ELP (6/24/2022)
    - Influent (6/24/2022)

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- June 27 – July 3
  - START and ERRS continue daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS picked up drums of caustic soda and mobilized to LTP.
  - ERRS gave START personnel a walkthrough of the plant and all aspects of the treatment process as well as a tour of the LAD system and the staging area.
  - ERRS show the EPA the new sludge bag operation and agreed we should go back to the sediment bags which appeared to trap more of the flocculant.
  - LTP is shut down from June 29 to July 3.
- July 4 – July 10
  - LTP is shut down from July 4 to 6.
  - START and ERRS continue daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS training new employee on data entry, plant operations, LAD system operation, and Health and Safety Plan (HASP) review.
  - ERRS built a containment system around the caustic soda tank with a 250-gallons overflow capacity in the event of a rupture/failure.
- July 11 – July 17
  - LTP is shut down on July 11.
  - START and ERRS continue daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS reconditioned leachate pond perimeter damages due to past wind conditions.
  - Water samples taken:
    - LAD effluent (7/15/2022)
- July 18 – July 24
  - ERRS continues daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS continues to run sludge reduction system.
  - ERRS installed a containment system for the muriatic acid in the event of a rupture.
  - Water samples taken:
    - LAD effluent (7/18/2022)
- July 25 – July 31
  - ERRS continues daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS continues to run sludge reduction system.
  - ERRS trained new employee on site operations throughout the week as well as reviewed the HASP and SDS.
  - ERRS hauled caustic soda to the site, repaired the dump trailer on site, and installed/cleaned pH probes.
  - ERRS installed Hanna pH probes and ordered new totalizer.
  - Water samples taken:
    - LAD effluent (7/25/2022)
- August 1 – August 7
  - ERRS continues daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS continues to run sludge reduction system.
  - ERRS replaced damaged sprinkler heads on the LAD system.
  - ERRS repaired sludge system leaks.
  - Water samples taken:
    - LAD effluent (8/1/2022)

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- August 8 – August 14
  - ERRS continues daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS continues to run sludge reduction system.
  - ERRS trained new employee on all aspects of the LTP.
- August 15 – August 21
  - ERRS continues daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS continues to run sludge reduction system.
  - ERRS hauled drums of caustic soda on site from Chemical Montana and pumped the drums into the porta-tote.
  - Water samples taken:
    - LAD effluent (8/15/2022)
- August 22 – August 28
  - ERRS continues daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS continues to run sludge reduction system.
  - Water samples taken:
    - LAD effluent (8/22/2022)
- August 29 – September 5
  - ERRS continues daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS continues to run sludge reduction system.
  - LTP is shut down from August 30 to September 5.
  - Water samples taken:
    - LAD effluent (8/29/2022)
- September 6 – September 12
  - LTP is shut down on September 6 and 7.
  - ERRS continues daily LTP operation, monitoring, and optimization.
  - ERRS continues to run sludge reduction system.
  - Water samples taken:
    - LAD effluent (9/9/2022)
    - LAD effluent (9/12/2022)
- September 13 – September 19
  - ERRS hauled skid-steer to the LTP.
  - ERRS used dump trailer and skid-steer to cover the sludge bags that were staged at the repository.
  - Pond fully emptied and LTP winterized.
- September 20 – September 26
  - ERRS finished covering the sludge bags that were staged at the repository.

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### SUMMARY

Work began at the Luttrell Leachate WTP on June 15, 2022, and ended on September 12, 2022, totaling 90 days (64 operational days) to treat approximately 815,000 gallons at an average of 12,800 gallons per operational day. In total, approximately 34 cubic yards of sediment was removed from the leachate pond through the sludge reduction system and subsequently hauled to the Luttrell Repository in bags. In addition to the treating the entire volume of leachate, the following major activities were completed over the course of the 2022 operational season:

- Restoration of basic WTP plant functionality, including repair/replacement of pipes, valves, hoses, transfer pumps, and chemical feed pumps within the WTP building.
- Restoration of LAD system functionality, including repair/replacement of pipes, valves, and sprinklers throughout entirety of LAD distribution network.
- Confirmed WTP component redundancy by ensuring back-ups are working and available for all major failure points in the WTP system.
- Used a sludge reduction system to reduce sediment loading on the treatment system and reintroduction of sediment to the leachate pond.
- Optimized WTP operation and generated an updated O&M Manual reflecting necessary changes that were made.
- Inventory of all major WTP components, supplemental equipment, rentals, and required services.
- Ensured that all safety equipment is accessible, updated, and redundant throughout the WTP facility.
- Performed winterization of all equipment, tanks, pumps, and pipes/lines for seasonal WTP shutdown.

## **PAGE 7**

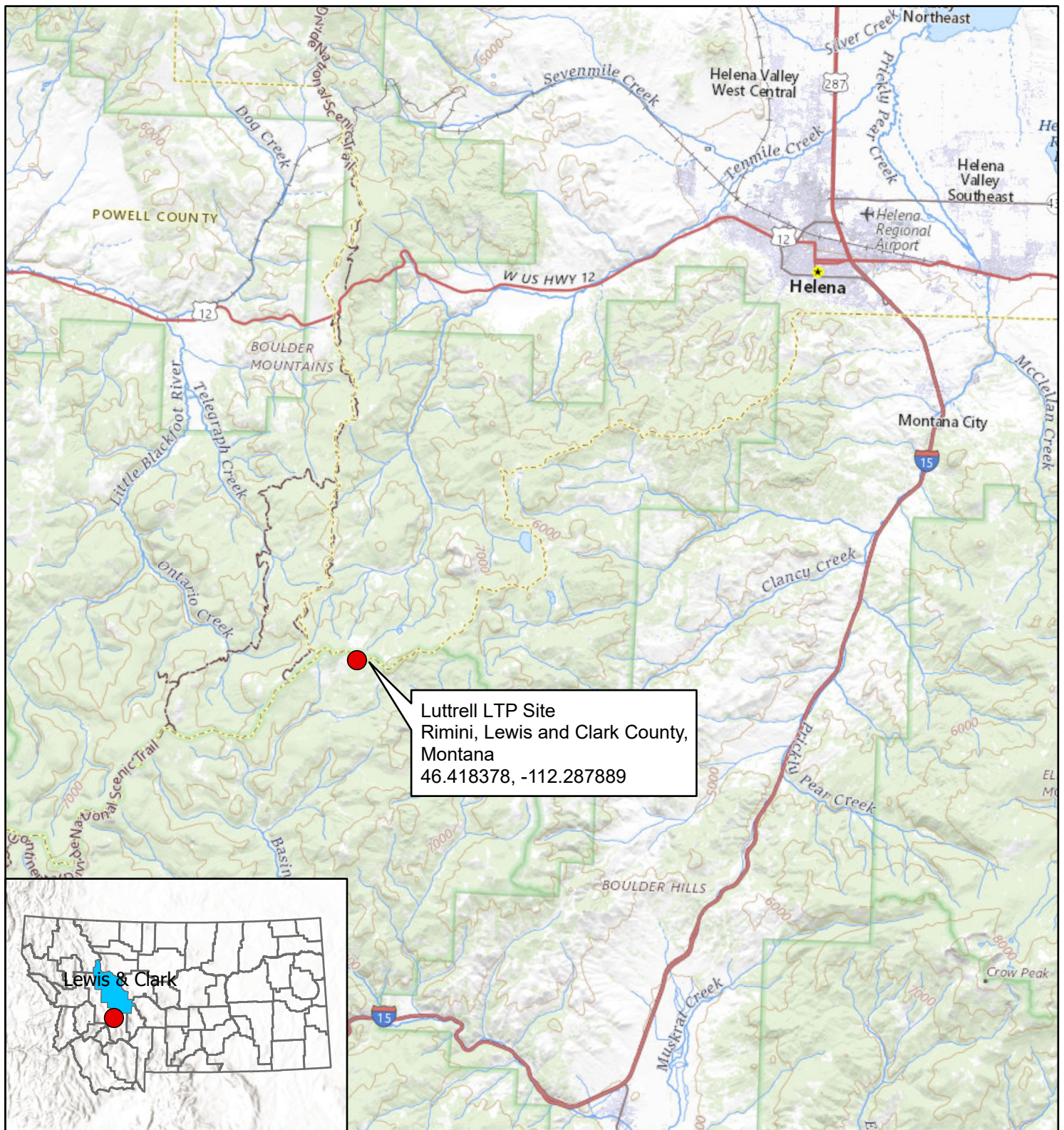
### **References**

EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2002. Record of Decision: Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area. June 28.

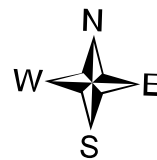
EPA. 2017. Second Five-Year Review Report For The Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area Superfund Site. August 2.

## FIGURES





● Luttrell Leachate Treatment Plant Site



0 1.3 2.5 5 7.5 Miles

Spatial Reference  
 Name: NAD 1983 CORS96 StatePlane Montana FIPS  
 2500 Ft Intl  
 Datum: NAD 1983 CORS96  
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic



United States  
 Environmental Protection Agency  
 Region 8



**TETRA TECH**

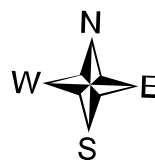
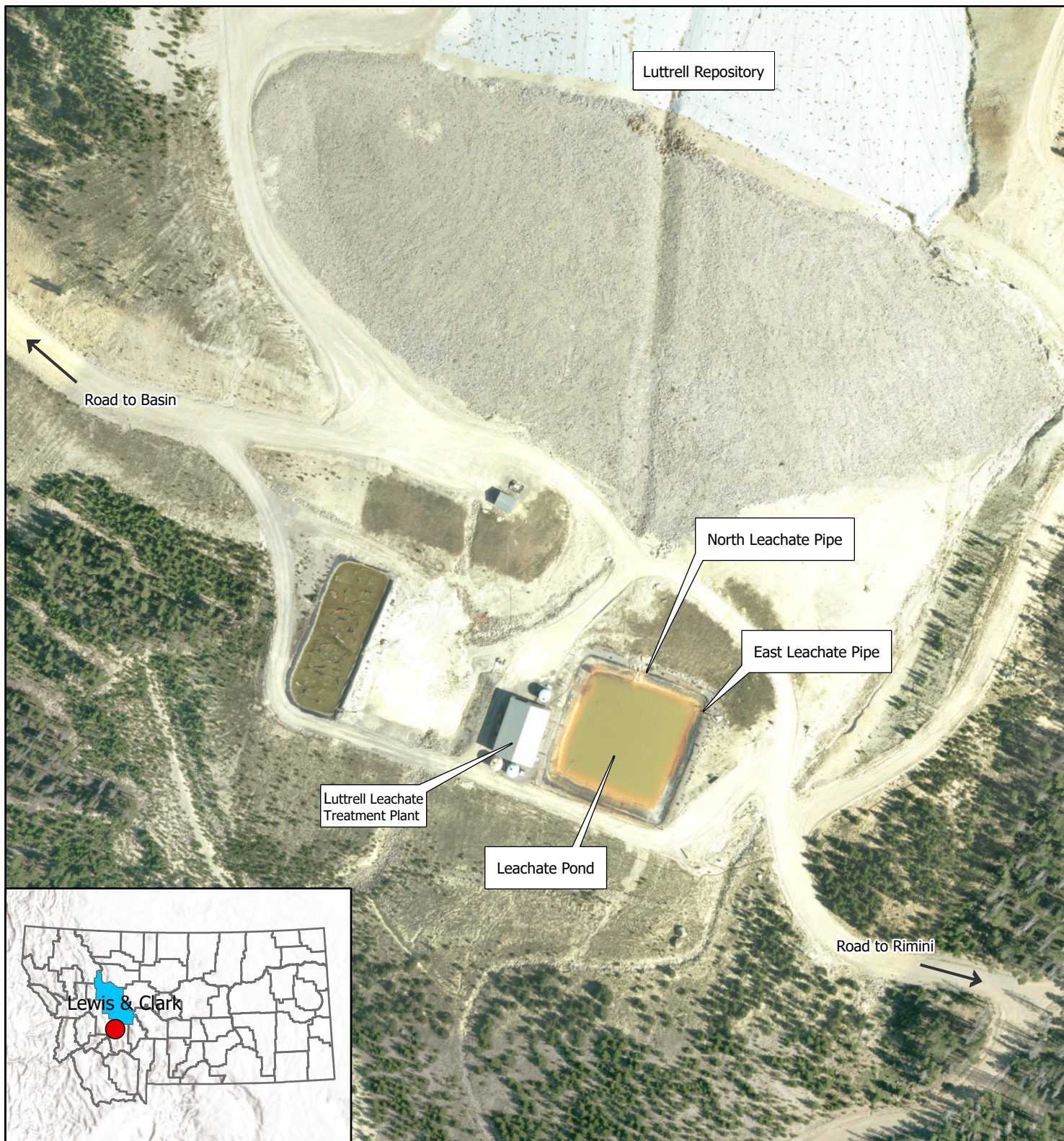
Date: 10/8/22  
 Analyst: KWP

## FIGURE 1 Site Location Map

**Luttrell Leachate  
 Treatment Plant Site  
 TD No: 2071-2106-08**

City: Rimini County: Lewis & Clark State: Montana





0 50 100 200 300 Feet

## FIGURE 2 Site Map

**Luttrell Leachate  
Treatment Plant Site  
TD No: 2071-2106-08**

City: Rimini County: Lewis & Clark State: Montana

Spatial Reference  
Name: NAD 1983 CORS96 StatePlane Montana FIPS  
2500 Ft Intl  
Datum: NAD 1983 CORS96  
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic



United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 8



**TETRA TECH** Date: 10/8/2021

Analyst: KWP

**APPENDIX A**  
**LUTTRELL LEACHATE TREATMENT PLANT OPERATING**  
**PROCEDURES (O&M MANUAL)**

# Luttrell Leachate Treatment Plant Operating Procedures

The contents of this Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manual are based on standard operations and procedures as of 7/19/2022 and are subject to review and revision as new information becomes available or as operations are optimized.



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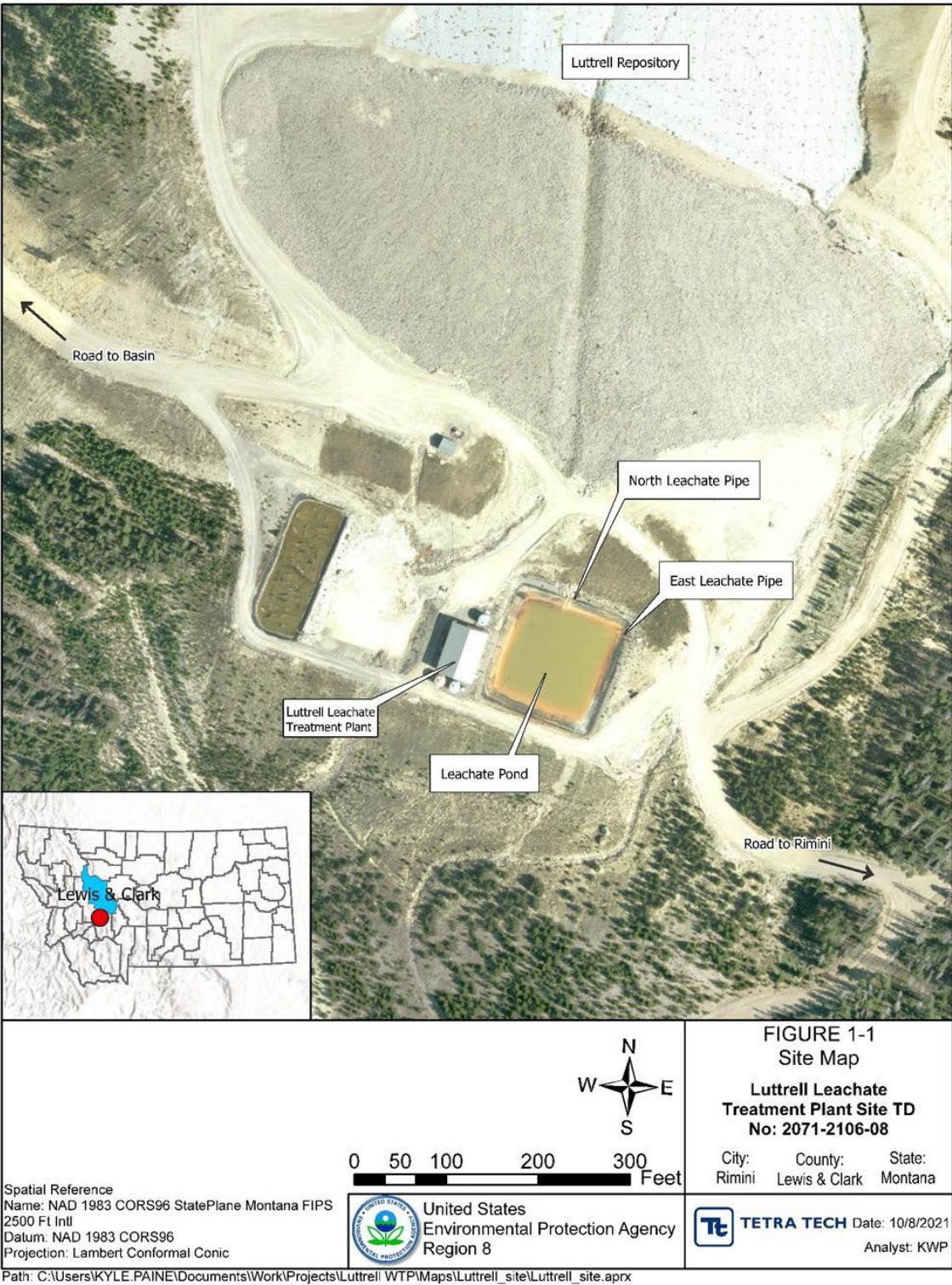
## 1. Introduction: Luttrell Leachate Treatment Plant

The Luttrell Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP) is an interim facility to treat leachate from the Luttrell Repository located at the headwaters of the Tenmile and Basin Creek watersheds. The treatment process and key operating equipment and procedures are provided in this document.

Kemron Environmental Services and URS constructed the LTP to treat the leachate captured by a collection system for the Luttrell Repository under the Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 START 2 contract. Water collected through the leachate has a low pH and high concentrations of arsenic and heavy metals. To meet land disposal requirements (Table 2-1), water collected through the leachate system requires treatment prior to being discharged to the land surface. The LTP treats the leachate to concentrations sufficient for discharge to the land application disposal (LAD) area. Effluent discharge standards are listed in Table 2-1.

Site map is shown in Figure 1-1.

Figure 1-1 Luttrell Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP) Site Map



## 2. Treatment Process Overview

Precipitation and snowmelt infiltrating into the Luttrell Repository is captured by the leachate collection system through underground piping and stored in a 750,000 gallon leachate retention pond. Because the LTP is not accessible during winter and spring, leachate is stored in the pond for treatment throughout summer and fall. To ensure pond capacity for storing winter and spring precipitation, the pond must be fully drained prior to winter. Due to the remote setting, power to the LTP is provided by a diesel generator.

The water from the pond is first pumped into a flash mix tank within the plant where sodium hydroxide ( $\text{NaOH}$ ) also referred to as caustic/caustic acid) is added to raise the pH level to between 9.5 and 10.5. At these pH levels, metals form metal hydroxides and precipitate out of solution. The remainder of the treatment process is to settle and retain the metal hydroxide solids generated; lower the pH to near neutral (7.0); and discharge the treated water to the LAD. To aid in precipitation and retention of metal hydroxides, a polymer flocculating agent is added to the water in the flash mix tank. The polymers group together to form chains and nets to attach to and entangle the metal hydroxide solids. As the flocs are formed, particle size increases and settling is promoted. The water from the flash mix tank then overflows into a primary clarifier tank. The primary clarifier tank is large enough to allow time for settling of the waste sludge to occur at the bottom of the tank. This process is called sedimentation. The water then overflows the primary clarifier into a lamella clarifier tank. This secondary clarifier works to promote settling of the remaining solids in the water.

The treated lamella clarifier water then overflows into a pH adjust tank. This pH adjust tank is agitated by a mixer and muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid  $\text{HCl}$ ) is added, neutralizing the treated water back to a pH between 6.5 and 7.5. Once the water has been neutralized, it is pumped to two LAD holding tanks. When the LAD holding tanks contain enough water, a pump is turned on, sending the water to the LAD in 10,000-gallon batches.

The average workday at the LTP is 10.5 hours. This includes 7.5 hours of plant operation time, 1 hour for a midday shutdown, and 1 hour of travel time from Helena in each direction (2 hours total). Midday shutdown is necessary to prevent unsettled solids from carrying over from the primary clarifier to the lamella clarifier, which would result in inadequate treatment of the leachate. Runtime of the LTP will be reduced throughout the week as solids accumulate in the primary and lamella clarifiers. Therefore, a weekly flush of both clarifiers is required to keep the system running optimally.

See Section 2.2 for the process flow diagram.

**Table 2-1 Land Application Disposal (LAD) Effluent Discharge Standards**

Constituent	Maximum Concentration (mg/L)	
	LAD South	LAD East
Aluminum	8.42	1.42
Arsenic	1.08	1.09
Cadmium	0.34	0.25
Copper	2.25	2.26
Lead	1.45	1.47
Manganese	54.41	57.20
Zinc	47.80	44.83

## 2.1 Flow Rates

This section summarizes the various untreated and treated water flow rates encountered throughout the treatment system.

- The North Leachate Pipe (NLP) and East Leachate Pipe (ELP) are the sources of contaminated water stored in the leachate pond. As the season progresses, there will be fluctuations in flow rates to both the ELP and NLP due to changing weather conditions and saturation levels of the repository. For the first half of the season, the average NLP and ELP flow rates are approximately 5.0 and 0.4 gallons per minute (gpm), respectively. Once the ELP flow rate is under 0.1 gpm, it is considered negligible. The average NLP flow rate after this occurs is approximately 2 gpm. See Table 2-2 for daily and weekly flow rates for the ELP and NLP.
- During operation time for 1 workday, approximately 20,250 gallons of leachate water enters the plant at 45 gpm. That equates to 121,500 gallons per week (gpw) and 486,000 gallons per month (gpmo).
- In 1 workday, an average of 18,250 gallons of treated water are sent to the LAD. This amounts to 109,500 gpw and 438,000 gpmo.
- The discrepancy between the volume of treated water and water entering the plant is due to the sludge drainage from the primary clarifier. Approximately 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) are drained out of the primary clarifier, and the clarifier is completely drained on Sundays to clear the system of any accumulated sludge.
- The sludge tanks are able to send topwater back into the system to increase production with at least 20 percent of the 2,000 gpd of water from the primary clarifier (400 gpd).
- The primary operating season is typically from the first week of June to the second week of October. This varies, depending on weather conditions. The total volume of water treated for the season is approximately 1.13 million gallons, based on the 2018 season. With ~20,000 gallons of leachate treated per day; this results in an approximately 66-day operating season at an influent flow rate of 45 gpm if the plant is run 6 days per week.

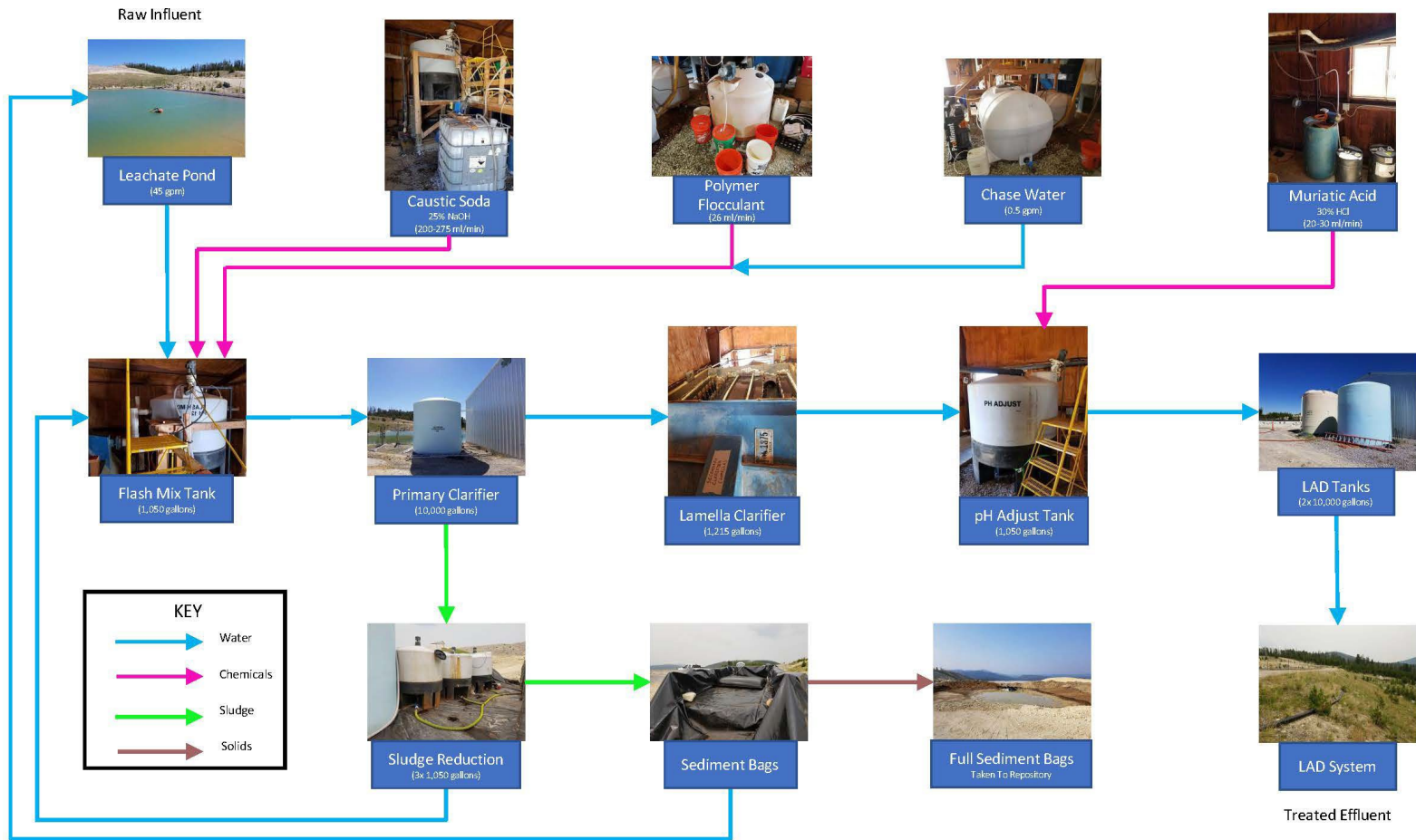
Table 2-2 summarizes the flow rates.



**Table 2-2 Leachate Treatment Plant (LTP) Process Flow Rates**

Storage Pond Input or Output	Stream	Flow Rate			
		Gallons Per Minute	Gallons Per Day	Gallons per Week	Gallons Per Month (30 days)
Input	North Leachate Pipe - Early Season Late Season	5.06	7,286	51,004	218,580
		2.07	2,981	20,866	89,430
Input	East Leachate Pipe	0.36	518.4	2,074	15,552
Output	Water Treatment Plant Influent	45	20,250	121,000	486,000
Not Applicable	Land Application Disposal (LAD)	Not Applicable	18,250	109,500	438,000
Input	Primary Clarifier Drain	180	2,000	14,000	60,000

## 2.2 Process Flow Diagram



### 3. Key Treatment Plant Components and Operating Parameters

An overview of plant components follows. Treatment consumption rates for chemicals utilized by the plant are listed in Table 3-1.

#### **Generator**

- Location: Outside and to the west of plant
- Model: Cat XQ35 28-kW (kilowatt)
- Fuel: Diesel
- Tank: 528 gallons (2,000 liters) Trans Cube fuel II
- Consumption: ~1.2 gph (59 8-hour days between refills)
- Subcontracted fuel truck delivers diesel to plant once per summer

#### **Operation Panel**

- Location: Inside LTP building
- Contains switches for:
  - Flash tank mixer
  - pH transfer pump
  - pH adjust tank mixer
  - LAD pump

#### **Leachate Pond**

- Location: Outside and to east of plant
- 750,000 gallons of repository leachate collection and storage fed by the NLP and ELP
- Initial settling of suspended solids
- Black plastic lined, enclosed by fencing

#### **Influent Pump**

- Model: Xylem Flygt Ready 8 1.1 horsepower (hp), 110 volt (V) submersible pump with 2-inch diameter discharge piping.
- Influent totalizer located in LTP building where water enters flash mix tank
- Flowrate: 30–55 gpm (typically 45 gpm)
- Submersible pump placed in a float pulls water off top of leachate pond
- Plug/unplug to turn on/off

### **Flash Mix Tank**

- Location: Inside LTP building
- 1,050-gallon mixing tank where caustic soda is added to raise the pH of the leachate water to form metal hydroxide solids
- Polymer added as a flocculating agent to promote settling of the metal hydroxide solids
- Mixer: Sharpe Model G-033, 0.33 hp motor, 110/220 V, on/off operation (switch on operation panel)
- Outlet: Overflow to primary clarifier; typical residence time approximately 23 minutes
- Secondary drain valve discharges back into the leachate pond via gravity

### **Caustic**

- Location: Inside LTP building
- Concentration: 25% NaOH solution
- Holding tank volume: 275 gallons
- Added to flash mix tank to increase pH to target range of 9.5 to 10.0. Dosage will gradually change as the chemistry in the leachate pond changes (i.e., becomes more concentrated) over the summer.
- Metering pump: Pulsatron Model #LPH6SAVTC3XXX. Typical setting 80% stroke length, 45% frequency (switch on unit)
- Typical dosage: Approximately 200 milliliters per minute (mL/min) early season to approximately 275 mL/min later in season. Dosage changes as water chemistry in leachate pond changes over the summer months. Consumption: Approximately 25 gpd.
- Caustic is obtained from Chemical Montana or a similar vendor and brought to the LTP as needed. The caustic soda is then pumped into the holding tank using a chemical drum pump. Take care when opening the carboys as the decrease in atmospheric pressure experienced when bringing them to the plant causes them to pressurize. Unscrew bung cap slowly with a bung wrench to allow pressure to slowly release. Empty carboys are returned to the vendor.
- Chemical drum pump: Finish Thompson Model PFM 40. Pump tube: 32 inches. Motor: 115 V electric.

### **Polymer Flocculant**

- Location: Inside LTP building
- Polymer skid: ProMinent Part No. 990106
- Flocculant: Clarifloc CM-2228
- Polymer skid is used to prepare 0.5% "make-down" polymer solution. The 0.5% polymer solution is made with relatively clean chase water. The 0.5% make-down polymer solution production procedure is presented in Section 8. It is important to understand exactly how to operate the polymer skid.
- 0.5% make-down polymer is added to the system with chase water at a 0.5 gpm flowrate via submersible pump to prevent clumping of polymer. A static mixer is present in-line to mix make-down polymer solution with chase water before it enters the flash mix tank. The flowrate of the

chase water added to the system is modulated with an in-line valve. 0.5 gpm is marked on the valve.

- NOTE: Alternatively, polymer can be prepared by hand. See section 8.5.
- NOTE: Never let water mix with “neat” polymer (i.e., undiluted polymer) as it will turn clumpy and unusable.
- Make-down polymer is prepared in 4-gallon batches and stored in 5-gallon buckets. Small batches ensure that the polymer is fresh/active for the entire duration of its intended use.
- Diluted “fresh” polymer is active for 5 to 7 days. Make only the volume needed for 1 week.
- Metering pump: ProMinent Gala10008PVT400UD103000

#### **Chase Water**

- Chase water tank volumes (2 tanks): 535 gallons and 200 gallons
- Treated water pumped from LAD influent line to chase water tank as-needed
- This water is used for both 0.5% polymer make-down solution production and as chase water to increase mixing when adding the polymer product.

#### **Primary Clarifier**

- Location: Outside, north of plant
- 10,000-gallon tank for primary settling of the metal hydroxide solids (flocs) into sludge
- Dead tank: 12 inches on bottom, 31.6 inches on top
- Secondary drain valve discharges back into the leachate pond via gravity

#### **Lamella Clarifier**

- Location: Inside LTP building
- 1,215-gallon secondary clarification tank in series with the primary clarifier tank where further flocculent settling is promoted until overflow to pH adjust tank occurs.
- Secondary drain valve discharges back into the leachate pond via gravity.
- There should be no visual carryover of solid flocs from the lamella clarifier to the pH adjust tank. If this occurs, treatment will be inadequate.

#### **pH Adjust Tank**

- Location: Inside LTP building.
- 1,050-gallon mixing tank where muriatic acid (HCl) is added to neutralize the pH of the treated water back to a value between 6.5 and 7.5.
- Mixer: Sharpe Model G-033, 0.33 hp motor, 110/220 V, on/off operation (switch on operation panel)
- Pump located downstream transfers treated water to LAD tanks. On/off operation. A valve is present downstream to modulate flow so that pH adjust tank level stays consistent. Level must be consistently monitored, and pump rate adjusted.
- Secondary drain valve discharges back into the leachate pond via gravity.

### **pH Transfer Pump**

- Location: Inside LTP building
- On/off operation (switch located on operation panel)
- Valve located down line to modulate flow to 45 gpm. If the flowrate is not set at 45 gpm, the pH adjust tank will overtop or empty. A marking is made on this valve so that the flowrate is near 45 gpm. NOTE: This is imprecise; thus, the level of the pH adjust tank must be consistently monitored and the valve position adjusted accordingly. There is a mid-tank marking on the pH adjust tank to use as a reference for modulating flow.
- Grease weekly for smooth operation.

### **Muriatic Acid**

- Concentration: 30% HCL solution
- Carboy: 145 pounds
- Metering pump: ProMinent Gala1005PPE260UD012000
- Typical Dosage: 20 to 30 mL/min. Consumption: approximately 1 gallon per week
- Two carboys brought up at the beginning of LTP operational season from Chemical Montana
- NOTE: Muriatic acid is highly corrosive and volatile. Take care when handling, to avoid contact with skin or eyes.

### **LAD Effluent Tanks**

- Location: Outside, south of plant
- Two 10,000-gallon holding tanks that store treated water until ready to be discharged in 10,000- gallon batches to the LAD
- Sight glass on side of tank indicates level when unable to see through tank wall.

### **LAD Fields**

- Location: Outside, east of plant; in two forested locations near the treatment plant where treated effluent is land-applied
- LAD Pump: US Electric Motors 20 hp, 480V, Model A939A
- The land application disposal system is a series of discharge lines with sprinklers. Typically, only two lines are open.
- Excess arsenic and metals are attenuated by the LAD soils through adsorption.

### **Sludge Reduction System**

- Location: Outside, north of plant; adjacent to primary clarifier
- Three 1,050-gallon holding tanks that store sludge from the primary clarifier.
- One hydraulic dump tilt-trailer of at least 10,000-lb. rating capable of holding multiple, filled sediment bags. Trailer bed is angled towards the leachate pond allowing sediment bags to drain.
- Reduces re-introduction of solids into leachate pond from primary clarifier flushing.

**Table 3-1 Treatment Consumption Rates**

Consumable	Consumption Rate
Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH, caustic)	180 to 280 mL/min, ~25 gpd
Neat Polymer	0.3 gph/0.005 gpm during 0.5% make-down polymer production
0.5% Make-Down Polymer	20 to 30 mL/min
Muriatic Acid (HCl)	1 gpw
Flocculant Chase Water	0.5 gpm

## 4. Daily Plant Operation

The average workday at the LTP is 10.5 hours. This includes 7.5 hours of plant operation time, 1 hour for a midday shutdown, and 1 hour of travel time from Helena in each direction (2 hours total). Midday shutdown is necessary to prevent unsettled solids from carrying over from the primary clarifier to the lamella clarifier. NOTE: It is necessary to ensure the plant gate is locked after entering/leaving the mine site.

### 4.1 Routine Startup

This section presents a list of standard system conditions and the routine tasks that are needed on a daily basis to start the treatment plant.

- Solids in the primary clarifier tank will have settled overnight, open drain valve on primary clarifier tank connected to the sludge reduction system line until the discharge runs clear (usually between 1000 and 1500 gallons). This flushes most of the settled sludge in the bottom of the tank back into the leachate pond. Fill sludge tank 1 (located furthest from clarifier tank) first; then fill sludge tank 2 (middle tank) as-needed.
- Check generator oil and coolant levels.
- Turn on generator and open plant building:
  - To turn generator on, open the engine compartment door (left side) and turn the red battery switch to the “on” position. Open the control panel door (back side) and hit the green “on” button. Let the generator warm up for approximately 5 minutes before flipping fuse on the generator (below the control panel) to the “on” position.
  - Inside the LTP, open breaker panel A (center of building) and flip fuses 2, 3, and 4 to the “On” position.
  - These operations will differ according to generator.
- In the following order:
  - Turn on caustic metering pump (switch located on unit);
  - flocculent chase water pump (turn on surge protector);
  - flocculent metering pump (turn on surge protector);
  - the flash mix tank mixer; and
  - Influent pump (plug in).
  - Confirm caustic/polymer are pumping into system by observing the caustic/polymer lines in the flash mix tank.
- Record totalizer volume, time, and date in the Excel spreadsheet. The influent totalizer is located inside the LTP building on the inlet line for the flash mix tank. Plug in plant feed pump located next to the muriatic acid tank. The plant feed pump is set at 45 gpm.
- Wait for overflow from lamella to pH adjust tank. Record totalizer volume, time, and date at time of overflow to lamella. Depending on how many gallons were drained back into the pond from the primary clarifier, this usually takes between 15 and 45 minutes. During this time, check Hanna probe in calibration solutions to verify proper pH readings. When overflow occurs, turn on acid metering pump (switch located on unit). The plant consumes acid at approximately 1 gpw.
- Wait for water level in pH adjust tank to rise to the mixer line. Turn on mixer (operator panel).
- Wait for water level to rise to transfer line. Turn on pH transfer pump (operator panel) and adjust valve to 45 gpm marking.



## 4.2 Operation

The plant is operated and controlled manually, requiring frequent operator attention. The following list describes daily operation protocol for running the LTP and discharging treated effluent to the LAD system.

- Check pH coming out of flash mix tank with Hanna probe in port located on overflow line, controller is located on wooden frame of flash mix tank. pH will be under 9 in the morning most of the time. pH levels should be between 9.5 and 10. Check hourly.
- Check pH in lamella clarifier directly with Bluelab pH probe or Horiba multi-meter. pH levels should be between 9.5 and 10. Check hourly.
- Check pH of pH adjust tank with Hanna probe located inside pH adjust tank, controller located on wall near east-facing window. pH levels should be between 6.5 and 7.5. Check hourly.
  - Overnight, pH in the clarifier tanks will decrease; therefore, adjust acid accordingly. Throughout the day, pH will increase; therefore, acid must be increased. Set the stroke length to 28% in the morning and adjust to a 32% stroke length midday.
  - Leachate water quality gradually changes throughout the summer (becomes more concentrated). Adjust acid and caustic consumption accordingly.
- Run plant until LAD tanks read 6,000 gallons.
- Turn off pH transfer pump and turn on LAD pump (operator panel). Then turn on pH transfer pump again to reduce the load on the generator.
- In the event field parameter measurements indicate a potential treatment issue (indicated by low or extremely high pH in the LTP), zinc concentrations in the LTP effluent should be tested to determine whether or not the treatment processes are functioning properly. Zinc concentrations should be measured using a Hach field colorimeter and verified via the samples sent to the laboratory. It is recommended to perform a zinc test on every effluent sample early in the operating season to verify metals reduction because lab sample results will not be immediately available.
- Run 10,000 gallons (batch size) to the LAD (usually takes about 65 minutes for laterals 3 and 4 and 75 minutes for laterals 1 and 2). Switch LAD laterals 3 to 4 times per operating season so that plant effluent is dispersed evenly in LAD field. Record time, date, batch number, drain field, lateral numbers, and totalizer readings in the Excel spreadsheet. Typically, 1.5 batches are sent per day. The LAD pump is set to run between 125 and 150 gpm and at 40 pounds per square inch. Shut down LAD pump.
- After 3.5 to 4.5 hours of run time, or if flocculant carryover is observed in the lamella clarifier sooner, shut the plant down to let additional settling occur in the primary clarifier and lamella clarifier.
- Let sludge settle for approximately 60 min.
- Open drain on primary clarifier tank for approximately 10 minutes or until the water runs clear, following sludge reduction system protocol outlined in Section 8.5.
- Restart plant using protocol above.
- At the end of the day, shut down the plant and generator per Sections 4.1 and 4.3. Record time and totalizer readings in the Excel spreadsheet. Water treated after the midday shutdown can remain in the LAD tanks.

- On Sundays, following the AM treatment run: shutdown the plant, drain the primary and lamella clarifiers completely to remove weekly sludge buildup, and refill the primary and lamella clarifiers over the afternoon.
- See Table 3-1 for approximate consumption rates.

### 4.3 Shutdown

This section presents a list of the routine tasks that are needed on a daily basis to shut down the treatment plant.

- To shut down, perform in the following order: unplug plant feed pump, turn off flocculent metering pump, unplug flocculent chase water pump, and turn off caustic metering pump.
- Wait until flow from the lamella to pH adjust tank is about half and turn off acid metering pump.
- Once acid is turned off, open valve between pH adjust tank and LAD tanks all the way.
- Turn off mixer once water level is below marked mixer line.
- Turn off pH transfer pump
- Make sure gate to mine site is locked after leaving

### 4.4 Instrumentation

#### **Hach Colorimeter**

- Model: Hach DR 300
- Chemicals: Cyclohexanone, Zincon Reagent Pouch (contains cyanide)
- Zinc content is used as an indicator to gauge overall metals content of the sample. Performing a zinc test on the LTP effluent gives the operator insight into metals reduction and performance of the plant.

#### **Hanna pH Controller/Probe**

- pH probes located in two locations:
  - In-line between flash mix tank and primary clarifier, controller mounted on wooden frame of flash mix tank.
  - Inside pH adjust tank, controller mounted next to east-facing window above acid metering pump.
- Used to measure water pH of LTP flash mix tank and pH adjust tank.
- A calibration check should be performed on the Hanna probe daily with buffer solutions. Calibration should only occur when consistent drift is observed (increasing or decreasing trend, 3 days in a row, by 10% of the measurement or greater).

#### **Horiba U-52 Water Quality Multimeter**

- Handheld multimeter used to measure water quality parameters of LTP influent and LAD tanks.
- Measures pH, temperature, oxidation reduction potential, specific conductivity, and turbidity.

#### **Bluelab pH Probe**

- Handheld pH probe for measuring pH of lamella clarifier and as a backup instrument.

**Influent Totalizer**

- Located on influent line entering pH adjust tank
- Digital
- Flowmeter/totalizer functions
- Check regularly for 45 gpm influent flowrate
- Record totalizer at beginning/end of operating day and when primary clarifier overflows to the lamella clarifier.

**Effluent Totalizer**

- Located on effluent line between LAD tanks
- Analog
- Flowmeter/totalizer functions
- Record totalizer readings before and after each batch is sent out to LAD

## 5. Seasonal Schedule

Due to a high altitude and heavy snowfall, the Luttrell LTP season of operation begins when the access road can be cleared and made passable in late April or May. The process units and lines must be checked and repaired as necessary. Maintenance on the LAD lines begin when not prohibited by snow cover.

Once the plant is in working order, LAD lines are cleared, and all required chemicals are present, treatment of the leachate pond water can commence. The pond has a capacity of 750,000 gallons, and with the incoming water from the NLP, the ELP, and rainfall, the treatment season goes until late September or early October. Once the pond is drained, the plant is put into hibernation until the next season. It is the operator's responsibility to determine if the plant is ready to operate and to treat the leachate water before the treatment season ends, leaving a nearly empty pond for leachate collection over the winter. If the plant lines or pond freeze, it is too early/late for treatment and equipment and plumbing will be damaged.

### 5.1 Spring Startup

Once the snow has melted, a subcontracted grader is used to open up the road from Rimini. This route provides the fastest access to the plant from Helena. The beginning of operation season usually starts around the beginning of June. A bulldozer is subcontracted to open the road from Basin, typically in the beginning or middle of May. Preparation for LTP operation usually occurs from mid-May to June. Spring startup duties include the following:

- Connect lines from the LAD pump to the LAD tanks (camlock fittings).
- LAD pump maintenance (usually seized):
  - To unseize LAD pump, housing is removed where pump shaft can be rotated with a large wrench. Be sure to put grease in the appropriate ports before housing is put back on.
- Hire subcontractor to deliver a plant generator. Subcontractor will connect fuel lines to on-site diesel storage tank and hook up electrical lines to power the plant.
- Sprinkler maintenance is performed on the LAD to ensure sprinklers spray properly:
  - Check sprinkler heads for material buildup. Either clear or replace if unable to spray properly.
- Verify influent pump is functioning properly and connect influent line from pump to plant.
- Install all hoses for the sludge system.
- Open valves on the effluent discharge line and on the end of LAD lines to release water that may have settled in over the winter.

Once the plant has been properly prepared and water treatment begins, the valves on the LAD lines must be closed. The LAD pump is started, and the operator walks along the effluent lines, closing all open valves. The valves for lines 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and 4 and 5 are then opened two at a time while all others are closed, depending on the last set of lines used for discharge. Only two adjacent lines are opened at a time.

## 5.2 Winterization

The end of the operation season usually ranges from October 1 to 15, depending on the weather. At the end of every operating season, the plant must be winterized. The first step in this process is to drain the following tanks:

- Primary clarifier via sludge discharge line
- Lamella clarifier via sludge discharge line
- Flash mix tank via sludge discharge line
- pH adjust tank via drain valve on bottom (most of water should be drained to LAD tanks)
- LAD tanks via LAD method
- The make-down polymer should be managed so that most of it is used for treatment. The remaining solution can be drained into a 5-gallon bucket and dumped in the pond.
- The chase water tank must be drained into the pond using hosing and a 0.5 hp submersible pump located on-site.

The influent pump must be disconnected and stored in the plant. All outside plumbing that can be removed should be stored inside the plant. This includes the plant influent line and lines connecting the LAD tanks to the pH adjust tank and LAD pump. The caustic and acid in the plant can be left on-site over the winter. The unused neat polymer must be removed and taken to the warehouse.

The generator, fuel cell, and porta-john must be arranged to be removed by the subcontracted rental company.

## 6. Sampling

It is necessary to collect routine samples to monitor plant effluent and overall plant efficiency. A weekly sample of treated effluent from the sampling port leading to the LAD tanks is taken every Monday. A zinc testing on this sample should also be taken on Monday. Additionally, monthly samples from the NLP, ELP, and plant influent are taken (along with the weekly LAD sampling). All samples are to be collected in two aliquots, one is preserved with nitric acid for total metals analysis and the other is unpreserved for sulfate analysis. Field parameters, including: pH, temperature, oxidation reduction potential (ORP), specific conductivity (SC), turbidity, and dissolved oxygen (DO) are to be taken and recorded for each sample with a water quality multimeter. Field parameters should also be taken and recorded for the NLP, ELP, and plant influent on weeks where samples are not taken. Samples should be stored in a cooler for transportation and refrigerated for storage if not immediately transported/shipped to the lab.

### 6.1 Sampling Procedures

This section presents the procedures for collecting weekly analytical samples from the treatment plant.

- Each Monday, plant effluent is sampled from the sampling port on the eastern LAD tank.
- Two aliquots of the sample are taken in separate containers, one for total metals analysis and one for sulfate analysis. The aliquot collected for total metals analysis is to be acidified with nitric acid. The aliquot collected for sulfate analysis is left as-is.
- Water quality parameters, including: pH, temperature, conductivity, ORP, turbidity, and DO will be collected from all water treatment locations using a Horiba U-52 or similar water quality multimeter. In the event field parameter measurements indicate a potential treatment issue, indicated by low or extremely high pH in the LTP, zinc concentrations in the LTP effluent will be tested to determine whether or not the treatment process is functioning properly. Zinc concentrations will be measured using a Hach field colorimeter and verified via the samples sent to the laboratory.
- Ensure all sample bottle lids are tightened.
- Samples are to be stored in a cooler on ice and delivered to the lab as soon as possible, with 48- hour (rush) processing requested. If samples do not make it to the lab the day they are taken, they are to be stored in the sample refrigerator overnight.

## 7. Operator Intensive Duties

This section presents a list of the tasks to be performed by the water treatment plant operator for whom there are specific manual duties required and/or special hazards involved.

- Always wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and be aware of possible hazards when: handling chemicals, taking samples, working near the ponds, and changing and/or performing maintenance on the LAD system.
- Always wear gloves and eye protection when handling the nitric acid used to preserve the 1-liter sample bottles.
- The zinc tests require reagent packets containing cyanide. At a minimum, wear gloves, safety glasses, and an N95 respirator when handling these packets.
- Take precautions when walking near ponds and avoid scenarios where slips, trips, and falls could occur.
- Maintain an accurate and updated daily logbook and, at a minimum, update the Luttrell LTP data Excel spreadsheets daily.
- Ensure caustic is being pumped into the flash mix tank when turning on the caustic metering pump by visually checking the discharge end of the line (inside the flash mix tank) for liquid flow.
- Ensure plant influent flowrate is set at 45 gpm and check throughout the day. If the flowrate is low and the valve is unadjusted, check influent line for pinching and make sure influent pump has not been pushed onto the leachate pond bank.
- Ensure there is ample chase water and make-down polymer solution for operation. If more chase water is needed, water can be pumped from the effluent line into the chase water tank. The plant typically consumes chase water at 0.5 gpm.
- Make sure the acid metering pump is turned on once overflow occurs from the lamella clarifier to the pH adjust tank. Check the pH periodically throughout the day in the lamella clarifier and pH adjust tank. The pH should read between 9 and 10 in the lamella clarifier and between 6.5 and 7.5 in the pH adjust tank. Adjust acid and caustic consumption accordingly.
- When the pH transfer pump is in operation, make sure that the valve between the pH adjust tank and LAD holding tanks is set to the 45 gpm mark.
- Periodically clean the pH probes. The probes should also be calibrated using the calibration standard solutions to ensure accuracy of readings such as pH and conductivity.
- Check oil and coolant levels in the generator prior to plant startup and add fluids when necessary.

## 8. Operator Intensive Duties: Make-Down Polymer (0.5%) Production Protocol

This process utilizes a polymer emulsion system to flocculate suspended metals in leachate water. The polymer begins as a concentrated solution and is “made-down” by a ProMinent chemical skid into a 0.5% make-down solution. The chase water is used for this dilution. The polymer solution can be produced at 1 gpm and is consumed at 26 mL/min, which equates to approximately 12.5 gpw. The polymer product stays active for 5 to 7 days; thus, polymer production should be done in 15-gallon batches, which is approximately 15 minutes of production time. An alternate by-hand make-down production process is included in section 8.5.

### 8.1 Notes

- One gpm production of 0.5% make-down polymer solution uses 0.3 gph of neat polymer.
- Do not put water in the calibration column, only mineral oil.
- Polymer product stays active for 5 to 7 days.
- Check needle valve often for 1 gpm reading. Adjust accordingly. No flow sensor on skid.

### 8.2 Startup

- Connect the black hose to the product valve (Valve 5A) and place the discharge end in the make- down polymer tank.
- There is a T in the line leaving the chase water submersible pump that connects the outlet of the make-down metering pump to the flash mix tank and the inlet of the polymer skid. There is a valve that when opened allows the chase water to feed into the pH adjust tank with the make- down polymer solution. Close this valve so that full flow will be available for the polymer skid.
- Plug in submersible flocculent chase water pump and open valve to chemical skid. Close valve to flash mix tank.
- Open water valve on back side of skid (Valve 1).
- Open neat polymer inlet on skid (Valve 2).
- Make sure calibration column (Valve 3) is closed.
- Open product discharge valve (Valve 4).
- Open discharge to waste valve (Valve 5B) and close product valve (Valve 5A).
- Turn skid switch to hand mode.
- Let static mixer (sight glass) fill and then flush it until the sight glass shows polymer solution moving (usually twice).
  - To flush the static mixer, scroll through menu (down arrow) until mixer screen is up and press enter to flush. The mixer screen is one down from the run screen.
- If the chemical skid is producing solution, milky white liquid can be seen in the sight glass; if not, prime the metering pump.
- Confirm water flow is 1 gpm on the needle valve, indicating chase water flow into the polymer skid.
- Once polymer solution can be seen flowing through the static mixer (sight glass), open Valve 5A and close Valve 5B. Make-down polymer solution is now being produced and sent to the make- down polymer tank.



- Produce polymer for approximately 15 minutes. The plant consumes make-down polymer at approximately 26 mL/min.

### 8.3 Priming

- If polymer solution cannot be seen moving through the static mixer after flushing it multiple times, hold up and down arrows on frequency display to temporarily set the pump to max speed.
- If nothing can be seen after 1 or 2 minutes, open the calibration column (Valve 3) to purge air and fill the system. Make sure Valve 5B is open and Valve 5A is closed.
- Add mineral oil to calibration column as needed.
- Once pump is primed, close Valve 3.

### 8.4 Shutdown

- Turn Valve 5B on and Valve 5A off.
- Scroll through menu using down arrow until mixer screen is displayed.
- Press enter to flush when prompted.
- Flush four to five times until the water going through static mixer (sight glass) is completely clear.
- Unplug water pump. Close valve to chemical skid and open valve to flash tank as marked.

### 8.5 Alternative By-Hand Make-Down (0.5%) Production Protocol

- Prepare solution 1 day in advance of use to ensure polymer is adequately mixed.
- Add 4 gallons of water (from chase water tank) to a 5-gallon bucket
- Measure 7 mL of Flopam AN 923 VHM polymer (powder) into measuring glass
- **Slowly** add polymer to the filled bucket a couple grains at time while **gently** stirring the solution with a wooden stirring rod. It should take 10-15 minutes of adding polymer and stirring to incorporate all 7 mL of polymer to the bucket.
- Slowly adding and stirring the polymer is important to create the elongated chains that are desired for bonding.
- Continue to **gently** stir the solution for several minutes every hour for the next 3 hours.
- The following day, prior to using the prepared solution, gently stir for several minutes. The make-down solution should have a viscosity similar to corn syrup.

## 9. Operator Intensive Duties: Sludge Reduction System

This process pumps sludge build-up in the bottom of the primary clarifier to one of three sludge reduction tanks, reducing the amount of solids directly re-entering the leachate pond and increasing overall plant efficiency. The start-up flush will occur each morning before the initial treatment run. The mid-day flush will occur in the afternoon before the second treatment run, or any subsequent treatment runs where flushing is necessary.

### 9.1 Start-Up Flush

- Open influent valve on sludge tank 1 (furthest from primary clarifier), other sludge tank valves closed.
- Open primary clarifier sludge discharge valve.
- Allow 1000-1500 gallons (or until water runs clear) to flush into sludge tanks. When tank 1 is full, switch to tank 2.
- Close primary clarifier sludge discharge valve.

### 9.2 Mid-Day Flush

- Open influent valve on sludge tank 3 (closest to primary clarifier), other sludge tank valves closed.
- Open primary clarifier sludge discharge valve.
- Allow 400-800 gallons (or until water runs clear) to flush into sludge tank.
- Close primary clarifier sludge discharge valve.
- Sludge from mid-day flush will usually settle quickly. Clear water above the sludge layer is pumped back to the flash mix tank with a small submersible pump.

### 9.3 Sediment Removal

- Once a sludge tank is full, ensure that an empty sediment bag is loaded into the tilt-trailer and attached to the end of the discharge hose. Use a hose clamp and the lines on the sediment bag to ensure a strong connection between the bag and the hose.
- Ensure that the trash pump is connected in-line.
- Open sludge discharge valve on the tank being drained.
- Turn on trash pump to begin pumping sludge into sediment bag.
- Sediment bags will inflate with sludge. When the bag sits about 3 feet off the bed of the trailer and is firm with sludge, turn off pump and allow the bag to drain.
- Repeat process until tank is empty.
- Pumping 1 full sludge tank through a sediment bag takes 30-45 minutes.
- Sediment bags should be changed at a minimum of every 2 days.
- Full sediment bags are transported to the repository stockpile weekly (at a rate of [18 bags/12 weeks] over the 2022 operational season).
- The stockpile of full sediment bags is added to the repository seasonally.

## 10. Safety

The Luttrell LTP is a hazardous environment in a remote location. The following is a list of safety concerns that the operator is exposed to daily. See site Health and Safety Plan (HASP) for full review of the health and safety concerns.

### 10.1 Hazards of Concern

#### **Remote Location**

Cell phone service is available on the mine site but not on the roads from Rimini and Basin. Flat tires, tree fall road blockages, and road washouts can strand the operator without cell phone service. Due to the hazards involved with working in this remote location, personnel working on-site should be working in pairs with an appropriate check-in/check-out procedure with a third staff member at the main office. Adequate planning and accountability will ensure the operator(s) make it back down the mountain safely when work is done for the day.

#### **Weather**

The Luttrell LTP is located at high elevation where weather is unpredictable. Extreme temperatures, heavy rainfall, hail, sleet, snow, and high winds can occur at any time throughout the year.

#### **Noise**

The plant operates pumps, mixers, and other large pieces of equipment that cause loud noises.

#### **Chemicals**

- Muriatic Acid
- Nitric acid preservative
- Caustic Soda
- Zincon reagent pouch which contains cyanide
- Acid mine drainage with heavy metal content
- Diesel fuel
- Gasoline (for trash pumps, chainsaws)
- Solvents for lubrication
- Grease
- Polymer flocculant

#### **Forested Areas**

The LAD lines are in a forested area. The forests around the Luttrell LTP have a large number of dead trees that are susceptible to falling. Other associated hazards are forest fires, wildlife, uneven terrain, and tripping hazards.

#### **Ponds**

The leachate and biochemical reactor ponds are lined with a steep slope. This liner is slippery when wet. There is a graveled ramp next to the northern gate if the operator falls in and cannot get out of the pond. There is also a life ring present.

**Wildlife**

The Luttrell LTP is in a remote area where wildlife, including elk, bear, and wolves, are present. Wild animals are unpredictable, and personnel should use caution when encountering wildlife.

## 11. Process Equipment Photolog

**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Generator

**Location:** Outside LTP, along west wall

**Description:** CAT Diesel Generator





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Fuel Tank

**Location:** Location

**Description:** 528-gallon Trans Cube  
fuel tank (diesel)





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Operation Panel

**Location:** Inside LTP, on west wall

**Description:** Right side of operation panel. Buttons (left to right): pH Tank Mixer, Flash Mixer, North Barium Pump (not functional), South Barium Pump (not functional), pH Tank Transfer Pump





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Operation Panel

**Location:** Inside LTP, on west wall

**Description:** Left side of Operation Panel





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Leachate Pond

**Location:** Outside LTP, east side

**Description:** Leachate Pond, view facing E.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** North Leachate Pipe

**Location:** Outside LTP, north side of leachate pond

**Description:** North Leachate Pipe draining mine-affected water into leachate pond, view facing E.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** East Leachate Pipe

**Location:** Outside LTP, east side of leachate pond

**Description:** East Leachate Pipe draining mine-affected water into leachate pond, view facing SE.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Influent Pump

**Location:** Outside LTP, in leachate pond

**Description:** Pumps water from leachate pond into flash mix tank, view facing NE.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Influent Totalizer

**Location:** Inside LTP, on wooden frame below flash mix tank

**Description:** Displays current flow rate and total flow volume of influent.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Influent Sample Port

**Location:** Inside LTP, on frame  
below flash mix tank

**Description:** Port for taking influent  
samples.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Flash Mix Tank

**Location:** Inside LTP, northeast corner

**Description:** Tank where caustic soda and polymer flocculant are added to influent water.



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Flash Mixer

**Location:** Inside flash mix tank

**Description:** Mixes caustic soda and polymer flocculant with influent water.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Caustic Holding Tank

**Location:** Inside LTP, northeast corner

**Description:** Caustic Soda (25% NaOH solution) holding tank.



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Caustic Metering Pump

**Location:** Inside LTP, on top of  
caustic holding tank

**Description:** Pumps caustic soda  
into flash mix tank.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Polymer Production Skid

**Location:** Inside LTP, center

**Description:** Produces make-down polymer flocculant.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Polymer Type

**Location:** Inside LTP, center

**Description:** CMC-2228 "Clarifloc"  
polymer for polymer production  
skid.

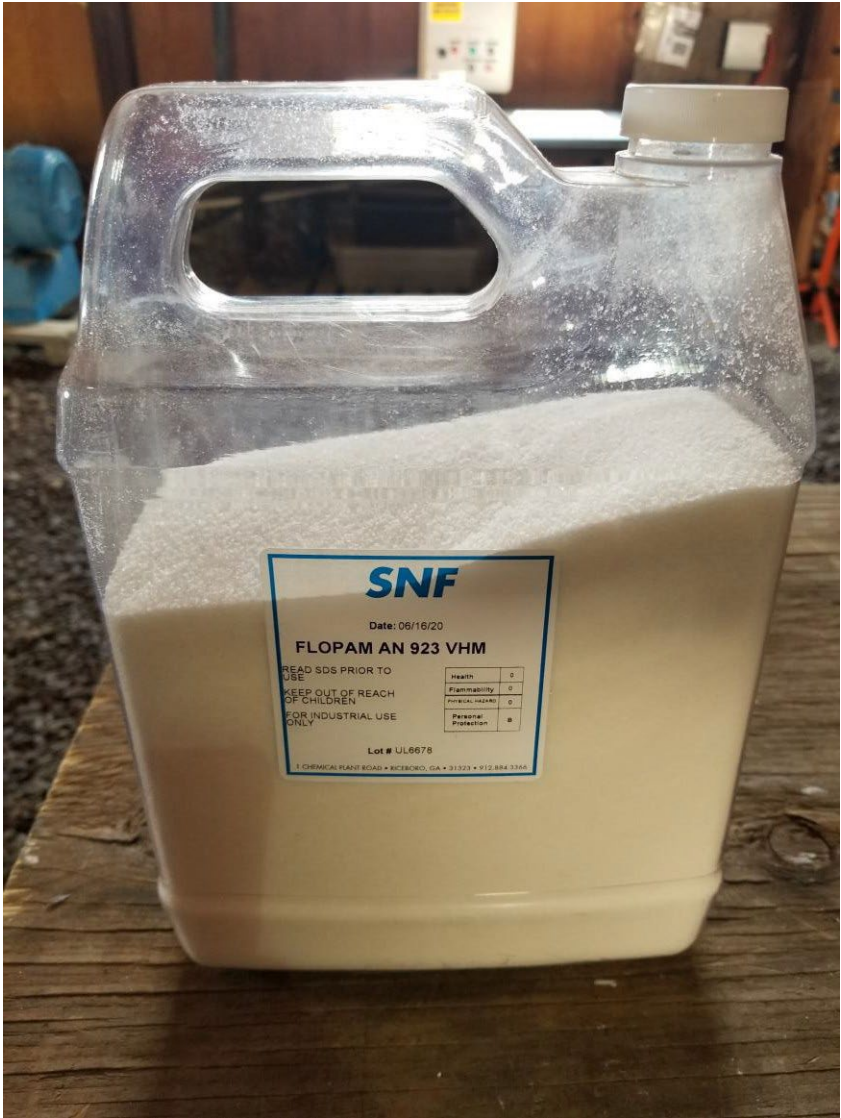


**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Polymer Type

**Location:** Inside LTP, center

**Description:** Flopam AN 923 VHM  
polymer for mixing by-hand.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Polymer Metering Pump

**Location:** Inside LTP, center

**Description:** Pumps polymer flocculant into flash mix tank



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Chase Water Tank

**Location:** Inside LTP, center

**Description:** Chase water for  
polymer flocculant





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Primary Clarifier

**Location:** Outside LTP, north side

**Description:** Settles out solid floc.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Primary Clarifier  
Discharge Valve

**Location:** Side of Primary Clarifier

**Description:** Sludge discharge valve  
to drain primary clarifier.



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Sludge Reduction System

**Location:** Outside LTP, north side

**Description:** Reduces reintroduction of solids into leachate pond.



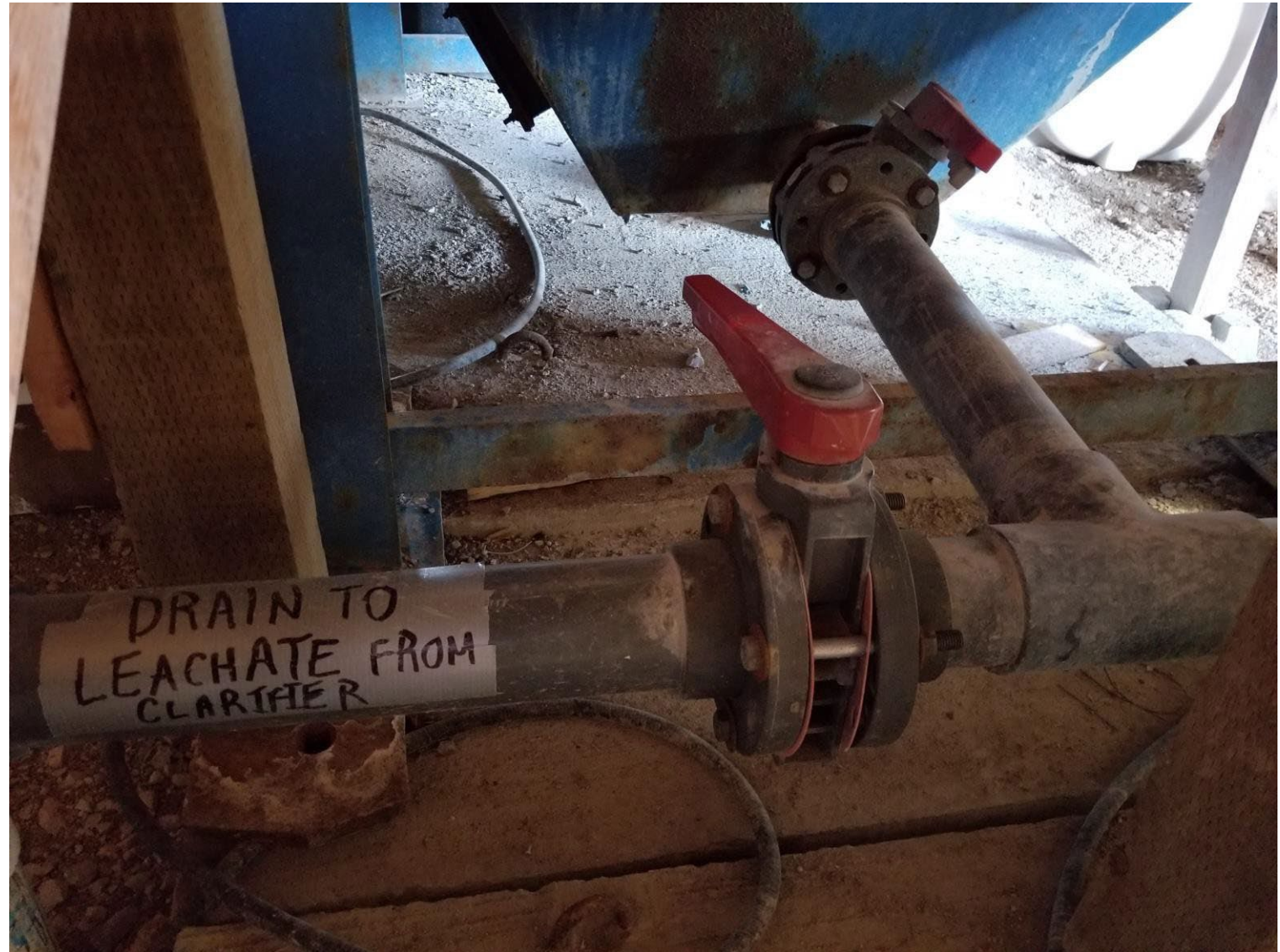


**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Lamella Discharge Valve

**Location:** Inside LTP, below  
Lamella clarifier

**Description:** Sludge discharge valve  
to drain Lamella clarifier.



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** pH Adjust Mixer

**Location:** On pH Adjust Tank

**Description:** Mixes Muriatic acid  
in pH Adjust Tank.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Transfer Pump

**Location:** Adjacent to pH Adjust Tank

**Description:** Pumps water from pH adjust tank to LAD tanks.



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Transfer Valve

**Location:** Inside LTP, south wall

**Description:** Controls flow from pH Adjust Tank to LAD Tanks.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Acid Metering Pump

**Location:** Inside LTP, southeast corner

**Description:** Pumps muriatic acid  
in-line above pH adjust tank.



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** East LAD Tank

**Location:** Outside LTP, south side

**Description:** Holds treated effluent to be released in LAD system.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** West LAD Tank

**Location:** Outside LTP, south side

**Description:** Holds treated effluent to be released in LAD system.



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** East LAD sight glass

**Location:** Side of East LAD tank

**Description:** Displays current water level.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** LAD Pump

**Location:** Inside LTP, along south wall

**Description:** Pumps water from LAD tanks to LAD system.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** LAD Totalizer

**Location:** Outside LTP, south side

**Description:** Displays current flow rate and total flow volume to LAD system.





**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** First Aid and Eyewash Station

**Location:** Inside LTP, west wall

**Description:** First aid kit and eyewash station.



**Date:** 7/9/2021

**Component:** Eyewash Station

**Location:** Inside LTP, on handrail  
next to Lamella clarifier

**Description:** Eyewash Station.





Description	Brand	Model	Location	Quantity	Condition	Agency
Chainsaw	Stihl	MS180	Inside WTP, near workbench	1	Working	EPA
Chainsaw	Stihl	MS170	Inside WTP, near workbench	1	Working	EPA
CHEM/HAZ SPILL KIT	pig	N/A	Inside WTP, near workbench	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Drum Pump	Finish Thompson	EEPL10	Inside WTP, near caustic tank/drums	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	Pulsatron	E Plus, LPH6SA-VTC3	Inside WTP, mounted on caustic tank	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	LMI Milton Roy	A971-352SI	Inside WTP, shelf on east wall	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	Prominent	10008PVT400UD103000	Inside WTP, Muraitic Acid pump	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	US Filter	G53B	Inside WTP, central, Polymer Pump; 2 on shelf along east wall	3	2 Working, 1 Broken	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	LMI Milton Roy	C741-36	Inside WTP, shelf on east wall	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	Pulsatron	E Plus, LPE45A-VTC3	Inside WTP, shelf on east wall	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	Pulsatron	E Plus, LPK35A-VTCA	Inside WTP, shelf on east wall	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	Prominent	GALA1005PPE260USO12000	Inside WTP, shelf on east wall	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	LMI Milton Roy	A771-155HV	Inside WTP, shelf on east wall	1	Working	EPA
Chemical Metering Pump	IWAKI	EKB15R1-FC	Inside WTP, shelf on east wall	1	Working	EPA
Extension Cords	Various	Various	Inside WTP, Various locations	8	Working	EPA
Eyewash Station	Various	Various	Inside WTP; near lamella, near south door, on west wall, on south wall	3	Working	EPA
Flow Totalizer	GF Signet	N/A	Inside WTP, mounted on wooden support under flash mix tank, spare on shelf	2	Working	EPA
Fuel Tank	Trans Cube	N/A	Outside, along west wall	1	Working	Rental
Generator	Honda	H8500IS (8500 watt)	Inside WTP	1	Working	EPA
Generator	Cat	XQ35 (28 kW)/DF-027012	Outside, along west wall	1	Working	Rental
High Volume Pump	Godwin	Dri Prime	Inside WTP	1	Working	EPA
High Volume Pump	US Electric Motors	A939A (20 hp)	Inside WTP; one along southern wall, one at XYLEM	2	1 Working, 1 Broken	EPA
Influent Submersible Pump	Xylem	Flygt Ready 8 (1.1 hp)	1 in leachate pond; 1 inside backup in WTP, along east wall	2	Working	EPA
JETPACK MIFI	Verizon	8800L	Inside WTP, south wall near window	1	Working	EPA
Ladder, 4ft	Werner	N/A	Various locations	1	Working	EPA
Ladder, 6ft	Werner	D1120-2	Various locations	1	Working	EPA
Ladder, 20ft	Keller	5120	Various locations	1	Working	EPA
Low Volume Pump	Honda	GX160	Various locations; used with sludge reduction system	1	Working	EPA
pH Controller	Hanna	HI9910	Inside WTP; mounted on flash mix tank, pH adjust tank	1	Working	EPA
pH Probe	Hanna	N/A	Inside WTP; mounted on flash mix tank, and spare in locker	2	Working	EPA
pH Probe	Bluelab	N/A	Inside WTP	2	Working	EPA
Polymer Mixing Skid	Prominent	Promix C180X2	Inside WTP	1	Working	EPA
Propane Torch	Benzomatic	N/A	Inside WTP, near workbench	1	Working	EPA
Tank Mixer	Sharpe	G-033	Inside WTP; mounted on flash mix tank, pH adjust tank	2	Working	EPA
Water Quality Multimeter	Oakton	300 Series	Inside WTP, Stairs to lamella/flash mix tank	1	Working	EPA
Water Quality Multimeter	Horiba	U-5000G	Inside WTP, various locations	1	Working	EPA warehouse
Water Quality Multimeter	Bluelab	N/A	Inside WTP, stairs to lamella/flash mix tank	1	Working	EPA
Zinc Colorimeter	Hach	DR300	Inside WTP, on workbench	1	Working	EPA

Service	Description	Rental Company	Phone Number
Port-O-John Rental	Provide unit delivery/pick-up and regular cleaning	Litt'l Johns Portables	(406) 442-3242
Tilt Trailer Rental	Tilt trailer used for sludge reduction system	A1 Rentals	(406) 442-7690
Generator/Fuel Tank Rental	Generator and fuel storage for on-site power	Xylem Dewatering Solutions	(406)-495-1335
Vac Truck Service	Vac truck service for end-of-season leachate pond sludge removal	Scenic City Enterprises Inc	(406) 388-8238
Air Compressor Rental	Air compresson for end-of-season plant winterization	Bighorn Rental and Sales	(406) 227-6880
Chemical Supplier	Caustic soda and muriatic acid	Chemical Montana Company	(406) 442-8900
Sediment Bag Supplier	Sediment bags for sludge reduction	US Fabrics	(513) 271-6000