



- The CAG met for the first time and was established in March of 2017.
- It's an independent group of community members representing a variety of stakeholder groups and is meant to promote the exchange of information among the EPA, the community, and people involved in cleanup of the site.

1955: Preliminary investigation begins into site for a pulp mill in Missoula area that would employ 600 people.

Oct. 21, 1956: Waldorf Paper Products Co. of St. Paul, Minn., announces it will start construction of a \$6 million pulp mill 13 miles northwest of Missoula. Payroll is predicted to be \$1.5 million a year.

Nov. 11, 1956: 300 people at groundbreaking ceremony. Waldorf president P.A. Schilling of Minneapolis digs first shovel of dirt and receives a key to the community from Willis Thornton, president of the Missoula Chamber of Commerce. Pulp shipped to St. Paul to be manufactured into linerboard.

1958: Feature headline in Nov. 30 Missoulian reads “Pulp Plant Gives Uplifting Whiff to Western Montana Economy.”

1959: Hoerner Boxes of Keokuk, Iowa, acquires one-quarter interest in Waldorf Paper Products.

1960: Mill becomes Waldorf-Hoerner when Hoerner increases its share to 50 percent; first paper machine installed in \$6 million expansion.

1963: Installation of hog fuel burners to consume sawdust bark previously burned in tepee burners at area mills.

1966: Name becomes Hoerner Waldorf Corp. when shareholders of Waldorf Paper Products and Hoerner Boxes unanimously approve merger.

1967: Mill’s first strike on Labor Day last 11 hours.

1968: GASP (Gals Against Smoke and Pollution) stage Leap Day protest at Hoerner Waldorf gates

February 1969: Environmental Defense Fund seeks a permanent injunction against Hoerner Waldorf to restrain the emission of noxious fumes from the plant.

August 1969: Plant’s second strike is settled after two weeks. Average pay raised from \$3.67 to \$4 per hour.

1977: Champion International Co. buys the mill and begins two-phase, three-year \$170 million expansion

July 1981: Two-week strike by United Paper Workers International.

Sept. 23, 1981: First “curtailment” of work schedules. Champion announces two-week shutdown because of a soft market.

Oct. 2, 1985: Champion announces the sale of plant to Stone Container Corp. of Chicago as part of a \$457 million package deal.

November 1998: Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. formed when St. Louis-based Jefferson Smurfit Corp. merges with Stone Container.

Dec. 14, 2009: Smurfit-Stone announces it will permanently close Missoula linerboard plant on Dec. 31. 417 Jobs will be lost.

SMURFIT-STONE MILL TO BE SCRAPPED

February 2011

- Frenchtown's shuttered paper mill will be sold for scrap, a Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. official confirmed on Friday.
- "We have a signed purchase agreement," said Ron Megna, the company's assistant general counsel. "We're in the process of removing some of the equipment that's there to some of our other mills, relocating it. The remainder will all be sold to the buyer."
- The buyer is MLR Investments LLC, an affiliate of Ralston Investments of Portland, Ore.
- In an e-mail, Megna said "the buyer intends to demo(lish) the mill and salvage what materials it can. This buyer may also sell parts of the paper machines and the power equipment which remain on site, but they do not intend to undertake any manufacturing operations on the site."
- By ROB CHANEY of the Missoulian



Brian Schweitzer, former Montana Governor

KPAX-TV Missoula March 10, 2011

- “We are going to make sure that there are a significant number of soil probes on this entire facility to make sure that there are no toxins left behind. **We would simply say to Smurfit Stone in particular with this discussion of scrapping and trying to move very quickly and scrapping, kind of hold on to your horses here just a little bit. There’s a few more steps that we need to take.** We need to make sure that we don’t create an asbestos hazard. And furthermore, we want to make sure that any toxins that are left on this site are fully identified and are completely mitigated.”

“This will not become a new Berkley Pit.

This is a facility that will be completely cleaned up before Smurfit Stone Container leaves Montana.”





John Engen, former Missoula Mayor KPAX-TV March 10, 2011

“The governor is the right person with the right regulatory jurisdiction to make something happen out here and his statement today, the fact that he came here today, the fact that he’s drawing this line and saying look, we need to know what’s on the ground out here. And frankly, we could avoid some of that by just putting folks back to work.”



Bill Carey, former Missoula County Commissioner KPAX-TV March 10, 2011

“Well we’re very grateful the governor came over and he’s taken the stand he’s taken. I think we’ve got a viable mill here and it would be a shame to have it scrapped. **And especially if we don’t hold Smurfit to cleaning it up, that would be a complete environmental disaster. So, we are very glad he came over. Her cares about it deeply obviously, so hopefully some good things will start to happen.**”

Smurfit-Stone: Frenchtown mill site is clean, safe for development

March 12, 2011

By ROB CHANEY of the Missoulian

Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. officials say they've already cleaned up their Frenchtown paper mill and expect a green-energy operation may be set up there.

"When we discontinued operations at the Missoula mill more than a year ago, we developed a detailed strategy for removing all residual process materials subject to environmental regulation," company spokeswoman Lisa Esneault wrote in an e-mail to the Missoulian. "We discussed our plans with the (Montana Department of Environmental Quality) at that time and have since implemented all activities as promised. **This work is now complete and we believe all environmental issues at the mill have been appropriately addressed.**"

Smurfit-Stone Container confirmed plans to sell the mill to Portland, Ore.-based Ralston Investments on Feb. 25. In the letter, Esneault said the buyer is talking with a third party interested in purchasing the mill's power equipment and setting up a biomass-fueled electricity cogeneration plant.

- Missoula Area Economic Development Corp. director Dick King said Friday he couldn't comment on negotiations with possible energy buyers. But he did say the situation is positive.
- "We're very encouraged there may be a viable alternative that would put people to work," King said. "We've supplied information to several potential buyers about programs that could be made available for the right project."
- Those programs include state and federal loan guarantees that could reduce interest costs for an energy development project, state workforce training money and county property tax reductions. All of those are tied to how many jobs would be created at the new site.
- King said a power-generation facility could bring 40 or 50 jobs back to the site, while a pulp production operation might mean 200 or 300 employees.
- "Once you restore the flow of fiber, there's a lot of wood waiting to be delivered," King said. "When Smurfit closed, there were 417 direct jobs on the inside and 1,500 indirect jobs lost. It's really gotten through to people what that facility was for economic activity across much of Montana."

KPAX-TV Missoula May 5, 2011

“The Smurfit Stone Container site in Frenchtown has **new life as an alternative fuels facility**. In a news conference at the mill site yesterday, the Green Investment Group out of Illinois says it bought this site for twenty million dollars.”





KPAX-TV Missoula May 5, 2011

“New owner Ray Stillwell says they are looking at the site to produce an array of items from manufacturing windmill parts to making wood pellets.”



“There’s no reason why, with the infrastructure that’s here, we can’t end up with **fifteen, twenty, thirty more businesses, maybe combining recycling and energy.**”

KPAX-TV Missoula May 5, 2011

“Green Investment says it’s business model focusses on restoring, redeveloping and reviving inactive industrial sites and turning them into facilities that use energy technologies and alternative fuel sources. **Green Investments also says it consults and works closely with local communities to create jobs.**”





**Former Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer KPIX-TV
Missoula May 5, 2011**

“We bought some time so that they could complete their negotiation with Smurfit Stone Container. Had we not slowed it down, there would have been a scrapper in here tearing this down and putting it on trucks and hauling it away and ending the dreams for all of Missoula County.”

“That scrapper will not tear down this plant. That gate will open and there will be **jobs and opportunity again**



Former Missoula Mayor John Engen KPAX-TV Missoula May 5, 2011

“The fact that this facility won’t be scrapped, that jobs won’t go away forever...fantastic. All good. It’s a good day.”



Dick King, Executive Director Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation KPAX-TV Missoula May 5, 2011

“This is a great company. They are highly professional and they have an opportunity to bring in some other people. We’ll have some activity here again, sooner rather than later.”

“We have received and are in careful review of the Analytical Results Report from the Environmental Protection Agency,” GIGI vice president Mark Spizzo said in an email statement. “We have been working cooperatively with the EPA throughout their inspection and will work in tandem with them to gain full understanding of the situation and to determine any further actions. **As always, the health and safety of the citizens of Missoula County is our No. 1 priority.”**



ROB CHANEY

Missoulian Sep 13, 2012

Smurfit-Stone

Lender seeks to foreclose on former Smurfit-Stone site, proceed with own development there

David Erickson Mar 6, 2019 Updated Aug 7, 2020 0

Mill site

New Frenchtown mill site redevelopment director envisions 'a small city'

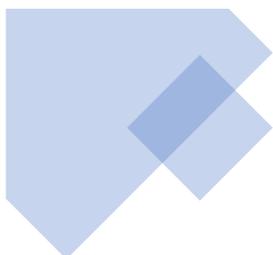
Montana-raised developer says community dictates his vision

Kim Briggeman Mar 16, 2014 Updated Feb 27, 2015 0

Sampling to begin this month will inform future cleanup actions

(Denver, Colo. - November 12, 2015) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a final agreement to investigate contamination at the Smurfit Stone Mill Superfund site, in Missoula County, Montana. Under the terms of the agreement, M2Green, International Paper, and WestRock will **conduct a comprehensive investigation of soils, river sediments, and ground and surface water to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site, also known as the Frenchtown Mill. The companies will also collectively reimburse EPA more than \$600,000 for past costs incurred.**

"This agreement helps us take the steps necessary to fully identify and begin to address threats to human health and the environment at the Smurfit Stone Mill site," said Shaun McGrath, EPA's regional administrator in Denver. "We are encouraged that sampling is scheduled to begin this month."



“I think one of the roles I can fill on the site is helping to restore that public trust,” Becker said during an interview with Montana Public Radio.

During her second visit in September, Becker [called the EPA’s study of the site “problematic,”](#) and said the team needed to do more to build trust with the community. Following her visit, the Frenchtown advisory group submitted a formal request for more thorough sampling to determine the level of toxic waste at the site. In a January letter to Missoula county commissioners, Becker said that request will be granted. She told Montana Public Radio she intends to keep an eye on the project moving forward.

“I really want to make sure the community and county commissioners and other interested parties are all comfortable with the work the EPA is doing,” Becker said.

