Scheduled release: 9/15

Subject: **EPA Update – CFAC site - Sep 15, 2016 – Public Meeting 9/29**

You are receiving this message as an update about the Anaconda Aluminum Co Columbia Falls Reduction Plant site, also known as the **Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) site**, in Columbia Falls, Montana.

These messages will be sent out periodically when new information is available. Please share this information with other interested people. If you would like to receive these emails directly, please send an email to moler.robert@epa.gov.

If you do not want to receive these updates, please respond to this email with "REMOVE" in the subject line of the email.

NPL Status: EPA added the CFAC site to the National Priorities List (NPL) on September 9, 2016. The NPL is the list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States and its territories.

- Learn more about the NPL: www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-national-priorities-list-npl.
- Link to the Federal Register notice of the Final Rule: www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/09/09/2016-21615/national-priorities-list; https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-21615.
- Link to the support document for the NPL Final Rule for CFAC: https://semspub.epa.gov/work/08/1570789.pdf (617 pp, 22 MB). This document compiles and provides responses to public comments.
- Link to other documents and comments related to the listing: www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-SFUND-2015-0139.

The final decision to list the CFAC site to the NPL was made after careful consideration of comments received during the public comment period that followed the proposal to list the site in 2015. The EPA received good input from the community and did not find any new information to support a decision contrary to what was in the proposal.

The Superfund Alternative (SA) approach was seriously considered. The EPA chose not to pursue the SA approach in light of the information received during the comment period as well as the support for full listing from the City of Columbia Falls, the Governor's office and Senator Tester's office. Final listing also provides assurances that cleanup efforts stay on track.

Adding CFAC to the NPL allows the EPA and the community to access technical and financial resources to address the environmental and health risks posed by the site. These resources can accelerate investigation and cleanup activities and lead more rapidly to productive uses of the site.

EPA may delete a final NPL site if it determines that no further response is required to protect human health or the environment.

Next steps: A remedial investigation (RI) is ongoing and will show the nature and extent of contamination and potential risks to human health and the environment when completed. That information will provide the framework for any necessary cleanup. The RI will take place over the next few years and a final report is expected by February 2020.

EPA staff will coordinate with the community of Columbia Falls to schedule public meetings and other public events over the next several months to discuss the next steps and outline how the public can engage in the Superfund process moving forward. The next public engagement opportunities:

- Thursday, September 29, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Public Meeting at the Columbia Falls Junior High School; 1805 Talbot Rd,

Columbia Falls, MT 59912; in the "Cafetorium."

- Wednesday, October 11, 11:45 – 1:00 p.m. EPA and CFAC will speak at the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce General Membership Luncheon; 235 Nucleus Ave.; Columbia Falls MT 59912 in the Tea Kettle Room.

Superfund: Sites on the NPL are often referred to as Superfund sites. To protect public health and the environment, the Superfund program focuses on making a visible and lasting difference in communities, ensuring that people can live and work in healthy, vibrant places.

Attached is a guide to EPA's Superfund Program that provides a general overview of the Superfund process and ways the community can be involved. For more information about the Superfund program: www.epa.gov/superfund.

Community Advisory Group (CAG): A CAG is an independent group made up of members of the community and is designed to serve as the focal point for the exchange of information among the local community and EPA, the State regulatory agency, and other pertinent agencies involved in cleanup of a Superfund site. A CAG can be helpful in engaging the community in the Superfund process and assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site.

Although CAGs are independent from the EPA, the EPA has resources available to support a CAG. For more information about CAGs: www.epa.gov/superfund/community-advisory-groups.

Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs): TAGs are available to incorporated nonprofit organizations of community members affected by the site and can be used for hiring a technical advisor, attending approved training, and obtaining relevant supplies and equipment. For more information about TAGs: www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC): TASC is a resource that EPA provides to communities in order to provide assistance interpreting data, facilitating discussions and other site-related activities. TASC assistance is provided on an issue-specific basis and requires less administrative work to secure and utilize than TAGs. For more information about TASC: www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program.

Project Leaders and Contacts: Please contact us anytime with questions, information, and feedback.

- EPA is the lead agency for the site and Mike Cirian is the EPA Remedial Project Manager for the site. His contact information is 406.293.6194; Cirian.Mike@epa.gov.
- Lisa Dewitt is the Superfund Project Manager with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ). Her contact information is 406.444.6420; Lidewitt@mt.gov.
- Robert Moler is the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator for the CFAC site and his contact is 406.457.5032; moler.robert@epa.gov.

Visit the CFAC website: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/columbia-falls