County Manager Page says plan in place for Anaconda mine cleanup

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Through the years, Yerington and Lyon County officials have been consistent that they don't want the Anaconda mine site listed on the Superfund National Priorities List.

Lyon County manager Jeff Page said they might have found a way to keep it off.

Speaking during his county manager report at the Feb. 4 meeting of the Lyon County Commission, Page said county and city officials have been meeting with private enterprise to come up with a plan to clean up the mine site, and said they may have worked something out.

"I think we have a plan to move forward and get things taken care of," Page said.

The EPA sent a letter to Gov. Brian Sandoval in December, giving him until Jan. 29 to its intention to place the mine site on the NPL list. Sandoval responded by asking for more time, to allow for local parties to work together to find a solution without involving the EPA.

"This board has voted 5-0 every time to fight to keep it off the NPL," Page told the commission. "We're working with private enterprises to discuss an internal plan, and if it goes, the EPA will pull out."

Page said to be placed on the NPL, the EPA would have to show a health hazard, but he said the health concern from the site has been cleared up with the extension of the city of Yerington water line that is being built to serve residents in the Sunset Hills area north of the mine.

Page said when the details of the plan are finalized, the parties will be meeting with Sandoval's staff to present it.

Sandoval said he would have a formal response to the EPA letter by April 29.

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