Message

From: Madigan, Andrea [Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/11/2016 12:24:47 AM
To: Bohan, Suzanne [bohan.suzanne@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Tester Response

FYI – CFAC site

Andrea Madigan
CERCLA Supervisory Attorney
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From: Cirian, Mike
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 1:54 PM
To: Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Moler, Robert <Moler.Robert@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>
Cc: Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Madigan, Andrea <Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov>; Chalfant, Mark <Chalfant.Mark@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Tester Response

Hello Rebecca,

Below is the response Robert Moler and I have drafted for Chad Campbell. Let me know when we can send this out. Or if you will be responding.,

Thanks,
Mike

Hello Chad,

Thank you for your message and recommendations. In short, we concur. EPA is in the process of planning a public engagement strategy for the CFAC site and we will incorporate your suggestions into our plans:

- **EPA Fact Sheets: We are working to develop several fact sheets including one to address the criteria and timeline involved with the Superfund Alternative process.**
- **EPA Timeline: We will incorporate a timeline of activity in our fact sheets and public presentations so that the public understands EPA involvement at the site, where we are currently, and the next steps moving forward.**
- **Media Engagement: We are preparing media kits to provide local news outlets with more detailed (and accurate) background information about the site. We will continue to encourage the media to participate in our availability sessions.**
- **Community Meeting: We will work with city and county officials to plan periodic public engagement meetings to deliver updates and answer questions. We are looking at the first week of April for the next meeting. I'll let you know the exact date and venue as soon when they are secured.**

- **Redevelopment Successes: We are putting together a short list of sites that demonstrate successful redevelopment activities to illustrate the potential to restore former sites to productive use. We will highlight these examples during our public outreach.**

In addition, EPA will conduct several community interviews in the near future with key stakeholders, local media, and interested citizens to identify other opportunities for public engagement regarding the site. Later this year, EPA will prepare a community involvement plan that will outline our engagement strategy for the site over the next few years. I will deliver a draft of that plan when it is prepared.

EPA will also disseminate to the public information about EPA resources and programs that may provide technical assistance to the community to help people understand the complex environmental issues at the CFAC site and encourage meaningful community involvement in environmental decision making.

Thank you again for your commitment to the community of Columbia Falls and the CFAC project. As always, I hope that you will encourage anyone who may have project specific questions to contact me or Robert Moler, our new Community Involvement Coordinator for the site.

Sincerely,
Mike

Robert Moler
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From: Russo, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:26 AM
To: Moler, Robert <Moler.Robert@epa.gov>; Cirian, Mike <Cirian.Mike@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>
Cc: Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Madigan, Andrea <Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov>; Chalfant, Mark <Chalfant.Mark@epa.gov>
Subject: Tester Response

Hi all,
Senator Tester's staff (Erik and Chad) just called looking for responses to Chad's email from 2/29/16 (repasted below). I know that we are preparing a response to both this email and the 1/29/16 letter.

The Senator will be at the site on 3/23 so they want a response before then – even if it's verbal answers and our "plan forward".

Where are we with the formal response?
Do we think we'll have it ready by the end of next week?
If not, can we at least pull together the answers and have a call with Senator Tester's staff?

Thanks,
Rebecca

Rebecca A. Russo
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From: Campbell, Chad (Tester)
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 9:21 AM
To: 'Russo, Rebecca'; Mike Cirian (cirian.mike@epa.gov)
Cc: DiLuccia, Janelle (Tester); Swanson, Dayna (Tester) (Dayna_Swanson@tester.senate.gov); Laslovich, Dylan (Tester) (Dylan_Laslovich@tester.senate.gov); 'Nylund, Erik (Tester) (Erik_Nylund@tester.senate.gov)'
Subject: CFAC Questions

Rebecca,

Earlier this week I was able to talk with Susan Nicosia with the City of Columbia Falls. They were very happy with Mike's presentation and the information he shared at last week's City Council meeting. They would like for him to continue to come to these meetings and keep the lines of information open. As Mike noted, there has been conflicting information in related media stories which leads to fear and confusion within the community. This upcoming week Glencore is sending up its representatives to talk to community leaders about the NPL process, as they did in November.

Ms. Nicosia asked the EPA the specific questions your staff answered; she then asked the same ones to Glencore as well. Glencore's response is attached and it has some different information from what EPA provided.

A town hall meeting may not be necessary right now, but we think the press and the community at large deserves to have some of these questions answered directly by the EPA. The idea of factsheets and maybe some more in-depth background for the press may help clear up some of the uncertainty the community is feeling.

Here's what seems would be helpful:

1. EPA fact sheets publicly available providing as much information about the process as possible. Also, specifically addressing what criteria must be met to move forward with an alternative process, and if that process is somehow faster as is being asserted by some involved. EPA indicated the substance of both the alternative and Superfund processes are essentially the same, but it is clear in conversations with local residents that this is remains a major source of confusion in the larger community.

2. EPA could ideally include a timeline of activity and how the process ended up where it currently sits. The public should have an understanding of how this could have been a voluntary vs. compulsory cleanup, and where different jurisdictions had potential oversight. EPA noted to us the company had an opportunity to enter into some sort of agreement prior to the NPL listing.

3. EPA mentioned the ability to provide some detailed background to media outlets to help avoid more confusion. Mike noted confusion in some articles about the process and project oversight. The complex issue of jurisdiction over removal of infrastructure and contaminants seems to need some clarification.

4. It seems prudent to plan a community style meeting within the next couple of months to answer questions that will surely come.

5. Some of the concerns about any listing are redevelopment and returning the site to productive use. It would be helpful to the community to hear of EPA success stories on similar sites.

While we appreciate the willingness EPA has shown to provide information to local elected officials, there appears to be a problem in information flowing to the public. We feel it's best to have information coming directly from EPA to the public in the most accurate and transparent manner possible. That will avoid the possibility of losing anything in translation and hopefully place everyone on the same page.

Chad Campbell
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