Availability session/open house regarding the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Plant site investigation

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(Denver, Colo. – XX, 2015) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be hosting an availability session/open house regarding the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Plant site investigation on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, at the Columbia Falls City Hall, 130 6th St., West Columbia Falls.

EPA staff will be available to answer questions and to discuss current site activities, the Superfund program and how it benefits communities, and how the public can be involved in decision-making related to investigation of the site. This will be an informal discussion and participants can drop in any time during the session.

The site, located approximately two miles northeast of Columbia Falls, operated as a primary aluminum reduction facility between 1955 and 2009. Contaminants detected at the site include cyanide, fluoride and metals, including arsenic, chromium, lead, and selenium. These contaminants are present in soils, surface ponds and groundwater at the site. If not addressed, they could pose a risk to nearby wells and the Flathead River. EPA and the State of Montana have determined that a comprehensive investigation of the site is necessary to inform effective cleanup actions to address these risks.

EPA proposed the site for listing on the National Priorities list in March 2015. EPA accepted public comments on the proposed Superfund listing through June 2, 2015.

The Superfund program has provided important benefits for people and the environment since Congress established the program in 1980. Those benefits are both direct and indirect, and include reduction of threats to human health and ecological systems near Superfund sites, improvement of economic conditions and quality of life in communities affected by hazardous waste sites, prevention of future releases of hazardous substances, and advances in science and technology.

For more information, visit: http://www2.epa.gov/region8/columbia-falls-aluminum-reduction-plant