UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
www.epa.gov/region080

Ref: 8RA

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, dated January 29, 2016, regarding the Anaconda Aluminum Company Columbia Falls Reduction Plant Site near Columbia Falls, Montana. I assure you that the EPA is committed to returning the former aluminum plant and surrounding area to conditions that are safe for human health and the environment.

As you know, the EPA is overseeing a remedial investigation (RI) being conducted by Columbia Falls Aluminum Company to identify the nature and extent of contamination at the Site. The RI will help determine potential cleanup actions required to make the Site viable for future economic benefit. The EPA will continue to work with local and state stakeholders and engage the public to ensure they understand the Superfund process and options. As part of this effort, the EPA will provide information to the community about EPA resources and programs that may provide technical assistance to help people understand the environmental contamination issues at the Site.

We are planning another public meeting in early April and will notify your office of the details when they are finalized. In addition, the EPA will conduct community interviews in the coming months with key stakeholders, local media; and interested citizens to identify additional opportunities for public engagement. Later this year; the EPA will prepare a community involvement plan that will outline our engagement strategy for the Site over the next few years. We will share a draft of that plan with your office when it is prepared.

Again, thank you for your request that the EPA continue its outreach to the community and local leaders. Please feel free contact me if you have further concerns or questions. Your staff is also welcome to contact our Remedial Program Manager for the Site, Mike Cirian, at (406) 293-6194 or

CONCUR	1st initial + last name	M. Chalfant	Joe Vranka	M .Hestmark	Deb Thomas	S. McGrath
	Office code	8ENF-L	8MO	EPR-IO	DRA	RA
	Initial					
	Date					

cirian.mike@epa.gov, or our Community Involvement Coordinator, Robert Moler, at (406) 457-5032 or moler.robert@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Shaun L. McGrath
Regional Administrator