CFAC NPL Listing Key Messages
3/20/15

- On March 26, 2015, a notice was published in the Federal Register proposing the placement of the Anaconda Aluminum Company's Columbia Falls Reduction Plant, also known as the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Plant, (Site) on the National Priorities List (NPL) for investigation and cleanup.

- This proposed listing is being made with local and state support, including that of Governor Steve Bullock, Senator Jon Tester, and the City of Columbia Falls. Community groups USW, Flathead Lakers,

- The National Priorities List (NPL) is the list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation.

- A site's listing neither imposes a financial obligation on EPA nor assigns liability to any party. The NPL does, however, provide policymakers with a list of high-priority sites, serving to identify the size and nature of the nation's cleanup challenges.

- Adding the Site to the NPL allows the EPA and the community to access significant 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.

- Following the proposal for listing, there will be a 60-day comment period in which the public can provide comments to the EPA regarding the proposed listing. All comments will be considered by the agency. The Site will officially be added to the NPL after the EPA has reviewed and responded to all comments.

- The EPA will continue to:
    - Maintain the close working relationship that has already been established with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for this Site;
    - Actively engage the community throughout the process;
    - Sample nearby domestic wells;
    - Ensure the cleanup addresses human health and environmental concerns while considering the Site owner's and the community's redevelopment interests; and
    - Alert the community about upcoming contract opportunities and hiring local labor whenever possible.

- The EPA encourages Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to assume responsibility over investigation and remediation of contaminated sites. The proposal for addition to the NPL need not affect any investigations undertaken by the PRPs, (nor will it impede discussions with EPA regarding reaching a voluntary agreement).

- Documents regarding the proposed listing are available at the Columbia Falls Public Library (ImagineIF) and at the EPA Superfund Records Center. For more information contact Rob Parker at 303-312-6664 or Cynthia Peterson at 303-312-6879.