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, Mont.

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 the site investigation. This will be an informal discussion, and participants may 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, such as 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 develop effective cleanup actions to address these risks.

EPA proposed the site for listing on the National Priorities list in March 2015, and accepted public comments on the proposed Superfund listing through June 2, 2015. EPA is in the process of responding to the comments received during the public comment period.

The Superfund program has provided important benefits for communities and the environment since Congress established the program in 1980. Those benefits include reduction of threats to human health and the environment near Superfund sites and prevention of future releases of hazardous substances. Additional benefits include the improvement of economic conditions and quality of life in communities affected by hazardous waste sites.

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