OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR

MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

March 7, 2016

Flathead County Board of Commissioners
8000 South Main, Room 302
Kalispell, MT 59901

Re: Superfund National Priority List – Columbia Falls Aluminum Company

Dear County Commissioners:

I appreciate receiving your thoughts in support of an "alternative" Superfund approach for the Anaconda Aluminum Company Columbia Falls Reduction Plant site in Columbia Falls. Last year I expressed support for listing the site to the National Priorities List (NPL). I share your desire to return the property to productive use, and I continue to support the method that results in a timely, protective cleanup of the site. At this point, I believe that finalizing the NPL listing of the site is more likely to result in a comprehensive protective cleanup while providing the State and the community most input into the final cleanup decision.

DEQ Director, Tom Livers raised your request with EPA, and was informed that EPA has not yet made a decision on whether to proceed with finalizing the site on the NPL or using the Superfund Alternative Approach. EPA stated that it intends to look at this issue in the fall. While I remain concerned with the proposed "alternative approach," as it may limit the State's consultative role in the remedial process outlined in the Superfund rules and regulations, I have not made a final decision and will keep the community's interests in mind, including the letter provided by the City of Columbia Falls Mayor and Councilmen in full support for NPL listing.

Thank you again for contacting me on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Tom Livers, Director, Montana DEQ

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