UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Zinke:

Thank you for your letter of March 4, 2015, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), concerning your differences with Governor Bullock's letter of February 17, 2015, requesting to list the Columbia Falls Aluminum site in Columbia Falls, Montana, to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). I have been asked by the Administrator to respond on behalf of the EPA. You stated that the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) stands ready, willing and able to enter into a legally binding commitment to undertake the necessary actions toward revitalization. Further, you voiced your concern that the proposal of the site for NPL addition would derail any cleanup plans that CFAC might undertake.

The Columbia Falls Aluminum site was proposed for addition to the National Priorities List (NPL) on March 26, 2015, with a 60-day comment period that is scheduled to end on May 26, 2015. The EPA will consider all comments received by May 26, 2015, and all appropriate factors will be considered before making a final decision to place the site onto the NPL. If there are additional comments, please use Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-SFUND-2015-0139 for submittal of comments via http://www.regulations.gov.

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 the EPA regarding reaching a legally binding agreement. I want to assure you that the EPA will work with the PRPs, the state and the local community to clean up the site as expeditiously as possible. I agree that restoration of the site will lead to restoring jobs and returning productivity to the site. Please see information on EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative at http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder, in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at ***snyder.raquel@epa.gov***, or at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,

Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator