EPA Columbia Falls Aluminum Update for the Flathead Basin Commission
April 8, 2015

On February 17th, Governor Bullock wrote to the EPA to express his support for placing the Anaconda Aluminum Co Columbia Falls Reduction Plant, also known as the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, on the EPA National Priorities List (NPL). On March 26th, the EPA proposed to add the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site to the NPL. The proposal prompted the beginning of a public comment period on the proposed action. The EPA will accept public comments on the proposed Superfund listing through June 2, 2015. The EPA will respond to all significant comments and make a final decision on adding the site to the NPL.

Records used in making this proposed Superfund listing will be available at the ImagineIF Library in Columbia Falls:

130 6th Street West
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
406-892-5919

Comments may be submitted by using one of the following four methods:

1. Go to www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for submitting comments using docket ID no. EPA-HQ-SFUND-2015-0139.

2. For written comments, please send the original and three copies to the following address:
   Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
   U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
   CERCLA Docket Office (Mail Code – 5305T)
   1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
   Washington, DC 20460

3. For hand delivery or express mail, please send the original and three copies to the following address:
   Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
   U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
   CERCLA Docket Office
   1301 Constitution Avenue, NW
   EPA West, Room 3334
   Washington, DC 20004
   (8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday)

4. By email at superfund.docket@epa.gov

The next steps in the process are the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The objectives of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) are to assess site conditions, determine the nature and extent of contamination, and evaluate alternatives to the extent necessary to select a remedy. This will expand on the screening level investigation already completed at the site.

Generally, the EPA first looks to the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to lead the additional investigation under a legally binding agreement with EPA oversight. If the PRPs are not willing to complete the work under a legally binding agreement, the EPA would then look to other authorities, including completing an EPA led Remedial Investigation and then recover the costs from the PRPs.

More information can be obtained from the EPA's website:
http://www2.epa.gov/region8/columbia-falls-aluminum-reduction-plant