C O N F I D E N T I A L

WEEKLY HOT ISSUES REPORT FOR RA/DRA

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 1, 2014

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

Last Week –

EPA AND DEQ STRATEGY FOR ANACONDA ALUMINUM COMPANY SITE NEAR COLUMBIA FALLS MONTANA

During the week of July 21, 2014, EPA and Montana DEQ developed a draft path forward strategy at the Anaconda Aluminum Company site near Columbia Falls, Montana. The strategy outlines DEQ's intentions to negotiate with Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, LLC, the current site owner and Glencore Ltd., the parent of Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, to complete a Remedial Investigation, Risk Assessment and Feasibility Study at the site. On a separate track, EPA will begin to prepare the documents necessary to propose the site to the National Priorities List in order to be prepared in the event DEQ is unable to reach agreement with the PRPs. EPA is optimistic that DEQ will reach agreement with the PRPs, but will be ready to move forward with proposing the site on the NPL, with DEQ's support, as soon as Spring 2015.

Contact: Rob Parker, 303-312-6664 or Victor Ketellapper, 303-312-6578

This Week –

BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY IN BILLINGS, MT

The City of Billings issued $16 Million bond for construction of an architecturally significant public library downtown - the first in 100 years and was overwhelmingly supported by the public. The LEED Gold building sits immediately next door to the former Parmly Library which is being demolished to create a parking lot and additional public green space. During demolition, after abatement of asbestos discovered in the pre-demo inspection, additional asbestos was discovered and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) stopped work, issued a notice of violation and determined that

"grinding" by heavy equipment had caused Class 1 non-friable asbestos to become friable and thus regulated. They will possibly require the entire building to be abated and disposed of as RACM increasing the cost beyond the City's capacity to finish the project. The project time and cost have already increased hundreds of thousands of dollars due to stops and starts and additional requirements associated with this regulatory process. The City's concern is increasing because of the populated area surrounding the site as well as the imminent start of the school year for the school across the street. The City of Billings requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's assistance in reviewing the situation and brainstorming options. It is likely to request further assistance for asbestos abatement completion and demolition to quickly resolve the problem, protect public health and complete the public project.

For more information please feel free to contact: Wendy Thomi, 406-457-5037 or Paul Peronard, 303-312-6808

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

This Week –

REGION 8 SENDS OPPORTUNITY TO CONFER LETTER TO CHEVRON PRODUCTS COMPANY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH CONSENT DECREE.
On July 24, 2014, EPA's Region 8 sent an opportunity to confer letter to Chevron Products Company (Chevron) for noncompliance with a Consent Decree (CD) entered in June 2005 as part of the National Refinery Initiative (NRI). The noncompliance documented by Region 8 occurred at Chevron's Salt Lake City, Utah refinery (SLC refinery), one of many of Chevron's refineries in the NRI CD that covered multiple EPA regions and several states. In the letter, Region 8 outlines Chevron's noncompliance with the CD at the SLC refinery; the dates of the noncompliance; and the penalty calculated under the stipulated penalty provisions of the CD. Region 8 consulted with OECA and the U.S. Department of Justice on the letter and also gave notice to the state of Utah before sending the noncompliance letter. Chevron has 30 days to respond to the letter and the proposed stipulated penalty assessment ($591,100). *Information only; no action required by the RA/DRA.*
Contact(s): Marc Weiner (legal), 312-6913; Laurie Ostrand (technical), 312-6437

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

This Week –

REGION 8 PESTICIDES PROGRAM PROVIDES THE EPA OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION (OCSPP) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR JIM JONES INFORMATION ON COLORADO BEE KIL.
On July 30, 2014, the EPA Region 8's Pesticide Program provided information to OCSPP regarding a bee kill that occurred in Boulder, Colorado. Assistant Administrator Jones requested information from the Region in response to a CBS Internet article, which stated there were bees dropping dead out of the sky, and the homeowner claimed it was due to herbicide applications in the area. The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) has opened an investigation regarding the incident and visited the site on July 29, 2014. Although they found 23 bees either dead or dying on the complainant's property, they

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did not find evidence of die-off of bees in managed hives within 0.6 miles. Samples were taken of the dead bees, which will be analyzed at CDA's lab for pesticides. *Information only, no action required by the RA/DRA.*

Contacts: Jennifer Schuller, 312-6334; Peg Perreault, 312-6286

MONTANA OPERATIONS OFFICE

***No items to report.**

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