Message

From: Bohan, Suzanne [bohan.suzanne@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/28/2016 4:38:20 PM
To: Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 28, 2016, at 8:40 AM, Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov> wrote:

> Suzanne/Mark just wanted to loop you in so that you were aware of this request in light of possible briefing next week.
>
> Thanks.
> Sandy
>
> _____
> Sandra A. Stavnes
> Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator
> Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation
> USEPA, Region 8
> 303-312-6117
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Vranka, Joe
> **Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2016 8:27 AM
> **To:** Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Cirian, Mike <Cirian.Mike@epa.gov>; Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Hungry Horse CFAC Story
>
> Hi, Rebecca:
>
> The afternoon of February 4th works okay for me. I have some conflicts for the morning.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Joe
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Murray, Bill
> **Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2016 7:56 AM
> **To:** Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Cirian, Mike <Cirian.Mike@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Hungry Horse CFAC Story
>
> Works for me.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Russo, Rebecca
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 5:24 PM
> **To:** Cirian, Mike

Cc: Vranka, Joe; Murray, Bill; Card, Joan; Hestmark, Martin; Stavnes, Sandra
Subject: Re: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

How does Thursday the 4th look for everyone?

Sent from my iPhone with a tiny little keyboard, so please excuse any typos!

On Jan 27, 2016, at 5:05 PM, Cirian, Mike <Cirian.Mike@epa.gov> wrote:

I can be available most anytime.

Mike Cirian, PE
Libby On-site Project Manager
US EPA
108 East 9th Street
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-6194 Office

From: Russo, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 5:00 PM
To: Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Cirian, Mike <Cirian.Mike@epa.gov>; Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>; Card, Joan <Card.Joan@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>
Cc: Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

Hi all,
Senator Tester's office would like to meet to discuss CFAC – specifics outlined in his email below. Right now I'm thinking Joe Vranka, Mike Cirian, Bill Murray, Martin Hestmark and Joan Card. Who else needs to be included?

I already told him no for next Friday, and asked for dates earlier in the week or the week of the 8th. Anyone have any big scheduling conflicts I need to know about?

Thanks!
Rebecca

Rebecca A. Russo
Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison
Office: 303-312-6757
Cell: 303-204-1930

From: Laslovich, Dylan (Tester) [mailto:Dylan_Laslovich@tester.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 4:56 PM
To: Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Russo, Rebecca <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>
Cc: Campbell, Chad (Tester) <Chad_Campbell@tester.senate.gov>; DiLuccia, Janelle (Tester) <Janelle_DiLuccia@tester.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

Thanks for circling back!

Do you have any available times next Friday? As for what we're looking to get out of this, I believe it would be helpful to cover what the process and options look like for the CFAC site in Montana moving forward. There seems to be some confusion on the ground regarding a potential listing and what an "alternative" actually looks like. My colleagues Chad and Janelle, cc'd, are Senator Tester's point people on the issue in state and in DC respectively. It would probably be helpful to include Mike Cirian from EPA so we ensure everyone is on the same page.

From: Levine, Carolyn [mailto:Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 5:33 PM
To: Distefano, Nichole; Laslovich, Dylan (Tester); Russo, Rebecca
Cc: Campbell, Chad (Tester); DiLuccia, Janelle (Tester)
Subject: RE: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

Hi Dylan,

I'm adding Rebecca Russo from EPA region 8 who can assist in setting up a briefing- hopefully sometime next week.

Carolyn Levine
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. EPA
(202) 564-1859
levine.carolyn@epa.gov

From: Distefano, Nichole
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 4:37 PM
To: Laslovich, Dylan (Tester) <Dylan_Laslovich@tester.senate.gov>
Cc: Campbell, Chad (Tester) <Chad_Campbell@tester.senate.gov>; DiLuccia, Janelle (Tester) <Janelle_DiLuccia@tester.senate.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

Yep. Looping in Carolyn to help set up a conversation on NPL process.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 26, 2016, at 4:35 PM, Laslovich, Dylan (Tester) <Dylan_Laslovich@tester.senate.gov> wrote:

> We did connect and it was helpful. I do think a longer conversation is necessary to understand the listing process moving forward but Joan said nothing is going to happen before this fall at the earliest. Perhaps you could connect Janelle and myself with the relevant EPA staff that could do a briefing by phone or in person in the next two weeks.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Distefano, Nichole [mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 4:32 PM
> **To:** Laslovich, Dylan (Tester)
> **Cc:** Campbell, Chad (Tester); DiLuccia, Janelle (Tester)
> **Subject:** Re: Hungry Horse CFAC Story

Hi Dylan

I understand you talked to Joan today and heard it was a good call. Sorry that we haven't connected directly. The snow days have thrown everyone's off.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 22, 2016, at 4:03 PM, Laslovich, Dylan (Tester) <Dylan_Laslovich@tester.senate.gov> wrote:

> Hey Nichole:
>
> I wanted to be sure you saw the below story and talk about a path forward. EPA has been very helpful and good at communicating with the community and Sen Tester's staff on this issue which has led to a ton of progress. The below is a step in the wrong direction and we risk losing the good partnership that has been built.
>
> I would love to get an audience with someone high up at region 8 as well as someone at national to discuss this on Monday. I think I understand what the agency is saying hear but it wasn't well recieved.
>
> Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Ver izon Wireless 4G LTE network.
>
> **From:** Banks, Marnee (Tester) <Marnee_Banks@tester.senate.gov>
> **Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 3:27 PM
> **To:** Campbell, Chad (Tester); Swanson, Dayna (Tester); Wise, James (Tester); Laslovich, Dylan (
> Email; DiLuccia, Janelle (Tester)
> **Subject:** Hungry Horse CFAC Story

CFAC Superfund listing could come as early as March, company, Columbia Falls mayor oppose listing

By CHRIS PETERSON Hungry Horse News // Jan 22, 2016

The Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. could see a Superfund listing as early as March, project manager Mike Cirian of the Environmental Protection Agency told a liaison panel Thursday night.

"It could be listed this spring, yet," Cirian told the crowd.

The announcement came as a surprise to panel members, who said they were led to believe last fall the EPA was leaning toward a Superfund Alternative Approach. The alternative would make the company clean up the site under Superfund standards, but avoid an actual Superfund listing. County and city leaders both want to avoid the stigma of the Superfund listing attached to the city's name, particularly in the age of Google, where the term Columbia Falls and Superfund could pop up in search engines for years. That's not something they want, particularly as the city looks to promote tourism and cleaner, lighter, industry in town.

But Cirian noted the alternative approach has been used only once in EPA's Region 8, which includes Montana, Idaho, the Dakotas, Utah and Colorado. Last fall, Cirian expressed optimism that CFAC would be a good fit. But in Thursday's meeting, he noted it wasn't his decision — the move to list would come from higher up in the EPA's management.

"That (decision) is out of my control at this time," Cirian said.

Columbia Falls Mayor Don Barnhart was frustrated by the apparent change in tone from the EPA.

He said the city pursued having the site listed as a way to get the company to do something about the plant, which had sat idle for years after it shut down. Montana Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat, went to bat for the city, and the site was listed on the National Priorities List, which qualifies it as a Superfund site. Testing on the site has found cyanide in the groundwater, but none at levels above safe thresholds in nearby residential wells.

"We used it as a hammer to get them going," Barnhart said.

But now the company has come to the table, so-to-speak, and recently put up a $4 million guarantee to have a remedial investigation and feasibility study completed. Now city leaders don't want a Superfund listing.

"Let's push as a group for this alternative listing," Barnhart said.

But putting the bullet back in the barrel isn't necessarily that easy. If the EPA doesn't list the site this March, it would likely look at it again in the fall. Cirian told the crowd that if they really wanted the alternative listing, they should start writing letters to the EPA offices.

There's also politics in play. Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, a Republican, has always opposed listing, claiming that once sites are listed in Montana, they never come off the list. Republican Sen. Steve Daines has remained neutral on the issue, saying the decision should come from the community. Chad Campbell, an aide to Tester, told the panel that if they wanted the alternative, they should also write to Tester's office.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock has also supported Superfund listing for the site.

But the Flathead County Commissioners, all of which are Republican opposed it. County Commissioner Phil Mitchell, who sits on the panel, said the future of the site rested in lawmaker's hands.

"I think this is a political decision," he said.

The company opposes listing.

"We think we can do (the cleanup) better and faster," John Stroiazzo, an engineer and project manager for CFAC said.

Listing or not, investigation at the site will start this spring, with 43 wells to be drilled. Test results from those wells should come in February of 2017. Those tests will be the first measure of the extent of contamination at the site, which has several landfills. The entire investigation will likely take about four to five years alone, an actual cleanup could take years after that.

The liaison panel, which had been meeting every month, will now meet less frequently. Cheryl Driscoll of CFAC said each meeting costs the company about $25,000 in travel and employee costs. The next meeting is scheduled in May as drilling starts. There will be an on-site tour and meeting to follow. A time and date was not set.

People interested in weighing in on the Superfund listing are encouraged to contact Cirian directly at cirian.mike@epa.gov or by mail at US EPA Region 8, 108 East Ninth St. Libby, MT 59923.

Resident Ray Negron perhaps brought the best perspective to the future of the site.

"No one wants the stigma of a Superfund site, but we all want it cleaned up," he said.