WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
REGION 8

WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 2014

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

This Week –

On August 1, 2013, President Obama signed Executive Order (EO) 13650 – Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security. This EO mandated executive departments and agencies to improve chemical facility safety and security through several broad measures such as: enhancing coordination among federal, State and local partners and improving policies and practices to reduce risks to first responders and affected communities. EPA, DHS, OSHA, DOJ, DOT and several other agencies made up the Working Group charged with identifying these areas for improvement and creating strategies for implementation.

Region 8 Preparedness Unit staff participated regularly with the EPA Working Group representatives by: attending meetings on the Sub Working Group 5 for Enhanced Collection and Sharing (EO Section 5), attending listening sessions with industry and other stakeholders, and coordinating EO developments/updates with our State Emergency Planning Commissions (SERCs) and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). Most notably, Region 8 developed and tested tools to improve data sharing and agency emergency preparedness. The Preparedness Unit and the Data Systems Unit worked to develop The Emergency Response Application (TERA, recent name change) – a GIS web-based application that allows a user to activate various data layers to assess presence and type of industrial facilities relative to sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, hospitals, sensitive wildlife habitats). This enables federal, state and local agency partners to assess public health threats associated with oil, chemical, and industrial facilities in their jurisdictions and plan or respond accordingly. Region 8's efforts were noted in the June 6, 2014 report to the President – Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security: A Shared Commitment.

The Working Group's WH report is available here (R8 is featured on page 15): https://www.osha.gov/chemicalexecutiveorder/final_chemical_eo_status_report.pdf

The EO can be found here: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/08/01/executive-order-improving-chemical-facility-safety-and-security
Contacts: Kathie Atencio 312-6803; Tony Selle 312-7074

MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF ABOUT COLUMBIA FALLS ALUMINUM COMPANY SITE
During the week of June 16, 2014, the Superfund Site Assessment Program met with staff from Flathead County Health Department, one Flathead County Commissioner, staff from the offices of Senator Tester, Senator Walsh and Representative Daines, and the Flathead Basin Commission to discuss the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company site near Columbia Falls, Montana. The purpose of the meetings was to inform the stakeholders on the results from the April domestic well sampling event conducted by the Emergency Response Program and discuss next steps. Stakeholders provided feedback that more

investigation seems necessary. The April sampling was conducted in response to detecting cyanide in two domestic wells during a site assessment in September 2013. Although the domestic well sampling results indicated no cyanide detections in the twenty domestic wells sampled, the Site Assessment Program continues to recommend a more detailed investigation through Federal or State Superfund programs due to contaminated groundwater known at the site and migration of contaminants to domestic wells and Flathead River observed during the fall sampling. *Information only; no action required by the RA/DRA.*

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OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT,COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

***No items to report.**

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

***No items to report.**

MONTANA OPERATIONS OFFICE

***No items to report.**

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