Message

From: Parker, Robert [Parker.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/19/2014 10:57:07 PM
To: DalSoglio, Julie [DalSoglio.Julie@epa.gov]; Ketellapper, Victor [Ketellapper.Victor@epa.gov]; Vranka, Joe [vranka.joe@epa.gov]; Peterson, Cynthia [Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: CFAC Cleanup Negotiations Ongoing

Thanks Julie. I've set up a meeting this Friday with Cynthia to provide a CFAC crash course briefing. I've promised Cynthia that this site will be an interesting project moving forward; I hope the site will deliver on that promise.
Thanks,
Rob

Rob Parker
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From: DalSoglio, Julie
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 5:52 PM
To: Parker, Robert; Ketellapper, Victor; Vranka, Joe; Peterson, Cynthia
Subject: FW: CFAC Cleanup Negotiations Ongoing

Additional follow up on response to Jenny:

FYI, I also had a long conversation with Paula Smith, our Director of Office of Communications and Public Involvement on November 14. Paula's Superfund Community Involvement program recently hired a new employee with background in non-profit and community development. It has been proposed that Cynthia Peterson assist with the Columbia Falls community involvement work. I have also tracked down some program and funding resources that could kick off the redevelopment/visioning process. I am including Cynthia in this email to bring her into the loop. Rob, could you set up an EPA team meeting to discuss how to bring Cynthia on board and how we might make the next steps? Thanks!

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From: Chambers, Jenny [mailto:JChambers@mt.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 1:05 PM
To: Parker, Robert; Ketellapper, Victor; Vranka, Joe; DalSoglio, Julie
Cc: demartin@mt.gov; Garcin, Jeni (DEQ)
Subject: FW: CFAC Cleanup Negotiations Ongoing

FYI -- Article states that future use of the property will be discussed at the December meeting. I am not sure if EPA has more information regarding this and if EPA is going to be prepared to discuss at the meeting. It is something we should keep in mind and may now come up.

"Other questions at the fore of the issue include future uses of the CFAC property, including possible recreation and conservation issues. Those possible future uses will be discussed at the December public meeting."

From: Garcin, Jeni (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 12:50 PM
To: Chambers, Jenny; Saeger, Chris; Martin, Denise; Trombetta, Michael
Subject: CFAC Cleanup Negotiations Ongoing

CFAC Cleanup Negotiations Ongoing

Glencore, DEQ still in talks over remediation of shuttered plant site

By Tristan Scott // Nov 17, 2014 // News & Features

Negotiations between the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Glencore on the future of the shuttered Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. plant site are ongoing, and the upshot of those discussions will be the subject of a public meeting next month.

While the DEQ continues to negotiate with Glencore, the Swiss-based commodities giant that owned CFAC, it recently responded to the DEQ's administrative order on consent, a legal order detailing the company's obligations for cleanup at the plant site.

Agency officials have been tight-lipped about the tenor of the negotiations, and whether the company's response was agreeable to the draft order's clean-up requirements.

Julie DalSoglio of the Environmental Protection Agency said the agency has allowed the negotiations to continue for months, but "if the negotiations fall through, the EPA will step in and recommend listing on the [National Priorities List]," a catalogue of hazardous waste sites in the United States eligible for long-term remedial cleanup under the Superfund program.

Recent reports from the DEQ and the EPA have shown the site is likely eligible for Superfund status. But while city officials in Columbia Falls have written letters in support of a cleanup, Flathead County commissioners have yet to take a stance on the issue.

Even in the absence of Flathead County's support, DalSoglio said the EPA could move forward with listing given the strong interest by other stakeholders to move forward, as well as support from Gov. Steve Bullock.

Other questions at the fore of the issue include future uses of the CFAC property, including possible recreation and conservation issues. Those possible future uses will be discussed at the December public meeting.

DEQ's administrative order, sent to the company in July, cites the EPA's sampling and investigation of the plant due to its decades-long handling of hazardous materials, including cyanide and zinc. The potentially

hazardous materials was discovered in soil, groundwater and surface water at the plant site and cyanide contamination found in sediment in the Flathead River.

The CFAC plant began producing aluminum in 1955, with production reaching 180,000 tons of aluminum by 1968. At its height, the plant employed 1,500 people and was central to the area's economy.

When it shut down at the end of October 2009, the closure forced the layoff of nearly 90 workers as high energy prices and poor market conditions made operations unprofitable.

The draft order states that Glencore must pay for sampling, testing and analysis at the site, and reimburse the state for any costs associated with the sampling and investigation. The company must also post a $5 million bond to ensure the remedial work is completed, and could face fines of up to $10,000 per day if it fails to comply.

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