Weekly Activities Report

Columbia Falls Aluminum Smelter Site Public Meeting. The Region 8 Superfund Site Assessment Program held a public meeting in Columbia Falls, MT on April 16 to discuss the recently completed site reassessment of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Smelter. Representatives from Montana DEQ also participated in the meeting. The results of the site reassessment found the site to be eligible for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL), found cyanide below the MCL in two residential drinking water wells and identified releases of hazardous constituents to the surface water. The expanded sampling of residential wells conducted last week by the Region 8 Emergency Response Program was also discussed. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting including local elected officials and a member of US Senator Walsh's staff. Local television and print media covered the public meeting. Overall, the public was supportive of conducting further environmental investigation and cleanup of the site. There is interest in further discussing the potential regulatory programs for this work to proceed, with the primary alternatives being the state and federal Superfund programs. **Contacts: Robert Parker (312-6664) and Victor Ketellapper (312-6578)**