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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CFAC Reimburses USEPA In Excess of $300,000

Columbia Falls, MT, October 27, 2017— Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, LLC (CFAC) has sent a check for $302,326 to reimburse the USEPA for the government's costs – including those of the USEPA and its contractors, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality associated with the investigation of the former Anaconda Aluminum Plant Site in Columbia Falls. The payment is the first reimbursement to government under the agreement which assures that CFAC and not the government or taxpayers, will pay the costs necessary to assess the site. This reimbursement is for the government's costs for overseeing the investigation and does not include the costs of performing the investigation. CFAC paid for the installation of monitoring wells, sampling and analysis of the soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater, and for the technical experts coordinating the investigation.

In its agreement with USEPA, CFAC committed to reimburse the governments for their costs, including 56.48 percent for indirect costs (overhead) for USEPA costs, to oversee the investigation CFAC is conducting. These costs include travel costs of government officials and contractors, contract laboratory costs, and per hour payments for the time that government officials and contractors spend reviewing the Site and CFAC data and reports. CFAC will continue to cover these costs as outlined in the Agreement on Consent (AOC) with USEPA, which was signed in 2015. CFAC has agreed to do what EPA determined was necessary to investigate conditions at the Site, which was defined by the Scope of Work in the AOC.

CFAC completed the first phase of the investigation at the former Anaconda Aluminum Plant Site in late 2016. CFAC submitted a draft Phase I Data Summary Report and Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Summary Report to the EPA and Montana Department of Environmental Quality in February 2017. The draft reports summarized the field activities, data collection and data evaluation completed as part of the Phase I Site Characterization. Throughout 2017, CFAC also continued field activities with the objective of collecting additional data that will be needed to complete the ongoing Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. Draft risk assessment work plans for the Site are due to the agency in the fourth quarter of this year.

Demolition of the site continues at a rapid pace and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

The overall work associated with the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study began in 2015 and is expected to continue into 2021.

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