CONFIDENTIAL

WEEKLY HOT TOPICS REPORT for RA/DRA Region 8

Week ending July 6, 2018

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

Visit of Regional Administrator Doug Benevento to the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site

Key Message: On July 9 - 10, 2018, Regional Administrator Doug Benevento will visit the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site in Silverton, Colorado. \

- He will be joined by Erin Chancellor, Steven Cook and Dana Stalcup from EPA Headquarters as well as Betsy Smidinger, Rebecca Thomas, Patrick Davis and Cynthia Peterson from Region 8.
- He will tour the site, meet with local stakeholders and officials, and provide interviews to two newspapers that cover the site (Silverton Standard and Durango Herald).
- He will also meet with downstream officials, Congressional field staff, other federal agencies working at the site and representatives of downstream community groups.
- **Contact(s):** Rebecca Thomas (RPM), 312-6552 and Cynthia Peterson (CIC), 312-6879

Colorado Smelter Superfund Site Funding, Pueblo, Colorado

Key Message: Funding Announcement for Additional Cleanup Funding

- On July 6, 2018, the RA and EPA Headquarters officials will travel to Pueblo to meet with City staff, City and County elected officials, Congressionals, community members, and media to announce the acceleration of the residential cleanups due to an Agency decision to increase funding. This funding increase will allow the cleanup of residential properties to be competed in 4 to 6 years rather than a decade or more.
- Updated cost estimates and briefings to the Regional Administrator (RA), Office of Land and Emergency Management, and the Deputy Administrator resulted in a decision to increase cleanup funding for the Colorado Smelter residential cleanups to $15 million per year for up to 5 years beginning this year; subject to federal budget limitations.
- The Site team developed and shared with Headquarters a press release to prepare for media interest.
- **Contact(s):** Sabrina Forrest (RPM), 312-6484; Jasmin Guerra (CIC), 312-6062; Lisa McClain-Vanderpool (OCPI), 312-6077; Charlie Partridge (Risk Assessment), 312-6094

Colorado Smelter Superfund Site Sampling, Pueblo, Colorado

Key Message: Local Lead Program and EPA Contractors Screen and Resample One Home

- On June 25, 2018, the Site RPM and toxicologist were alerted by the sampling contractor of extremely high lead levels at a residential property (>95,000 parts per million (ppm) detected in the basement and in the living spaces ~2,000 ppm).
- EPA evaluated the data, contacted key team members regarding next steps and contacted the homeowner for follow up. The home is currently vacant; however, the homeowner and his plumber recently undertook renovations and possibly some post-renovation cleanup. The team does not know if lead-safe practices were followed.
- Qualitative blood lead screening of the homeowner indicates no elevated blood lead. There will be follow up screening of the plumber as well, and family members if needed.
- On July 2, the local health department conducted a healthy home risk assessment to identify possible sources of lead in the home. Findings are not yet available.
- On July 5, 2018, EPA's contractors will resample the home.

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- **Contact(s):** Sabrina Forrest (RPM), 312-6484; Jasmin Guerra (CIC), 312-6062; Lisa McClain-Vanderpool (OCPI), 312-6077; Charlie Partridge (Risk Assessment), 312-6094

Colorado Smelter Superfund Site Revitalization Project, Pueblo, Colorado

Key Message: Superfund Site Team Prepares for July 10-13 Pueblo Week.

- July 10-13, the Site team will participate in the monthly Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project meeting, visit with local residents, attend the monthly Community Advisory Group Meeting participate in two local radio programs, and present a general Site update at the Pueblo Association of Realtors.
- Several residents have recently expressed concerns, which they may raise to EPA management, related to the use of seed vs. sod in yard restorations.
- **Contact(s):** Sabrina Forrest (RPM), 312-6484; Jasmin Guerra (CIC), 312-6062; Lisa McClain-Vanderpool (OCPI), 312-6077; Charlie Partridge (Risk Assessment), 312-6094

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

SDWA Enforcement Issued an Emergency Administrative Order to the City of Cody Water System in Park County, Wyoming

Key Message: On July 3, 2018, EPA issued a 1431 Order (EAO) in response to a potential imminent and substantial endangerment at the City of Cody Water System.

- In preparation for an upcoming sanitary survey, the operator requested a Circuit Rider from Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems visit the system. On Monday, July 2, 2018, the operator mentioned to the Circuit Rider when the storage tank was cleaned in September 2017, there were multiple ground squirrel carcasses within it. The Circuit Rider informed the operator they needed to contact EPA.
- On July 3, 2018, the Water Superintendent for the City of Cody notified EPA the 2 million gallon finished water storage tank had approximately six ground squirrel carcasses found during a tank cleaning and inspection that was performed by divers in September 2017. All ground squirrels and sediment were removed during the cleaning.
- The only possible entry pathway identified was a duckbill valve overflow that was located at ground level. The system modified the overflow by raising it up to 12-24" above ground level in May 2017.
- After speaking with the R8 Office of Water Protection's toxicologist, EPA has determined that a potential imminent and substantial endangerment to human health may still exist at the system.
- The EAO will require the system to inspect the tank for *new* animal carcasses.
  - If additional carcasses are identified, the system will be required to issue a boil order, provide an alternative source of drinking water to all customers, increase sampling, drain and disinfect the tank, and submit a plan and schedule for professional repair of the tank to ensure rodent-related contaminants do not enter the system in the future.
- Prior to Order issuance, EPA will consult with Wyoming DEQ and Department of Health (includes the State Epidemiologist).
- Contact: Olive Hofstader, 312-6467; Management Contact: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521

SDWA Enforcement Underground Injection Control (UIC) Team to Conduct Routine Inspections the Week of July 16

Key Message: The UIC Team plan to conduct UIC inspections at EPA-regulated wells throughout Colorado and the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, during the week of July 16, 2018

- Inspections are planned for up to 7 operators and will include up to 30 UIC wells.

- Wells within Colorado include Class I nonhazardous industrial disposal wells, Class III in-situ salt dissolution mining wells, and a Class V river desalination project waste disposal wells.
- Wells on the Southern Ute Reservations include Class II oil and gas related enhanced recovery and waste disposal wells
- ECEJ has informed the Tribal government of the upcoming inspection by letter to Chairman Sage of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.
- Inspectors will be accompanied by tribal representatives while on the Southern Ute Reservations.
- Contacts: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521; Gary Wang, 312-6469

OPA Enforcement Staff to Conduct Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Inspections in Southwest South Dakota

Key Message: OPA Enforcement staff will be conducting Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) inspections in Fall River and Custer Counties on July 9-12, 2018.

- The EPA directly implements the SPCC Program in Region 8.
- The purpose of the inspections is to verify compliance with the SPCC requirements, based on the high priority inspection scheme described in the 2013 Targeting Memo from the Office of Emergency Management. Specific facilities to be inspected will be determined in the field.
- The OPA Enforcement Team works closely with the Oil Program to conduct SPCC inspections.
- Contacts: Donna Inman 312-6201, Dennis Jaramillo 312-6203; Management Contact: Ken Champagne 312-6608

NPDES Enforcement Plans to Conduct Inspections on the Ft. Belknap Reservation; in Big Timber, Montana; and in Colorado in July 2018

Key Message: NPDES Enforcement plans to conduct the inspections listed below in July 2018.

- Planned inspections:
    - Ft. Belknap: six wastewater lagoons, up to three construction stormwater sites, and one industrial stormwater site;
    - Big Timber, Montana: sampling at the wastewater treatment plant, inspections and sampling at two industrial users; and
    - Colorado Industrial Discharger: one gold mine.
- The EPA directly implements the NPDES program in Indian country.
- The EPA directly implements the pretreatment portion of the NPDES program in Montana.
- EPA is conducting the Colorado Industrial Discharger inspections as part of the Industrial Discharger National Enforcement Initiative. Facilities were selected based on a history of noncompliance. The state of Colorado requested the EPA conduct these inspections. The state was invited to attend the inspections but will not be attending.
- The purpose of the inspections is to verify compliance with the facilities' NPDES permits, determine if the facilities are discharging without a permit, or determine if the industrial users in Big Timber are contributing to effluent violations at the Big Timber Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Consistent with the Federal government's trust responsibility and Region 8's Guidance for Compliance Monitoring, Compliance Assistance, and Enforcement Procedures in Indian Country, the tribe's government was notified of the inspections by letter at least one week prior to the scheduled inspection date.
- The Big Timber inspections are being conducted by NEIC.
- Contacts: Laurel Dygowski 312-6144 (Crow and Northern Cheyenne), Emilio Llamozas 312-6407 (Big Timber), and Mike Boeglin 312-6046 (Colorado Industrial Dischargers); Management Contact: Stephanie DeJong 312-6362

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OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Region 8, Resource Conservation & Recovery Program (RCRP), will request Regional Administrator Approval for Regulatory Revisions to Utah's Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

Key Message: The Regional Administrator's signature is requested soon for a rulemaking revision to Utah's UST regulations, which would be published in the *Federal Register* (FR) as a proposed and direct final rule. Consultation with the Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) is required before obtaining the Regional Administrator approval.

- EPA revised the UST regulations in 2015.
- Utah updated their UST program and regulations in 2016 and 2017.
- Utah applied for State Program Approval (SPA) of its UST program on February 28, 2018.
- The FR notices would propose and authorize revisions to Utah's UST regulations and codifies them into 40 CFR 282.
- RCRP is coordinating with ORC and ECEJ.
- Consultation with Carolyn Hoskinson, Director, OUST is required before seeking the Regional Administrator signature.
- We anticipate that Utah will be the second in the nation, after Oklahoma, to obtain the revised SPA.
- Contacts: Matt Langenfeld, 312-6284; Janice Pearson, 312-6354; Nancy Morlock, 312-6421

OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

No report

OFFICE OF WATER PROTECTION

EPA Region 8 selects four projects to receive Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside funds and five projects to receive Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Funds.

Key Message**:** Region 8 has selected nine projects to receive a total of $9,758,000 for tribal drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. All projects will be funded through Interagency Agreements with the Indian Health Service, which will manage the projects on behalf of the tribes.

- Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Program (DWTSA) projects ($3,369,000) are for:
  - Eastern Shoshone ($615,000)
  - Northern Arapaho ($442,000)
  - Standing Rock Sioux Tribe ($1,575,000)
  - Rosebud Sioux ($737,000)
- Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Program (CWISA) projects ($6,389,000) are for:
  - Crow Agency ($2,040,000)
  - Ft. Berthold ($465,000)
  - Rosebud Sioux ($2,489,600)
  - Pine Ridge ($1,185,400)
  - Uintah and Ouray ($209,000)
- Contact: Minnie Adams, 312-6624 Rebecca Russo, 312-6757