SECOND BIOMONITORING & HEALTH STUDY PUBLIC MEETING

OCTOBER 30, 2018

Worries/Concerns:	**Information Sources:**
Soil quality, growing plants and plant uptake. Ways to reduce that exposure	Appreciate media and CTEC
Answers to questions from neighbors/friends/etc.	Need to advertise that drinking water is good in Butte
Recent articles published about health	**Diseases of concern:** Mental illness, autoimmune, life expectancy, cancer, neurologic diseases, MS, Brain cancer, pulmonary disease
Concerns about dust and crystalline silica (air particulate levels)	**Worries:**
Contaminated stormwater	Need to publicize the work that is going on in Butte (RMAP, etc.) – how to advertise?
Cancer	Business may be concerned about Butte health issues and not relocate here
No registry for other types of diseases in Butte	Comprehensive health study looking at state of Butte health. Look at systematic ways to move forward
Go beyond looking at just lead	Drinking water – misperception that people are concerned about issues that aren't critical vs. real exposure risks
Look at more than just cancer	Old infrastructure (pipes, etc.) contaminating drinking water
Lead study focused on children, but feel it should focus on older people who have lived their live in Butte – longer exposure	Central repository that explains what has been done in the past and the findings. Presented in a way public can digest – vs reading 400 page report
Greeley Neighborhood and Montana Pole locations in particular	Air quality – what's being measured? How? What does that mean for our health?

Need realtors who understand the RMAP program and possible (positive) impacts on property values	Superfund Action levels – have remained the same for many years – will they be lowered? Do we need to relook at the action levels?
Environmental Justice very important – inordinately high number of low income people in Butte	Comparison of Butte school population vs. elsewhere in state – are there greater than average special needs?
Pet diseases from exposure – veterinarian anecdotes	Eco-anxiety – anxiety about environment and what you're exposed to (solistagia?)
Need more explanation of the metals – what does exposure mean? Pathways, etc.	General apathy about cleanup activities and Superfund. Why beautify the city – it's always looked like that
How long to see benefits from remediation for health impacts	Active mine – effects on adjacent neighborhoods. Dust pollution x2
Dust blowing exposure	New resident perception – need to get a water filter immediately
Do cleanup activities generate increased exposure (dust from work, etc.)	Teeth
Perception that there are many autoimmune and respiratory diseases in Butte – is it higher/lower than average	Gardening – is my garden safe? What programs are available to help?
Construction workers in older buildings (remodels, etc.) – health effects from possible exposures to metals in Butte	Renting – What about reluctant landowners? Are rental properties addressed by RMAP?
Action levels – why different in Anaconda than Butte and compared to other Superfund sites	Synergistic effects of the COCs in Butte
Valuable to develop strategies for residents to improve their overall health – not just superfund related.	How to best get information out there regarding the work that is ongoing
How to differentiate impacts of active mining vs. historic mining?	(Many repeats of these issues among all tables)
Buying a house in Butte – how do you know if it safe and has been tested?	How do other vulnerabilities intersect with superfund exposures (e.g., poverty)
When looking at historic health trends, acknowledge the big population shifts in Butte/Anaconda since the 80's and those	Need to make information more digestible for general public

that didn't leave may have already been at a disadvantage for other reasons	
Suicide – how general anxieties about environmental exposure may play into it	General education of the mass public is key – need to get information to the broader populace in many different formats
Information gap – air quality monitor at Greeley neighborhood does not providing data on metals – just wood smoke. Need that data provided	Education – how does EPA coming up with their action level numbers? How does bioavailability play into those numbers? How do we communicate that? – risk communication
<u>Top 3 Concerns from Butte Health Needs Assessment (2017 – St. James):</u>	<u>Health Studies Discussion – DPHHS Questions:</u>
1. Substance Abuse	What are the synergistic effects of the combined metals exposure?
2. Mental health	Are there any diseases/health outcomes that are caused fundamentally/solely by exposure to heavy metals (e.g., asbestos exposure causes mesothelioma)?
3. Nutrition/physical activity/weight	What are the proportions of heavy metals that are most common in Butte? What does risk assessment tell us about the hierarchy of metals/contaminants of concern?
Remainder of the top 8 concerns:	Concern that EPA has not been looking at crystalline silica and possibly additive/synergistic effects with metals.
• Access to health care	Will the health study be linked to the existing COCs and their health impacts?
• Cancer	How will all the issues being raised at this meeting be considered/studied/address since they may not fit into the current bio-monitoring/blood lead levels study that is mandated by the RMAP program and funded by PRPs?

• Injury/violence	Where does this fit into the CD to ensure that the community's health is checked and monitored?
• Potential disability conditions	
• Tobacco use	
Concern that metals are not represented in the assessment (not in the top 8 concerns ranked by the consultants) – list compiled from community concerns/perceptions – possible reason is apathy towards metals exposure in Butte since it has always been a mining community	