**Butte-Silver Bow Health Department Releases Draft Final Superfund Health Study**

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BUTTE, Montana – The first phase in a series of public health studies, the Draft Final Superfund Health Study, is open for public comment. Please attend the April 9th public meeting and submit comments during the sixty (60) day public comment period. Your involvement and commitment to improving public health in Butte is vital. The focus of the public meeting is to provide information about the first phase study, answer questions, and receive public comment. Knowledgeable meeting representatives will also be available at informational booths to address other objectives of the public meeting including but not limited to:

- Public education about ongoing sources of exposure in Butte and how to reduce lead exposure;
- Public education about the residential cleanup program;
- Ongoing remedial actions in BPSOU;
- Public input related to other public health concerns; and
- How to get involved.

The public meeting is planned for April 9th from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Copper Auditorium at the Mining City Center located at 400 West Park Street in Butte. During the public meeting, study investigators and collaborators will provide more information about the study and will be available to answer questions from community members. Community members are encouraged to provide written comments on the draft final study report during the April 9th meeting or by emailing dpowers@bsb.mt.gov. A final study report, which will reflect comments received and include a response to comment summary prepared by the study Working Group representatives, will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in July 2014.

The draft final study report presents the results of the first phase health study which assesses the effectiveness of the Residential Metals Abatement Program (RMAP) for the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit (BPSOU) Superfund site. In April of 2012, the Butte Silver Bow Health Department embarked on an effort to design and implement a series of environmental health studies as part of its ongoing program to ensure quality public health for the people of Butte-Silver Bow. This study was developed in satisfaction of a requirement under the Unilateral Administrative Order issued under the Superfund Program by the EPA in September 2011. The goals for the study were also described in the overall Silver Bow County Community Health Improvement Plan, completed in 2011.

The Superfund health study focuses on evaluating blood lead data collected from Butte children from 2003 through 2011. Supplemental information about RMAP assessments and abatements is also presented. Concentrations of lead in blood samples provide a reliable measure of lead exposures from all sources (environmental and non-environmental). In this study, blood lead data are evaluated to understand how lead exposures in Butte have changed over this time period, how they compare to blood lead levels for areas outside of Butte, and what factors in Butte might be contributing to differences in blood lead levels within Butte and between Butte and other reference areas.

A copy of the draft final Superfund health study report as well as the EPA-approved study work plan will be accessible at the following on February 28, 2014:

- Butte-Silver Bow website at: http://co.silverbow.mt.us/135/Health
- EPA website at: http://www2.epa.gov/region8/silver-bow-creek-butte-area

Hard copies of the draft final report will also be available for review at the following locations:

Montana Tech Library
1300 West Park Street
Butte, MT 59701

Citizens' Technical Environmental Committee (CTEC)
27 W Park Street
Butte, MT 59701

Comments related to the draft final report must be received no later than April 29, 2014 for evaluation and inclusion as appropriate in the final report. Comments can be emailed to dpowers@bsb.mt.gov or mailed to:

Butte Silver Bow Health Department
Attn: Dan Powers, Assistant Health Director
25 W. Front Street
Butte, Montana 59701

In addition to the current Superfund study, the Department is also working on separate air quality-related studies that will address non-Superfund health concerns identified by the public at a series of listening sessions held in May of 2012. The non-Superfund studies are not addressed in the draft final Superfund health study report and are not the subject of the upcoming public comment period and April 9th public meeting.

The Superfund Health Study Working Group Member Organizations:
Butte-Silver Bow Health Department
US Environmental Protection Agency
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Atlantic Richfield
Citizens' Technical Environmental Committee
Citizen's Advisory Committee established by the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department