Message

From: Vranka, Joe [vranka.joe@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/7/2018 4:20:27 PM
To: Murray, Bill [Murray.Bill@epa.gov]; Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]; Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]; Mutter, Andrew [mutter.andrew@epa.gov]
CC: Moler, Robert [Moler.Robert@epa.gov]
Subject: Proposal for Strategic Improvements in Community Engagement at Montana Superfund Sites

Flag: Follow up

Good Morning Bill, Sandy, Betsy and Andrew:

In consideration of workforce reduction and renewed emphasis on Superfund accomplishments, transparency, and community engagement, I am proposing a small Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) team located in the Helena, Montana office to more efficiently and effectively serve the communities engaged in Superfund sites in Montana. Two of the 17 National Priorities List (NPL) sites in Montana are currently on the EPA Administrator's list of Superfund sites targeted for immediate, intense attention: Anaconda Smelter and Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area. Community engagement activities at these two sites, 13 of the remaining 15 NPL sites, one proposed NPL site, and one Superfund alternative site are currently managed by one Community Involvement Coordinator (17 sites). The proposed team below would provide for increased priority and focus on the Administrator's intense action list sites and more thorough and agile outreach and response activities at all sites in Montana while helping with other sites in the region.

Proposal:

1) Resource request: 3 person CIC Team under the Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation and located in the Helena, Montana office.
   - 1 – GS 14 1035 Public Affairs Specialist Team Lead. * New position
     - Oversight of CIC work for all (including) MT Superfund sites.
     - Lead for Butte and Anaconda emphasis sites.
     - Lead for Libby sites.
     - Lead for all Clark Fork River Basin Sites (Silver Bow/Butte, Anaconda, Montana Pole and Treating Plant, Solvay (Rhodia), Milltown Reservoir Sediments/Clark Fork River, Smurfit-Stone Mill, Flat Creek IMM).
   - 1 – GS 9-13 1035 Public Affairs Specialist.
     - Lead for all non-Clark Fork River Basin sites (ACM Smelter & Refinery, Barker Hughesville Mining District, Basin Mining Area, BNSF Somers, Carpenter Snow Creek Mining District, Anaconda Aluminum Columbia Falls, East Helena, Idaho Pole, Lockwood Solvents, Mouat Industries, Upper Tenmile Creek).
     - Manages webpage updates, public notices, and graphic design.
   - 1 – Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program participant * New position
     - Office support to CICs (editing, scheduling, database management, mailings, printing/copying, mail, etc.)

2) Benefits: manages site contact lists & information repository contents.
   - Meets increased demand for community involvement with 2 emphasis list Superfund sites.
   - Improves community involvement delivery to RPMs and communities on all MT Superfund sites.
   - Builds Region 8's capacity to:
     - Manage overall community outreach and media and congressional relations.
     - Address emerging situations throughout the Region that require public affairs work (e.g., incident and emergency response).
     - Strengthen EPA continuity and resiliency of community involvement work on Montana sites and in the Region by:
       - Having support and backup for Montana CIC during high work load, annual leave, sickness, or absence.
       - Creating mobility and retention incentive within the team.

- Backing up and reducing workload to Office of Communications and Public Involvement CIC team in Denver by assuming Libby Asbestos and Libby Groundwater sites in the short term and other out-of-state sites as appropriate in the long term.
- Creating efficiencies with community, congressional, and media engagement so that need for and reliance on additional Region 8 staff is reduced or eliminated.

3) Justification for team located in Helena, Montana office under EPR:

- Butte and Anaconda as emphasis sites require significant in-person presence and frequent, intense outreach activities.
- Newer Anaconda Aluminum Columbia Falls and Smurfit-Stone Mill sites demand significant community/stakeholder/tribal engagement in the early stages of the Superfund remedial investigation and feasibility study processes.
- Montana-based team model builds on successes and momentum of CIC embedded with Superfund Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) and Helena, Montana office team.
- Customer focus maximizes shared RPM and CIC coordinated response and facilitates perception of community outreach as an opportunity instead of a burden.
- Close coordination of RPM, CIC, supervisor, and Program Director ensures that agency and program priorities translate directly into site community engagement.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal further with you. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you require additional information.

Thank you,

Joe