Message

From: Leefers, Kristin [Leefers.Kristin@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/7/2020 12:09:00 AM
To: Castanon, Lisa [Castanon.Lisa@epa.gov]; Palomaki, Ashley [Palomaki.Ashley@epa.gov]; Steiner-Riley, Cara [Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov]; Edgell, Joe [Edgell.Joe@epa.gov]
CC: Ingemansen, Dean [Ingemansen.Dean@epa.gov]
Subject: land law branch "hot" issues week of Jan. 6

Hi All-

Dean asked me to forward any hot issues from the land law branch to this group. Elizabeth McKenna is the only one who sent me something this week:

This "hot topic" is not news to the ET because Chris and Michelle know that Chris is meeting with Midas Gold on January 13th, but HQ may not know this is happening. We briefed Chris and Michelle this afternoon.

Stibnite Mine Site

Region 10 Regional Administrator, Chris Hladick, is meeting with Midas Gold Inc. on January 13th. Midas Gold is seeking a mine permit from the US Forest Service through the National Environmental Policy Act process for development of a mine and reprocessing of existing mine tailings at the Stibnite Mine Site in Idaho. Midas Gold has been seeking a CERCLA settlement agreement with EPA for over a year. EPA Region 10, the US Forest Service, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality are currently negotiating with Midas Gold in an effort to get a commitment from Midas Gold to conduct a comprehensive Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and interim actions to address ongoing releases of hazardous substances at the Site. The Nez Perce is not a party to the negotiations, but is consulting with EPA as the negotiations proceed. The Nez Perce Tribe and Midas Gold are in litigation prompted by the Nez Perce's citizen suit under the Clean Water Act for failure to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Permit and for discharging without a permit.

Midas Gold has not provided an agenda to Region 10 for the meeting with the Regional Administrator. However, we know that Midas Gold is frustrated with the time it is taking to negotiate an agreement, so this may be a topic of conversation. Midas Gold will be meeting with the governmental agencies at the end of the month to discuss potential interim actions and have Midas Gold explain what its current plans are for addressing ongoing releases at the Site.

Kris Leefers
206-553-1532