Greene, Nikia

From: Mark Thompson <MThompson@montanaresources.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 8:20 AM
To: Greene, Nikia; Reed, Daryl; Sullivan, Karen (ksullivan@bsb.mt.gov)
Subject: Meconium Study Review
Attachments: Exponent_review-16Jan2020.pdf; MTR Q3 2019 Monitoring Report - Complete Final.pdf; MTR Q2 2019 Monitoring Report - Complete Final.pdf; MTR Q1 2019 Monitoring Report - Complete Final.pdf

Nikia, Daryl and Karen:

I am forwarding information relevant to EPA's ongoing review and response to the recent article "Meconium identifies high levels of metals in newborns from a mining community in the U.S." that was published online in *Science of the Total Environment* (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969719355226) ("Meconium Article").

As you know, the Meconium Article speculates about potential airborne dust exposure related to current mining operations. Montana Resources takes these issues very seriously and has retained highly qualified outside expertise to carefully review the Meconium Article as well as its data presentation and references it cites. A summary of these findings is attached.

You will also find air quality monitoring data that Montana Resources has voluntarily collected in cooperation with DEQ and BSB to evaluate airborne dust. These data do not indicate any levels of concern for overall particulates or levels of metals associated with particulates.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Thompson