Message

From: Region 8 Collaborative Workspace [no-reply@sharepointonline.com]
Sent: 5/2/2019 7:34:28 PM
To: Schmit, Ayn [Schmit.Ayn@epa.gov]
Subject: R8 Hot Issues - Lake Kookcanusa/Kootenai Transboundary... has been changed

Lake Kookcanusa/Kootenai Transboundary... has been changed

Jenkins, Laura Flynn
5/2/2019 1:34 PM

Next Significant Milestone 4/15/2019

Title Lake Kookcanusa/Kootenai Transboundary Water Quality

Lead Division WD

Assigned To O'Connor, Darcy; Garcia, Bert; Schmit, Ayn

Brief Description Extensive coal mining in the Elk River watershed in British Columbia has released pollutants, including selenium, into the US/Canada transboundary Lake Koocanusa. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is working with the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategies and other parties, including EPA, to develop site-specific water quality criteria for selenium in the Lake. The EPA will need to review and approve Montana's revised selenium criteria once they are submitted. At some locations and times, fish tissue and water concentrations in the lake exceed EPA's recommended selenium criterion, Tribes in Montana and Idaho have fishing treaty rights in and around Lake Koocanusa and have expressed concerns to EPA, the State Department, Montana and British Columbia about increasing impacts to the watershed and the lack of a formal Tribal role in decisions regarding the watershed.

Issue Status Active

Action Required Within 30 days

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