



Community Liaison Panel

Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Community Liaison Panel

Minutes

April 19, 2017

Columbia Falls High School

Cafeteria

6 p.m.

CLP Members Attending: Turner Askew, Mayor Don Barnhart, Don Bennett, Nino Berube, Chad Campbell, Ron Catlett, Hillary Hanson, Jerry Meerkatz, Lyle Mitchell, Phil Mitchell, Ray Negrón, Stacy Schnebel, Shannon Stringer, Clarence Taber, and Bev York.

CFAC Representatives: John Stroiazzo and Steve Wright, CFAC; Drew Baris, Mike Ritorto and Laura Jensen, Roux Associates.

Agency Representatives: Mike Cirian, Robert Moler and Brian Sanchez, USEPA; Colleen Owen, MDEQ; Gunnar Emilsson, CDM Smith.

Community Guests: Bill Faum, Rod Childers, John Piper, Lauren Knickrehm, Ron Mayhew, Laura Katzman, Andrews Beltz, Rick Hanners, Deb Johnson, Alton Johnson, Darin Fisher, Donna Tolar, Annika Silverman, Steve Prather, Dee Sims, Melvin Flansaas, Nan Askew, Mel Hinkbey, Dillon Tabish, Carolyn Milheim, Chris Peterson.

Facilitator: Mary Green, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

Minutes: Mary Green, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

The regular meeting of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Community Liaison Panel (CLP) was called to order by facilitator Mary Green at Columbia Fall High School cafeteria, beginning at 6:03 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

Mary welcomed those present and asked all to introduce themselves. Each person was also asked to share their affiliation with the community or the project.

The agenda and meeting materials were reviewed. The team agreement was noted;

members and guests were asked to respect the agreement throughout the meeting. Mary explained that a flip chart would be used to capture questions throughout the presentation that do not relate to the discussion topic. If time allowed, the questions would be addressed at the end of the presentation.

The meeting goals were reviewed.

Project Update

Communications Update

There were no issues noted by the panel members or the agencies.

Mary said since the November meeting, there have been several news articles about the project. Two project updates have been mailed to the community mailing list, which consists of more than 600 addresses. The updates were distributed in January and March.

Project Update:

Mike Ritorto provided an update of project activities and explained that since the last meeting in 2016, there has been much work accomplished at the site. **[A copy of his presentation is available on the project website at www.cfacproject.com and also is attached to these minutes for those not present.]** The presentation provides details about the work.

Details of the presentation included:

- Site characterization objectives
- Field activities and sampling methods
- Hydrogeological findings
- Constituent levels
- Next steps for the project
- Work schedule

The presentation included details about how the data will be used to prepare the Baseline Risk Assessment Work Plan. The draft risk assessment work plans for the site are due to the agency in the third quarter of 2017, pending resolution of the USEPA/MDEQ comments and finalization of the Phase I Data Summary Report.

Mike reviewed the work remaining for 2017, which includes:

- Data review by the agency
- Rounds three and four of groundwater and surface water sampling
- Preparation of the work plans for the baseline human health risk and ecological risk assessments
- Development of the phase II sampling and analysis plan.

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Task Schedule was provided. The document showed each step of work needed to complete this portion of the site work. The slide showed tasks completed and those that remain and are projected to be completed by early 2021.

Complete?	Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Task Schedule	Estimated Completion Dates
✓	AOC is executed	November 30, 2015
✓	Project Planning / Subcontractor Procurement	Jan – March 2016
✓	Site Reconnaissance / Geophysical Survey / Soil Gas Screening	April 2016
✓	Sampling and Analysis Plan Addendum	May 2016
✓	Drilling Program	May – September 2016
✓	Groundwater Sampling Event #1	September – October 2016
✓	Draft Phase I Site Characterization Data Summary Report	February 2017
✓	Draft Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Report	February 2017
	Baseline Risk Assessment Work Plans	3 rd Quarter 2017
	Phase II Site Characterization Field Program	3 rd Quarter 2018
	Phase II Data Summary Report	1 st Quarter 2019
	Baseline Risk Assessment	3 rd Quarter 2019
	Final Remedial Investigation Report	1 st Quarter 2020
	Feasibility Study Work Plan	3 rd Quarter 2020
	Feasibility Study Report Submitted to EPA	1 st Quarter 2021

The state and federal agencies review all data and must approve and oversee all work related to the project, he said.

Mike concluded the presentation by explaining the collection of data is critical to conduct the risk assessment. He said the work has been completed on schedule and has met the commitments CFAC made to the project.

United States Environmental Protection Agency Update (USEPA)

Mike Cirian said since the last meeting in 2016 there has been much work accomplished at the site. He said the work completed since the start of the RI/FS process has provided necessary information about this portion of the work.

Mike reviewed the stepping stone diagram that illustrates the Superfund process. Mike said the project work is on step three. **[A copy of the diagram is available online at www.cfacproject.com.]**

The Phase I Data Summary report has been submitted to EPA. Mike said it contains more than 7,000 pages. The agency is reviewing the report. As part of the EPA review, the agency and CFAC will work through a comment process to finalize the report. That process is expected to be completed in June, which will enable the report to become final.

Mike explained that Phase 1 is needed to advance to the next phase of work (Phase II). Phase II will allow the team to close any gaps in information. This entire process allows those involved to better define site conditions. He said it was important not to pre-judge any remedy until the data was complete and because of that, the process must be followed. He said three more rounds of groundwater and surface water data will be added to the results of the Phase I work prior to developing final plans for Phase II.

When asked by Phil Mitchell about the timeline for addressing any issues, Mike said the agency is watching site conditions and will take action if a threatening situation were to occur. So far, no threatening situations have been identified. He added that what is being seen is encouraging, and the data is consistent with expectations about site conditions. The fact that additional sources are not being located is good, he said.

In response to a question about the landfills by Stacey Schnebel, Mike said the landfills will be addressed. The manner in which the landfills will be addressed is to be determined through the data gathering and analysis process described earlier. In response to her question about materials moving toward the Flat Head River, he stated that data is being gathered and a remedy will be developed based on that data. He added that the data regarding materials moving toward the Flat Head has been consistent over time.

Additional information provided by Mike:

- There will be risk assessment for impact to ecological and human health.
- All cyanide levels have been non-detect in Aluminum City wells that have been tested by CFAC's contractor, Hydrometrics.
- Site is being studied to industrial levels. This follows specific guidelines.
- There is much wildlife at the site.
- The detection of cyanide in Cedar Creek will be investigated further.

Robert Moler shared information about the agency's community involvement plan. [A copy of the plan is attached to these minutes.] Robert said the agency is pleased to attend community meetings to talk about the project. He is the point-of-contact for the agency and its community outreach for the project. His email is moler.robert@epa.gov. His number is 406-594-

0588.

Don Bennett said what he is hearing is that the site is better than was originally thought and seems that the material is located where it was expected to be found.

Demolition Update

John Stroiazzo provided the update. He said Calbag continues to work on removal of materials from the site. The cathode removal began in the winter and continues. It is expected to be completed in late 2017. On average, two cathodes are being removed daily. Before the work began, there were 358 cathodes at the site. The removal of the cathodes must follow a plan that was approved by the MDEQ. Once removed, the cathodes must be shipped to an out-of-state facility that is EPA- approved for hazardous material disposal.

Aluminum City Well Testing

Steve Wright said quarterly sampling is conducted on wells whose owners have requested testing. There have been no issues. Testing results are shared with the residents and the agency. Each well has been tested for cyanide and fluoride. Only low levels of fluoride have been detected. Steve noted that fluoride is a naturally occurring material.

Gateway to Glacier Trail

John Stroiazzo provided the update and said the access agreement is in the process of being signed. (Since the meeting, the agreement has been signed.) This allows the organization to develop part of a bike path along the southern side of the CFAC property. This portion of property is across the Flathead River from the site.

Other Comments

The Flathead Land Trust is interested in 800 acres of CFAC property.

When asked about the cost to taxpayers for the project work, it was explained that the cost of the RI/FS work is being covered by CFAC, including the oversight costs of EPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). CFAC has the right to pursue other potentially responsible parties. Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO) is one of those former operators of the Columbia Falls aluminum smelter.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The panel will meet in late 2017. The date will be communicated to the panel and the public.

There being no further business, Mary asked members to complete their meeting evaluation forms.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE: To Be Determined