



Community Liaison Panel

**Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Community Liaison Panel
Minutes
October 17, 2018
Columbia Falls High School
6 p.m.**

CLP Members Attending: Mayor Don Barnhart, Don Bennett, Nino Berube, Senator Dee Brown, Ron Catlett (Senator Steve Daines), Hillary Hanson, Phil Mitchell, Rep. Zac Perry, Erin Sexton, Shannon Stringer, Smith Works (Senator Jon Tester), Bev York.

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

Agency Representatives: Mike Cirian, USEPA; Dick Sloan, MDEQ.

Community Guests: Tabitha Graves, Chris Sobin, Tama Hader.

Media: Chris Peterson, *Daily Interlake*.

Facilitator: Mary A. Green, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

Minutes: Mary A. 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 the cafeteria in Columbia Falls High School, beginning at 6:04 p.m. Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

Mary welcomed those present and asked all to introduce themselves. Each person was asked to share his or her 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.

The meeting goals were reviewed. Minutes from the May meeting were accepted as presented.

Project Update

Communications Update

There were several questions asked. The questions pertained to the on-site gravel pit and truck traffic. Mary asked the project team to address these during the update portion of the meeting. No calls were received in the Ann Green Communications' office related to the project.

Mary said a Project Update brochure was mailed to 659 community members in August 2018. CLP members were emailed a copy. Ads were placed in the Flathead Beacon, Daily Interlake, Whitefish Pilot, and Hungry Horse News the week prior to and the week of the meeting. Meeting reminders were mailed and emailed to members and calls made to those who did not respond. The next project update will be mailed in November.

Project Updates

Demolition

John Stroiazzo shared pictures from the demolition work underway at the site. He said demolition work is expected to be finished by the end of January 2019. Material in the five silos may be purchased. That will dictate when the silos are removed, which could be in the spring 2019 if the ore is purchased.

Railcars are being used to transport steel to recycling. This process should be finished by Thanksgiving of this year.

In response to a question about truck traffic and how the loads are managed, John explained the materials being transported are tested before leaving the site to ensure all laws and regulations are followed. Some materials, such as asbestos, do require packaging before being placed in the trucks. The packaging process was explained. Concrete at the site also is tested before being loaded onto the trucks. John said truck use should be finished by very early December 2018.

John said the administration building, the main warehouse and a couple of other useable buildings will remain at the site. He noted they have received inquiries about the property, but no one has put forth an offer to buy or rent the facility.

John provided an update about the BPA electrical equipment on site. He said the electric company is planning to remove a portion of it. The group spoke about the local supply chain for electricity in the area and said the facility at the site makes the property more marketable. John explained this decision is being made by BPA.

As for the gravel-pit, which is used as a borrow area, John said it will be reclaimed with

onsite topsoil and reseeded.

Aluminum City Well Testing

Steve Wright said 10 to 11 community wells are part of the well testing, which was offered by CFAC. The wells have been tested quarterly in the previous years. In 2018 the wells have been tested three times. Because little variability has been seen, going forward, the testing will occur twice annually in the spring and in the fall. This information has been communicated to the residents. In response to a question, Steve said no one expressed a concern about the schedule change.

Nino asked about the water flow direction for the area. Mike Ritorto agreed to discuss this during his portion of the presentation.

RI/FS and Risk Assessment Update

Mike Ritorto of Roux Associates provided an update of project activities. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

Details of the presentation included:

- RI/FS recent and upcoming tasks
- RI/FS status
- Recap RI/FS Phase II site characterization objectives
- RI/FS Phase I and Phase II sample locations
- RI/FS Phase II preliminary data
- Risk Assessment update
- Schedule

Mike reviewed the tasks associated with the RI/FS, which is rounding out the Phase II field work and moving into the period when the summary report will be prepared. As part of this, he reviewed work completed in 2018 and work expected for 2019, including report preparation.

Mike's presentation spoke about soil, surface water and groundwater testing. This included the number and location of additional samples that were taken in the Phase II portion of the work. Maps were shown to depict the sampling locations.

Mike reviewed groundwater sampling work and the efforts to understand the direction of flow. The data results indicated groundwater flow is south-south west and toward the Flathead River. It also confirms that no cyanide was detected in wells near Aluminum City. Further, historical landfills are the source of cyanide and fluoride in the groundwater.

Mike then reviewed the process used for a risk assessment. He introduced, on paper, the primary consultants for the project, which are based in Pittsburgh, PA. EHS Support will be used for the ecological and human health risk assessments.

The following chart describes the current status of work at the site.

| Complete? | Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Recent and Upcoming Task Schedule |
|-----------|---|
| ✓ | Draft Phase I Site Characterization Data Summary Report |
| ✓ | Draft Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Report |
| ✓ | 2017 Field Activities – Slug Testing and Asbestos Landfill Soil Sampling |
| ✓ | Final Phase I Site Characterization Data Summary Report |
| ✓ | Final Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Report |
| ✓ | Groundwater and Surface Water Data Summary Report |
| ✓ | Draft Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan |
| ✓ | Draft Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Work Plan |
| ✓ | Draft Phase II Sampling and Analysis Plan |
| | Phase II Remedial Investigation Field Program |
| | Draft Phase II Site Characterization Data Summary Report |
| | Draft Baseline Risk Assessments |
| | Final Baseline Risk Assessments |
| | Feasibility Study Work Plan |
| | Feasibility Study Report Submitted to EPA |

EPA Update

Mike Cirian provided several comments related to the project, as well as good news about the Libby Site.

He began by explaining the purpose of the background studies and how the information is used.

Mike reviewed the approach ahead and comments told to the agency at the start of the panel in 2014. Because of this, Mike said the agency has looked for ways to move the project along and how the review process may be managed more efficiently. One approach he explained could shave four months off the review process.

In response to a request from Nino, Mike explained why the review process between the agencies and CFAC are not open to the public. He said it is critical to have a process that allows the parties to be candid. Dick explained that the reports will be made public. He also explained there will be a public comment period for the proposed remediation plan that follows the RI/FS and risk assessment process.

Nino said the public library's documents are not current. Mary asked the team to learn more from Nino after the meeting and to look into correcting this. [Following the meeting, the agencies, CFAC and Nino spoke. The issue will be addressed. Early in the project, the library did not want to manage paper files; however, Steve said this has been corrected and documents will be taken care of.]

Mike said an operable unit at the Libby Site is under review for delisting. He said this is a milestone for the project.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The panel will meet in summer 2019 to review the risk assessment report. Mike asked if the panel would like a tour of the site. The group said that would be meaningful. This will be explored for early 2019.

There being no further business, Mary asked members to complete their meeting evaluation forms. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE: To Be Determined