



Community Liaison Panel

**Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Community Liaison Panel
The North Forty
Minutes
September 18, 2019
6 p.m.**

CLP Members Attending:	Christy Dawson, Don Bennett, Dee Brown, Chad Campbell (Sen. Jon Tester), Ron Catlett (Senator Steve Daines), Phil Mitchell, Susan Nicosia, Stacey Schnebel, Shannon Stringer, Kris Temped, Bev York.
Community At-Large:	Tim Struss, Jerry Wendlick, Chris Finberg, Tama Hader, Darin Fisher, Chris Sobin, Eric Mulcahy, Steve Stapley, Susan Stapley, Kianna Hardner, Tabitha Graves.
CFAC Representatives:	Cheryl Driscoll, John Stroiazzo and Steve Wright, CFAC; Laura Jensen, Mike Ritorto, Roux Associates; Luke Carlson, Morrison-Maierle; Gary Long, EHS Support.
Agency Representatives:	Mike Cirian, Ken Champagne, USEPA; Dick Sloan, Colleen Owen, MDEQ.
Media:	Chris Peterson, Hungry Horse News; Kianna Gardner, The Daily Inter Lake.
Facilitator:	Mary A. Green, Ann Green Communications.
Minutes:	Mary A. Green.

The regular meeting of the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Community Liaison Panel (CLP) was Wednesday, September 18, 2019. Mary Green facilitated and began the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Members and guests were greeted; she asked guests to sign the attendance sheet. Speaker Gary Long was introduced.

The agenda and handouts were reviewed. Mary encouraged everyone to complete the meeting evaluation sheet and to leave it face down on the table following the meeting.

Project Update

Communications Update

Mary explained she has received no community emails, phone calls or text about the project. She shared that 36 people visited the site today for the open house and tour. The most recent project update, distributed in August 2019, was mailed directly to 646 households in the community. Invitations to the panel meeting were mailed to the panel, the same number of community households and placed in the local newspaper.

Demolition Update and Discussion Overview

John Stroiazzo shared a video of the site and spoke about recent work and the overall project. He expressed his appreciation for efforts put forth by Calbag Resources, Roux and the agencies.

Phil Mitchell expressed his appreciation and said Calbag worked well with the community during the demolition phase.

John referred to the EPA stepping-stone diagram and explained the project is in the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) stage.

He explained the project update would be provided by Mike Ritorto and Gary Long.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Update

Mike began by providing an overview of the work performed as part of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

The RI was conducted between 2016 and 2018. Mike said data from multiple rounds under varying conditions were collected, specifically:

- More than 1,000 soil samples
- 400 groundwater samples from 77 wells
- 200 surface water samples
- 70 sediment samples
- 40 porewater samples
- 100 offsite samples

Risk Assessment Process Update

Gary shared information about his professional background and spoke to the group about the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment.

For the Human Health Exposure Areas, Gary said the work was a four-step process:

- Hazard Identification
- Exposure Assessment
- Toxicity
- Risk

He said the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment Results showed areas at the site that could potentially pose risk. The areas are located within the historical operating area:

- North Percolation Pond Area
- Main Plant Area
- Central Landfills Area
- Industrial Landfill Area

Gary reviewed the findings that show the following exposure areas at the site. The areas that have the potential to result in adverse ecological effects:

- Terrestrial Exposure Areas:
 - Main Plant Area
 - Central Landfills Area
 - Incremental Soil Sample Grid
 - Industrial Landfill Area
 - North Percolation Pond Area

○ South Percolation Pond Area

As for aquatic exposure areas, the Backwater Seep Sampling Area and Flathead River Riparian Area Channel were noted.

Gary reviewed details of the findings, which can be located in the report.

John noted key dates and actions:

- Remedial Investigation Report is being prepared by Roux. The draft is to be submitted September 27, 2019.
- Feasibility Study Work Plan also is being prepared by Roux. The draft is to be submitted during the 4Q 2019, which is an accelerated schedule.
- Feasibility Study is to be completed in 2021. This report evaluates remedial alternatives to address the areas requiring risk management.

Agency Comments

Mike Cirian spoke about the agency's role in the RI/FS process and the risk assessment work. He explained that in addition to the USEPA, there are other agencies involved. The agencies are the state MDEQ, US Fish and Wildlife and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

He said there is risk, but there is not a need for emergency action. Mike said as scenarios are reviewed during the process moving forward, the agency cannot prejudge. The science must speak, and that must be allowed to happen.

He explained the public comment period. This will happen before the Record of Decision is signed.

Once the site has undergone remediation, operation and maintenance (O&M) will occur to ensure it remains protective of human health and the environment.

Dick Sloan, the MDEQ project manager, said the site will be remediated to reduce risk to acceptable levels for ecology and human health.

Critique and Adjournment

Mary reminded everyone to contact representatives with questions, concerns or issues between meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

To Be Determined