CFAC

Community Liaison Panel

Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Community Liaison Panel Minutes
August 13, 2015
North Valley Hospital
Teakettle Community Room
6:00 p.m.

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CLP Members Attending: Don Barnhart, Nino Berube, Senator Dee Brown, John Fuller, Lyle Mitchell, Joe Russell, Anna Stene, Nikki Stephan, Clarence Tabor, Brad Walterkirchen, Bev York.

CLP Members Absent: Jessy Coltrane, Chief Rick Hagan, Hillary Hanson, Commissioner Phillip Mitchell, Mike and Susan Nicosia, Chief Dave Perry, Rep. Zac Perry, Kyle Schmauch, Stacey Schnebel, Erin Sexton, Shannon Stringer.

CFAC Representatives: Haley Beaudry, Cliff Boyd, Cheryl Driscoll, Mike Ritorto, John Stroiazzo, Steve Wright.

Guests: Virginia Loranger, Chad Campbell, Senator Tester's Office; Mike Cirian, U.S. EPA; Lew Bonitz; Colleen Owen; Tama Hader; Becca Parsons.

Facilitator: Mary Green, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

Minutes: Kristi Moore, 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 North Valley Hospital Teakettle Community Room, beginning at 6:03 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2015.

Mary welcomed Joe Russell, Public Health Officer, Flathead County Health Department. She asked each member to introduce himself or herself, and the community or organization each represents. The following guests were present: Chad Campbell, Senator Tester's Office; Lew Bonitz, Colleen Owen, Tama Hader, and Becca Parsons.

Mary reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. Each member was provided a copy of

the most recent Project Update brochure as well as a copy of the evening's presentation. [**A copy of the handout is attached to these minutes for those not in attendance.**]

Mary confirmed that all members received a copy of the July meeting minutes. The minutes were accepted as distributed. It was suggested that the meeting minutes be placed on the City of Columbia Falls website.

Unfinished Business

John Stroiazzo, Project Manager, shared an update related to meetings between CFAC and EPA as well as EPA's public meeting, which convened August 5th. John said USEPA has a process to develop an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). Acting as a guidance document for the site, the AOC will provide rules CFAC must comply with and define how EPA will support the project.

CFAC approached EPA about the AOC. EPA sent a draft AOC for CFAC to review and provide comment. On August 5th, CFAC and EPA met to discuss the draft AOC. The 33-page document covers a variety of things including reporting and legal items, among others. John said CFAC and EPA made good progress and agreed on many things. He added that it is a complicated process given the history of the site. At the conclusion of the meeting, both CFAC and EPA had a list of action items to be discussed at a meeting scheduled for August 25 via conference call.

John said EPA is pleased with the document and expects things to happen sooner than later. He noted that after the AOC language is completed, the RI/FS Work Plan must be reviewed by USEPA. The RI/FS Work Plan will be part of the AOC so the AOC will not be signed until the RI/FS Work Plan is agreed with EOA. The Work Plan is based on an EPA guidance document and is tailored to the specific site. He added that Roux developed the RI/FS Work Plan based on their experience and research. John noted that the RI/FS will define the nature and extent of issues on the site. John said Roux, CFAC and EPA have scheduled a technical meeting to take place October 6 and 7 to review the document. He added that no lawyers will attend the technical meeting.

Mike Cirian mentioned that there was preparation time prior to the August meeting. He added that the meeting went well; however, there are things to work through. EPA and CFAC are in agreement that something has to be done. He added that having a work plan is a good start.

In regards to the AOC, Mike said edits were sent to Glencore and CFAC on August 12th. He said there needs to be a focus on financial assurances.

John reminded the CLP that EPA conducted a site assessment and composed a report in April 2014. The report can be found online at http://www2.epa.gov/region8/columbia-falls-aluminum-reduction-plant John added that the RI/FS Work Plan can also be accessed online at http://www.rouxinc.com/cfac-draft-ri-fs-work-plan-available-for-public-comment/ John added

that the document is available for review and that the comment period is still open.

Senator Dee Brown said clean-up cannot start immediately. She asked when the sampling will begin to establish the baseline. John Stroiazzo said the exact date to begin sampling depends when the AOC is signed. Steve Wright added that data collected from the 1980's to present is available, as well as the data provided in the EPA Site Assessment. These data are used as part of the Site evaluation in the RI/FS Work Plan to establish a baseline, and will be supplemented by additional data collected during the RI.

Steve Wright said that earlier this year CFAC offered to monitor 20 residential wells at no cost to the well owners; 10 well owners accepted. The offers were made to well owners in Aluminum City based on a list of wells previously tested by EPA. He added that some of the locations had previously been tested by EPA. Results of monitoring conducted in June have been received and were mailed to the well owners earlier in the week. Steve said all results came back less than detect with exception of one that was 0.12 parts per million for Fluoride. Steve added that the detection threshold is 0.1 parts per million; the drinking water standard is 4. Joe Russell asked if most well depths are the same. Steve said EPA pulled well logs and they were at depths ranging from 50-150 feet. Steve added that Hydrometrics coordinated the sampling and analysis. Steve added that residents of Aluminum City who are interested in having their well tested should contact Steve Wright. The next round of sampling will take place in September.

Nino Berube asked if any documents from the 1980's through 1993 pinpointed pollution sources. Steve Wright replied that a big project was conducted in the early 1990's that pinpointed the west landfill as the source. He added that the west landfill was capped.

Nino asked the project team it reviewed information and files from specific people at the site. Steve replied that CFAC has submitted many files to the EPA in response to the agency's information request.

Mary said John Stroiazzo and Nino Berube are working to schedule a time to walk the site.

Cheryl Driscoll reported that a draft licensing agreement has been provided to Gateway to Glacier (GTG). Glencore received comments on July 22 and participated in a conference call on July 24. Cheryl said Glencore is waiting for GTG to share a draft map of the proposed bicycle path route through CFAC land.

Public Availability Session

As a follow-up to a discussion in July, Mary said the community expressed interest in making the CLP a more open process. She shared the concept of a Public Availability Session, which is an informal event. She said stations are set up by project representatives from different areas of work to provide one-on-one information to the public. She suggested the following booths be available for the community to gain more information:

- Community Liaison Panel
- Calbag/Roux
- Agency Involvement
- CFAC History
- Other

She asked the CLP to provide details about the type of information the community would be interested in learning at each booth. The following was shared:

- Calbag
  - Demolition timeline
  - Final goal
  - Elemental breakdown of material being moved

- Agency Involvement
  - Timeline
  - Final goal
  - Handouts related to the process

- CFAC & Site History

- Roux
  - RI/FS
  - Timeline
  - Water quality

- Other
  - Is it Superfund?
  - What is being done?
  - What is the end result?
  - Timeline
  - How will public receive project information?

- CLP
  - What is the CLP?
  - Provide copies of recent project update brochures

Mary asked members to recommend ideal locations that could accommodate the event. Clarence Tabor suggested a large room that could accommodate more than 800 people from across the Flathead County. Mary said she would like to see the event take place at venue in Columbia Falls, near the project site. Lyle Mitchell suggested the Columbia Falls High School's Little Theater, Gymnasium or Cafeteria. The CLP agreed that those locations would be large enough to accommodate the logistics required for the session. Mary said Ann Green Communications will follow-up with the high school to check availability for the recommended

locations.

Mary asked members to share preferred methods to promote the session. The following were suggested:

- Local television (channels 8, 13, 11, and 10)
- Postcards
- Project update brochure
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Reader board at local banks
- City of Columbia Falls website
- Chamber of Commerce Website/Facebook page
- Flyers at the library and other targeted locations

Project Update

Cliff Boyd shared an update related to the auction. Over 600 people viewed the items or attended the auction; 450 people registered. Eight hundred lots were sold accounting for 2,200 different items. Those who purchased items must remove them from the site no later than August 31st. Cliff said the auction was a success and many previous CFAC employees were in attendance.

In terms of demolition, Cliff said the pot lines are next and work is being done under roof to remove the anode. He noted there are 10 pot lines and 600 pots. Cliff said anodes on line 1 will be removed. The carbon is being recycled and sent to steel mills for reuse. He added that the cathode will remain in place with the heel on it.

Transformers in the west transformer rectifier are being drained. Cliff stated that Calbag received permission to abate asbestos at the west rectifier, rod mill and ore unloading station. He added that the pot lines will be there for one more year. He noted that a plan has been submitted to MDEQ for handling and disposal of spent pot liner.

There are 46 people working at the site, of which 32 are local residents. Cliff noted that 18 of the 32 live in Columbia Falls. Cliff said 18-20 additional people will be hired as the project ramps up. As the project continues, up to 90 people will work on the project.

Cliff reported that smoke may be visible from the dormers as aluminum busbar is removed. He noted that Chief Hagan conducted a spot inspection of the operation and no issues were noted. Cliff said as the weather get cooler, smoke will become more visible.

Responding to a question from Nino, Cliff said the carbon from the anode is sent to a licensed recycler in Oregon that reprocesses it and uses it as fuel for steel mills. Nino asked if there is asbestos on the anode. Cliff replied, yes and said it has been removed. Cliff added that Calbag prepared a 700 page asbestos document and has taken 1,400 samples at the plant.

Donations

Steve Wright and Cliff Boyd mentioned several donations including steel and a storage rack, welding and forming tables to Columbia Falls High School; lathe, drill press and forming machine to Flathead Valley Community College; and boulders that were located around the lab were donated to Whitefish Veterans Park.

Cliff noted 400 unopened sleeping bags, numerous cots and pillows were found in the warehouse. He asked members to suggest local non-profit organizations that may be able to use them. Several organizations were mentioned; however, the CLP suggested the United Way be contacted as they serve as a clearinghouse for most of the local non-profit organizations.

New Business: Hydrogeology

Mary introduced Mike Ritorto, Roux Associates. Mike holds a Masters in Geology from the University of Florida. His expertise is in groundwater modeling and flow. Mike was involved with the writing of the RI/FS work plan.

Hydrogeology is focused on groundwater movement. It is dictated by regional geology and site specific geology. Hydrogeology helps us understand how groundwater moves beneath the site (how much, in what direction, and how fast).

Mike Ritorto shared an overview of hydrogeology of the Kalispell Valley. He said CFAC is located within the northeast section of the Kalispell Valley, which is part of the Rocky Mountain chain. The valley was shaped and filled as a result of an ice sheet advancing south almost 2.6 million years ago, during the glacial period. Mike said glacial recession resulted in the formation of glacial features in the valley including Flathead River and unconsolidated glacial deposits.

Mike Ritorto defined till land outwash, two significant features that helped to shape the region's topography. Till is material that is not organized into distinct layers. Till consists of particles ranging from clay to boulders. Outwash is material organized into horizontal layers or bands. It consists mainly of coarse sand and gravel. As the material is deposited it shapes the features of the land.

Mike Ritorto discussed ways the site-specific hydrogeology is evaluated. Drilling of soil borings will be conducted to understand the geology beneath the subsurface. Monitoring wells will measure groundwater elevation and interpret groundwater flow direction. Aquifer testing will determine potential aquifer yield and permeability. Mike Ritorto added that each of these methods will be used across the site.

Mike Ritorto shared a map of the proposed RI/FS boundary, which was defined by evaluating existing data completed by previous CFAC consultants. He reviewed the proposed Phase I Hydrogeolgy investigation components which include existing and new monitoring wells

as well as deep monitoring wells.

After reviewing the map, Nino asked why wells were not put closer to Aluminum City and near drinking wells. Mike Ritorto stated that this is a starting point for Phase I and is subject to review by EPA. Mike Ritorto also stated that Roux will assess the locations of the wells depending on what is found during Phase I. He added that to date, the areas of concern are near the landfills. He said Roux believes these are adequate for Phase I. Joe Russell agreed it is adequate, however, he did not understand why wells are not planned between the plant and residents. Mike said all wells that were sampled within Aluminum City are under drinking water standards. Mike Cirian added that the location of the wells will be evaluated as part of the process.

It was noted that events may move contamination at different times of the year. Mike Ritorto noted that the plan has quarterly sampling for seasonal changes.

Nino Berube said there is no fact-based knowledge to defining the locations of the existing 25 wells. Nino said cyanide is known to be in certain areas, but there are no wells located in those areas. Mike replied that the proposed new well locations were selected based on a review of the existing data with the goal of defining the nature and extent of contamination, if any. Nino also questioned why there were no proposed samples within Cedar Creek. Mike Ritorto replied that three to four surface water samples are proposed for collection in Cedar Creek, and that the discussion today was about groundwater samples only.

Clarence Tabor asked if wells are located up-river to establish what is there, whether or not it is related to CFAC. Mike Ritorto said approximately 7 surface water samples are proposed for surface water, with some being up gradient of the Site groundwater flow.

Nino Berube asked if there is any chance to abandon the island and lagoon to make the river run as it did in 1946. Mike Ritorto said that remedial alternatives will be evaluated as part of the feasibility study.

When asked why wells are not located in landfills to characterize the water beneath there, Mike Ritorto said some have engineering controls such as a cap. He said the landfills can be assessed by wells at the perimeter of the landfill.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mike Cirian encouraged those with questions or comments to review the RI/FS Work Plan online and to email remarks to Roux.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will include a presentation on the soil and groundwater sampling process and lab analysis. The meeting will take place on Thursday, September 10 at North Valley Hospital Teakettle Community Room located at 235 Nucleus Avenue, Columbia Falls. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.; a buffet dinner will be available at 5:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday, September 10, 2015**
5:30 p.m. – Dinner
6:00 p.m. – Meeting
Location: North Valley Hospital Teakettle Community Room
Topic: Overview of Soil and Groundwater Sampling and Laboratory Processes