

CFAC Completes Site Characterization First Phase

Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, LLC (CFAC) has completed the first phase of site evaluation work at the former Anaconda Aluminum smelter site. The results confirm site groundwater issues are caused by closed landfills located on the site and indicate the groundwater is not flowing toward Aluminum City. This portion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) will be used to develop risk assessment work plans and the sampling and analysis plan for the second phase of investigation.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) have oversight for all work performed at the site. The agencies received the Phase I Site Characterization Data Summary Report in late February and their review of the report is currently ongoing. The overall work associated with the RI/FS began in early 2016 and is expected to continue into 2021.

Phase I Study Includes Sampling of Soil, Sediment, Groundwater & Surface Water

Phase I work involved collecting more than 700 samples (soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment) and installing 44 monitoring wells. The seven-month process was completed on time, which is critical to keeping the RI/FS work on schedule.

Specifically, the Phase I work included the following field tasks:

- 44 groundwater monitoring wells installed.
- 20 existing groundwater wells redeveloped for use as monitoring wells.
- Soil-gas screening activities completed at 29 locations.
- 95 soil borings completed at locations throughout site.

- Composite soil samples also were collected from 43 grids in the operational areas.
- Soil samples at various depths collected for analysis.
- Test pits were dug to evaluate the asbestos landfill areas.
- Surface water samples collected from key areas, such as site ponds, the Flathead River and Cedar Creek.
- Sediment samples collected from key areas, such as site ponds, the Flathead River and Cedar Creek.
- 60 groundwater monitoring wells sampled in September 2016 (Round 1).
- Second and third rounds of sampling of the groundwater monitoring wells were completed in December 2016 and March 2017, respectively.
- Seven test pits were dug in the borrow area to collect soil samples for analysis. Soil from the borrow pit area is intended for use as backfill for main plant building basements and cavities. The backfill borrow area is permitted under MDEQ's open-cut permit program.
- Geophysical surveys and ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys were completed on site and at landfill areas to gain a better understanding of subsurface conditions.

The investigation determined groundwater beneath the CFAC site has been impacted by materials placed in the legacy landfills, which operated from 1955 to 1980. The studies indicate the material in groundwater is not moving toward drinking water wells in Aluminum City. The RI/FS will evaluate remedial alternatives to address the sources.

Field work for this summer will include:

- Asbestos landfill surface sampling.
- Groundwater hydraulic conductivity evaluation.
- Continued quarterly sampling.
- Excavation of onsite backfill to fill pot room basements has been initiated. Top soil has been set aside for later use during reclamation.

Remaining work for 2017 will include:

- Data review by the US EPA.
- The fourth round 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 draft risk assessment work plans for the site are due to the agency in the fourth quarter of 2017, pending resolution of the USEPA/MDEQ comments and finalization of the Phase I Data Summary Report.

Demolition Update

Demolition continues at the site and is currently projected to be complete by December 2018. The demolition of the Change House (employee shower and locker facility) and Laboratory Building were completed in 2016 as was anode removal from the pot line buildings. The Cast House is also being demolished.

Recent activities:

- Cathodes have been removed from six of the ten pot line buildings.
- Spent pot liner is being shipped to an appropriate treatment facility outside Montana. This facility is licensed to accept the material and is regulated by all applicable local, state and federal laws.
- West side Rectifier Building in the electrical substation has been demolished.

Next Phase of RI/FS Work

The next steps of the RI/FS include preparation of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment Work Plans and the Phase II Sampling and Analysis Plan. These plans will outline the additional data that needs to be collected to complete the risk assessment process. The Phase II Sampling and Analysis Plan will outline the Scope of Work planned for the next phase of the site investigation. The plan will be submitted to the agencies for review and approval in fourth quarter 2017.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

*These dates are subject to the USEPA's review and may change based upon the agency's feedback.

This brochure is printed as an information piece. Its purpose is to provide updates about the CFAC Project.



ROUX Environmental Consulting & Management

CFAC Community Liaison Panel

In May 2015, as a tool for communicating with the local and regional community residents and leaders, Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) organized a community group to meet on a regular basis. The CFAC Community Liaison Panel's (CLP) purpose is to provide a forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas and opinions about the project. Those involved represent the community, project consultants, state and federal agencies and CFAC.

The most recent CLP meeting was held on April 19, 2017, and included presentations by CFAC's consultant, Roux Associates, and by USEPA. Roux's presentation focused on explaining the scope and results of the Phase I work summarized above. EPA's presentation described their ongoing review of the Phase I report, and provided an overview of where the site fits within the Superfund process. Roux and EPA fielded questions from the attendees regarding the results of the Phase I investigations and regarding the next steps in the process.

The next meeting of the community liaison panel is scheduled for late 2017, at a specific date and location to be announced. The meetings are open to the public; those interested in attending are asked to contact **Vonda Matthews at 1-800-784-4343**.

For more information about the project or the community liaison panel, contact **Ann Green at 1-877-384-7036**.

Various Resources Make Draft Phase I Report Available for Review

- Roux Inc. website www.rouxinc.com/cfac-phase-I-site-characterization-data-summary-report
Email comments to: CFAC-Comments@rouxinc.com
- USEPA - <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0800392>
Email comments to: [Mike Cirian, Cirian.Mike@epa.gov](mailto:Mike.Cirian,Cirian.Mike@epa.gov)
- MDEQ - <http://deq.mt.gov/DEQAdmin/cfac>
Email comments to: [Lisa Dewitt, ldewitt@mt.gov](mailto:Lisa.Dewitt,ldewitt@mt.gov)
- CFAC Community Liaison Panel website
<http://www.cfacproject.com/>
- Columbia Falls Branch of Flathead County Library
130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT
Phone: 406-892-5919. Library visitors interested in reviewing the material should ask for assistance from Tony.



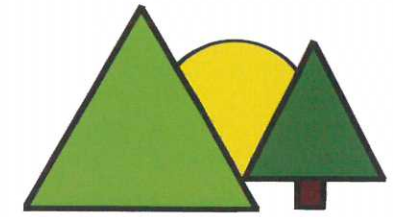
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CFAC

Columbia Falls Aluminum Company

Project Update

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