

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 next meeting of the community liaison panel is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at a location to be announced. The Phase I report will be presented. 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 Mary Green at 1-877-384-7036.

Columbia Falls Aluminum Company
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Columbia Falls Aluminum Company

Project Update

Issue #10

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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 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.

First Phase 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 round of sampling of the groundwater monitoring wells completed in December 2016. (The next sampling round is scheduled for March 2017.)
- A borrow area to supply material to backfill basements and cavities was cleared. The backfill borrow area is permitted under MDEQ's open-cut permit program.
- Seven test pits dug in the borrow area to collect soil samples for analysis.
- Geophysical surveys and ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys 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.

Roux Inc. collected the data and will prepare the risk assessment. The company's work experience covers

35 years and includes involvement in complex environmental remediation projects, including Superfund sites, chemical facilities and manufacturing plants. Roux's services include environmental site assessment and remediation work.

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.

Various Resources Make Draft Phase I Report Available for Review

- Roux Inc. 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@epa.gov
- MDEQ <http://deq.mt.gov/DEQAdmin/cfac>
Email comments to: Lisa.Dewitt@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.

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.