

Next Steps

With the submittal of the Draft Feasibility Study Work Plan and the Final Remedial Investigation Report, progress moves toward preparing the Feasibility Study for submittal to the agencies by March 12, 2021. The draft Feasibility Study Work Plan is being reviewed by the state and federal agencies at this time.

Site Structures

Demolition work was completed in September 2019.

Several structures remain at the site and can be used in redevelopment efforts. These include the administration building, the main warehouse, two ancillary warehouses and the fabrication shop.

CFAC Community Liaison Panel

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 CLP is proposed for the Fall of 2020. The date and time have not been determined. The meeting will be open to the public; those interested in attending are asked to contact Mary Green at 1-304-932-7673. At that time, details from the three reports will be shared with the community.

For more information about the project or the community liaison panel, please contact Mary Green at 1-304-932-7673.

Project Team and Regulatory Oversight

CFAC and its technical consultant, Roux, prepared the reports with guidance for the risk assessment portions from EHS Support from Pittsburgh, PA. EHS is an environmental, health and safety consulting firm known for its work in human health and ecological risk assessment within the Superfund program.

All work for the project must follow federal, state, and local laws and guidelines. The law specific to Superfund work is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). It was enacted in 1980 and was reauthorized in 1986. The Environmental Protection Agency oversees the project in consultation with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and must review and approve all portions of the RI/FS work.

Reports and Resources

Roux Inc.

Email comments to: CFAC-Comments@rouxinc.com

EPA Website:

www.epa.gov/superfund/columbia-falls

Email comments to Mike Cirian:

Cirian.Mike@epa.gov

MDEQ

Website: <http://deq.mt.gov/DEQAdmin/cfac>

Email comments to Dick Sloan: rsloan@mt.gov

Phone: (406) 444-6454

CFAC Community Liaison Panel

Website: <http://www.cfacproject.com>

Mary Green: 1-(304)-932-7673

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.

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For more information about the
Community Liaison Panel, contact Mary Green
at 1-(304) 932-7673.

Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Project Update

Issue #19

Spring 2020



Overview

Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) purchased the Anaconda Aluminum Smelter in 1999 after 44 years of operation by Atlantic Richfield, its predecessors and other parties. The Anaconda Aluminum Smelter ceased operations in 2009.

In November 2015, CFAC and the EPA signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), which specified CFAC's responsibilities associated with the completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Superfund Site (site). The site was formally added by the EPA to the national priorities list on September 9, 2016.

Remedial Investigation Feasibility Task Schedule	Completion Dates
<u>AOC is Executed</u>	November 30, 2015
<u>Project Planning/Subcontractor Procurement</u>	January – March 2016
<u>Site Reconnaissance/Geographical Survey/Soil Gas Screening</u>	April 1, 2016
<u>Sampling and Analysis Plan Addendum</u>	June 8, 2016
<u>Phase I Site Characterization Field Program</u>	May – October 2016
<u>Final Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Report (SLERA)</u>	February 24, 2017
<u>Final Phase I SC Summary Report</u>	February 27, 2017
<u>2017 Field Activities – Groundwater Sampling, Pneumatic Slug Testing and Asbestos Landfill Soil Sampling</u>	June – August 2017
<u>Groundwater and Surface Water Data Summary Report</u>	March 16, 2018
<u>Phase II Sampling and Analysis Plan</u>	May 3, 2018
<u>Phase II Site Characterization Field Program</u>	June – October 2018
<u>Final Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan</u>	September 28, 2018
<u>Final Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Work Plan</u>	November 15, 2018
<u>Phase II SC Data Summary Report</u>	July 29, 2019
<u>Final Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment</u>	July 29, 2019
<u>Final Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment</u>	July 29, 2019
<u>Draft Remedial Investigation Report</u>	September 27, 2019
<u>Draft Feasibility Study Work Plan</u>	December 4, 2019
<u>Final Remedial Investigation Report to Regulators</u>	February 21, 2020
	Estimated Completion
<u>Final Feasibility Study Work Plan</u>	3rd Quarter 2020
<u>Feasibility Study Report</u>	1st Quarter 2021

RI/FS Process and Its Importance

The two-part RI/FS process is used to develop a comprehensive understanding of site conditions and options for addressing issues related to former operations. The RI serves as the mechanism for collection of environmental data from the site. This information is used to characterize site conditions, determine the nature and extent of potential contamination, and to assess potential risk to human health and the environment.

The Feasibility Study (FS), the second portion of the process, uses the information gathered during the RI to develop screening and evaluation methods for various remedial actions that might be needed for the site. Each part of the process is dependent on the other, and both are critical to determine what must be done to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. Within both the RI and FS, there are multiple actions undertaken. For the CFAC Site, the process began in 2015 and will extend into 2021.

RI/FS Status Report

The project team met another major milestone February 21, 2020, when it submitted the final Remedial Investigation Report to regulators. The report is the culmination of over two years of on-site testing to form a comprehensive assessment of site conditions and their potential to impact human health and the environment. Specifically, the report includes detailed assessments of site soil, sediment, surface water and ground water conditions. It also includes detailed assessments of theoretical risks to human health and site ecosystems from those conditions that will be key to evaluating potential responses in the Feasibility Study.

The report concluded that site conditions pose no risk to human health or ecosystems off-site, including Aluminum City or the main stem of the Flathead River. The report did identify areas on-site that require further assessment in the Feasibility Study, including the North Percolation Ponds, the main plant operational areas, and the landfill area. The primary constituents of concern were polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soil and cyanide and fluoride in groundwater. The North Percolation Pond soils also contained elevated levels of cyanide and fluoride that will require further evaluation. CFAC will likely further assess ecological impacts in the backwater seep area of the Flathead River and the South Percolation Ponds.

CFAC remains on schedule to meet the deadlines agreed to with regulators.

The next phase of the RI/FS work is for CFAC to prepare a draft FS report and submit to regulators by October 12, 2020. The final FS is to be submitted by March 12, 2021.

CFAC has received inquiries regarding potential Site reuse and remains open to discussing site development opportunities with other interested parties.