



October 11, 2019

Stan Christensen  
Region 8 EPA Superfund Section Chief  
1595 Wynkoop St.  
Denver, CO 80202

**Re: DEQ Response to Use of Settlement Funds of O&M-Specific Items, Libby Asbestos Superfund Site**

Dear Stan,

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received and reviewed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommendations within the August 19, 2019 letter regarding some unresolved issues involving the performance of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and available EPA settlement O&M funding at the Libby Asbestos Superfund site (Site). DEQ is mindful of the EPA's recommendations and recognizes the constraints of EPA O&M funding. DEQ looks forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to finalize the Institutional Control and Implementation Plan (ICIAP) and O&M Plan that will further guide discussions of the availability of EPA O&M funding.

Both EPA and DEQ recognize that the Asbestos Resource Program's (ARP) role in O&M is to protect the remedy in the Libby and Troy communities. As indicated in your letter, DEQ agrees that property owners should contact ARP prior to work and coordinate with ARP, as appropriate.

DEQ appreciates our collaborative discussions on these and other O&M issues. We value our ongoing teamwork with EPA and Lincoln County and these committed partnerships will help us finish developing and implement the O&M Program to maintain a protective remedy with consideration of long-term planning of all available funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolina Balliew".

Carolina Balliew  
Federal Superfund Section Supervisor  
1225 Cedar Street  
Helena, MT 59601

Cc: Lisa Dewitt  
Jenny Chambers  
Tom Stoops  
Jessica Wilkerson JW  
Mike Cirian, EPA  
Dania Zinner, EPA  
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