



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

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Mr. Mark Peck  
Lincoln County Board of Commissioners  
512 California Avenue  
Libby, Montana 59923

APR 16 2019

Dear Commissioner Peck:

I am writing in response to your letter dated March 12, 2019, to Regional Administrator Doug Benevento, which outlined concerns regarding several issues related to operations and maintenance (O&M) of Operable Units (OUs) 4 and 7 of the Libby Asbestos Superfund site (Site).

Those concerns are summarized as follows:

- Providing clarification to the future responsibilities for property owners dealing with Libby Amphibole (LA) asbestos,
- Providing guidance on how extra costs (referred to as the “delta”) at residential properties due to presence of LA will be documented and handled during O&M,
- Clarifications regarding memorialization of the Environmental Protection Agency’s commitment to retain excess settlement funds for use on O&M at the Libby Asbestos site,
- The hiring of a facilitator to work with the O&M group, and
- A written request for a project milestone timeline that leads to the end of construction to operational and functional (O&F) and then to O&M.

My staff, particularly Mike Cirian, looks forward to continued collaboration with all stakeholders throughout the O&F process and continuing into the O&M period. The EPA commits to continuing to work to clarify responsibilities of Lincoln County property owners if LA is encountered, what would be considered “delta” costs for those encounters, and how to deal with LA. During the O&F process, the O&M Work Group will finalize these procedures in draft institutional control (IC) and O&M plans. There will be opportunities for public comment, before final ICs will be memorialized in an Explanation of Significant Differences.

As previously memorialized in a letter to Governor Steve Bullock, excess settlement funds will be retained for the Site, to be used if other existing and planned O&M funding resources are insufficient.

The EPA fully supports the hiring of a facilitator and will continue to work with the O&M group through the facilitation process.

A written project milestone timeline was provided to George Jamison, Virginia Kocieda, and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and we have enclosed a copy with this correspondence.

As always, we will try to improve our communication efforts regarding future milestone deliveries to assist with moving forward to a successful O&M.

For specific questions, please contact the site Remedial Project Managers, Mike Cirian at (406) 293-6194 or Cirian.Mike@epa.gov, and Dania Zinner at (303) 312-7122 or Zinner.Dania@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Debra H. Thomas  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Lisa Dewitt, Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Jenny Chambers, Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Tom Stoops, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

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