



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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Sent via electronic mail (lccomms@libby.org)

Lincoln County Commissioners
512 California Avenue
Libby, Montana 59923

Re: Operations & Maintenance Funding, Libby Asbestos Site

Dear County Commissioners:

The EPA appreciates our continuing partnership with Lincoln County at the Libby Asbestos site (Site), particularly as we have recently celebrated progressing multiple operable unites (OUs) from active remediation to the State-lead operations and maintenance (O&M) phase and de-listing from the National Priorities List. The County continues to play a critical role in maintaining the long-term protectiveness at the Site.

You have requested that we provide account balances of funds remaining in the special accounts the EPA established for the Site with the proceeds of various settlement agreements. The following account balances are unaudited and are the EPA's best current estimates. The EPA's O&M-dedicated special account currently holds approximately \$11 million, and the EPA's remedial action-dedicated special account currently holds approximately \$26 million. This is more than previously estimated due to unused funds coming back to the remedial action-dedicated special account. We encourage Lincoln County, the Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee (LASOC), and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to seek these balances from our project manager, Dania Zinner, whenever needed.

The EPA also encourages the County, LASOC, and MDEQ to closely monitor annual budgets and costs incurred in implementing O&M as the O&M-dedicated special account, along with other sources of funding available to the State, are intended to cover the costs of O&M into perpetuity.

The EPA would be happy to join meetings of the LASOC or the County Commissioners at any time to further discuss the implementation of O&M at the Site, as well as our continued progress at OU3 and our goal of de-listing OUs 4 and 7.

Sincerely,

K.C. Becker
Regional Administrator

cc: Dania Zinner, EPA
Beth Archer, EPA
Max Greenblum, EPA
Christina Prograss, EPA
Aaron Urdiales, EPA
Betsy Smidinger, EPA
Jason Rappe, MDEQ
Carolina Balliew, MDEQ
Matthew Dorrington, MDEQ
Christopher Dorrington, MDEQ/LASOC
Steven Gunderson, LASOC
Mike Cuffe, LASOC
George Jamison, LASOC