



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

July 8, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is updating the plan for cleanup of historic mine waste in the Upper Coeur d'Alene River Basin of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site. The proposed cleanup actions address areas of mining-related contamination along the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries and the Bunker Hill "Box," the 21-square-mile area surrounding the former smelter complex. The changes to the cleanup plan will result in a more complete cleanup of the Basin, will protect human health for the long-term, and will also ensure better protection for water quality, wildlife, and habitat. This is an important next step in cleanup of historic mine waste in the Coeur d'Alene Basin and the Bunker Hill Superfund Site.

The Proposed Plan presents cleanup alternatives to protect people and the environment and is provided on the CD-ROM, unless you requested a hard copy. The CD-ROM also includes supporting documentation including this transmittal letter, the Proposed Plan Fact Sheet, the Draft Final Focused Feasibility Study Report, and an optional form for submitting comments to EPA.

EPA has already heard some initial concerns that this cleanup could impact future mining and affect mining jobs. In fact, EPA is confident that cleanup of historic wastes and responsible mining and mineral processing can proceed together in the Silver Valley. EPA has worked with Hecla Mining Company in an effort to develop language that acknowledges the interest in a continued vibrant mining industry. Although the language we've developed does not include every suggestion from Hecla, we believe it reflects a healthy balance.

In response to high public interest, EPA has set a public comment period of 45 days instead of the usual 30 days. **EPA is accepting written comments on the Proposed Plan from July 12 through August 25, 2010.** Please send comments on the Proposed Plan by August 25 to [cdabasin@epa.gov](mailto:cdabasin@epa.gov) or Coeur d'Alene Basin Team, US EPA, 1200 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 900, MS ECL-113, Seattle, WA 98101.

**EPA also invites you to an Open House and Public Meeting on August 4, 2010, at the Shoshone Medical Center, Health & Education Center, 858 Commerce Drive, Smelterville, ID 83868.** The Public Meeting, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., is your chance to provide oral comments on the Proposed Plan for the record. Just before the Public Meeting, there will be an Open House – an informal opportunity to meet project staff, see displays, and ask questions. The Open House runs from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. You can submit written comments at the Open House or Public Meeting. There will be no formal presentations or recording of oral comments at the Open House.

We encourage your review of the Proposed Plan and welcome your participation at the upcoming meetings. We hope that you will participate and share your views. If you have questions, please contact Anne Dailey at [dailey.anne@epa.gov](mailto:dailey.anne@epa.gov) or 800-424-4372, 206-553-2110 or Bill Adams at [adams.bill@epa.gov](mailto:adams.bill@epa.gov) or 800-424-4372, 206-553-2806. For more information online, please visit <http://go.usa.gov/igD> or <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/bh+rod+amendment>.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director  
Office of Environmental Cleanup

Enclosure