

From: [DHONT, JEFF](#)
To: [Keener, Bill](#)
Subject: FW: Sen McCain Letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Regarding Dewey-Humboldt Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site.
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 4:35:00 PM
Attachments: [Update on EPA Activities at Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Superfun....pdf](#)
[April 2016 EPA Dewey Humboldt Newsletter Entry.pdf](#)
[Email to Sue Tone regarding IKHS with Delisting and Process Issue.msg](#)
[McCain letter signed 042716.pdf](#)

Bill,

See here email I sent to you and Brent and others on May 25. The attached file "Update on EPA Activities..." is the letter we sent to the council in February.

Jeff

From: DHONT, JEFF

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 1:10 PM

To: Maier, Brent <Maier.Brent@epa.gov>

Cc: Parker, Heather <Parker.Heather@epa.gov>; Yogi, David <Yogi.David@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>; Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>; Henning, Loren <Henning.Loren@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Keener, Bill <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; PerezSullivan, Margot <PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Sen McCain Letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Regarding Dewey-Humboldt Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site.

Hello Brent,

I am writing to you, and others involved, in response to your voice mail inquiry today regarding the letter sent by Senator McCain's office regarding the Iron King / Humboldt Smelter (IKHS) Superfund Site, as prompted by the town of Dewey-Humboldt. Specifically you asked whether we had anticipated the town council writing to McCain, and what we had done with the community in advance. You also asked whether we anticipate having a satisfactory response to the letter. Yes, we have anticipated for about three months that the town council may write a letter to Senator McCain. We first learned of the possibility from a news reporter, Sue Tone, who routinely attends all town council meetings and called to ask some questions. In anticipation and to reach out to the community, we did take several actions well before the letter was sent. The following materials are pertinent to this matter, and I've attached them above:

1. Update on EPA Activities.... File: This is a letter we sent to the town council in March to make contact and explain progress and plans we have been making.
2. April 2015 EPA Dewey Humboldt Newsletter Entry – this was an entry EPA made in the town newsletter with much the same information – all residents get a copy of this each month.
3. EMAIL to Sue Tone... - this is a thread but if you look at the second or third entry you'll see the email that Margot Perez-Sullivan sent, after coordination with us, to reporter Sue Tone's inquiry (Jan 21 2016)
4. McCain Letter signed 042716: This is the letter the town sent to Senator McCain which formed the basis/reason for his letter to Gina McCarthy. We got this from the town manager.

In addition, last week we held a routine conference call with other agencies involved in the site – ADEQ, ADHS, ATSDR, University of Arizona SRP, and we also had our TAG recipient, and the Dewey-Humboldt Town Manager on the line. When EPA's turn came to give updates, I provided a fairly lengthy explanation of our planning and next steps, including release of the full RI Report and risk

assessment, and importantly, [our plans to conduct a tiered removal action for residential soils cleanup](#). The Town Manager was privy to all of this discussion and asked questions.

I believe we have the basis for a good response to the senator's letter. Not only can we demonstrate our recent involvement and informing the community per the above, but we have a definite plan looking forward, including plans in the works for a removal action, completion of the feasibility study, and rough timelines for those. The senator's letter mentions the last effort at an RI report – but that report was deficient and incomplete, and EPA has since conducted a huge amount of additional information – both in residential and non-residential areas. The RI has been rewritten and is about to be resubmitted. The senator also appears to request that EPA submit its formal NCP proposed plan for the site...while we cannot do that now, we do have plans to get to that point and will be taking residential actions by removal action, in advance of the remedial proposed plan. We will begin work on addressing the letter.

Jeff

Jeffrey A. Dhont
Environmental Scientist / Superfund Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street Mail Stop SFD-6-2
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 972-3020
dhont.jeff@epa.gov



From: Maier, Brent

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 10:25 AM

To: Parker, Heather <Parker.Heather@epa.gov>; DHONT, JEFF <Dhont.Jeff@epa.gov>; Yogi, David <Yogi.David@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>

Cc: Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>; Duncan, Will <Duncan.Will@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Keener, Bill <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; PerezSullivan, Margot <PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Sen McCain Letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Regarding Dewey-Humboldt Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site.

All –

The Sen. John McCain letter has been entered into our Congressional Correspondence Management System (CMS) and I have attached the control information and incoming letter. I will prepare a Congressional yellow folder when I am back in the office on Tuesday, May 31st and deliver to Jeff Dhont. The letter has a response due date of June 8, 2016. Please begin working on a draft response. Thanks.

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne St. (OPA-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Ph: 415.947.4256

From: Maier, Brent

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 9:20 AM

To: Parker, Heather <Parker.Heather@epa.gov>; DHONT, JEFF <Dhont.Jeff@epa.gov>; Yogi, David <Yogi.David@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>

Cc: Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>; Duncan, Will <Duncan.Will@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Keener, Bill <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; PerezSullivan, Margot <PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov>

Subject: Sen McCain Letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Regarding Dewey-Humboldt Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site.

Importance: High

All –

Please see attached Sen. John McCain letter regarding the Dewey-Humboldt Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site. Expecting that this incoming letter to Administrator McCarthy will be controlled to Region IX. Once it is controlled to Region IX, I will forward on the control information and due date for a response and create a Congressional yellow folder and deliver to Jeff Dhont when I return to the office on Tuesday, May 31st. Superfund can begin drafting a response to Sen. McCain.

Please give me a call if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

75 Hawthorne St. (OPA-3)

San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: 415.947.4256

From: Michael, Emily (McCain) [mailto:Emily_Michael@mccain.senate.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 7:10 AM

To: Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Maier, Brent <Maier.Brent@epa.gov>

Cc: Matiella, Nick (McCain) <Nick_Matiella@mccain.senate.gov>

Subject: Sen McCain letter re. Dewey-Humboldt

Hello,

Please see attached for Senator McCain's letter to Administrator McCarthy.

Thank you,

Emily Michael

Legislative Correspondent

Sen. John McCain

218 Russell Senate Office Building

202.224.2235



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Superfund Division

February 17, 2016

Ms. Yvonne Kimball, Town Manager
Town of Dewey-Humboldt
Humboldt Station
2735 South Highway 69
Dewey-Humboldt, Arizona 86329

RE: An Update on EPA Activities at the Iron King/Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site

Dear Yvonne:

Here at EPA, we are aware that we have not made contact with the Town for some time. I would therefore like to provide you and the Council with a brief update about our activities at the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter (IKHS) Superfund site. If you could please forward a copy of this letter to councilmembers, it would be greatly appreciated. Let me begin by affirming that we continue to make progress on the site towards its remediation, though the timing of our work may understandably seem extended.

When we visited Dewey-Humboldt last year, we provided an overview of our cleanup remedy selection process along with an update on new information about residential and non-residential aspects of the site. Our primary focus, however, was on providing information about our sampling of residential yards. To this end, we provided community members with a fact sheet and showed residents detailed, color-coded maps of arsenic and lead levels found in yards. We had concluded at that time that soils at the great majority of the almost 600 residential yards we had evaluated did not pose a site-related unacceptable risk to residents. However, some yards did have levels that could pose a long-term risk. Owners of all homes we sampled in 2014 received letters with their results. In addition, we called those whose yards had clearly elevated levels of arsenic and lead to provide guidance and answer questions.

At the time of our last visit, we mentioned that we had not yet completed a critical piece of our work: the human health risk assessment. This evaluation looks in greater depth at all the yards – along with non-residential areas – and evaluates the actual site-related health risks that might exist from all metals and exposure pathways at the site. We use this more complete evaluation when making decisions about which yards will require cleanup actions.

We now have the human health risk assessment in full draft. In addition, we have also drafted the full remedial investigation report. We would like to finalize these reports and provide them to the Town and the public, with outreach, in about 2-3 months' time. The remedial investigation presents and analyzes the extensive sampling and other field work conducted over the last few years and characterizes the nature and extent of contamination at the entire IKHS site. This

information informs how we design cleanup options, not only for those residential yards that are affected, but also for the site's non-residential areas: the mine pile, the Chaparral Gulch, the smelter property and tailings swale, the great tailings flood plain, the dam, and the pathway to the Agua Fria River. Because the tailings are toxic, these non-residential areas do pose potential future environmental and human health risks if not addressed.

While it has been our intention to have returned to the Council and the public by now, we have been waiting to complete further outreach until, instead of reiterating that we are completing studies and working on reports, we can instead provide more tangible information about what we plan to *do* at the site, especially for residential properties. We are nearing the point where we can provide this information. Here are some elements of the current plan and status:

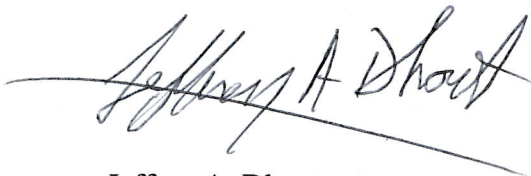
First, we are placing our highest priority on the cleanup of residential yards. We would like to focus first and foremost on mitigating any health risks where people live, and we are aware that uncertainty about whether cleanup actions will be required at a property can potentially affect home sale decisions. We are attempting to use an authority called "removal authority" at the site, which would allow us to take faster action at those yards where cleanup is required. This would also allow residents whose yards do not require any action to move forward knowing that their yards are not adversely affected by the site.

With the completion of our more thorough risk assessment, we will next be deciding our target cleanup levels for residential yards. At that point, it will be very important that we do significant outreach with the community.

In addition, we are also investigating *what* we would do at yards that require cleanup. So far, the residential cleanups we have completed at this site have entailed removing contaminated soil and replacing it with clean soil. However, we are also currently evaluating other cleanup options in order to identify the most efficient – and effective – cleanup method.

Though we cannot yet schedule our next public meeting, we hope to do so soon. In the meantime, if you or the Town Council have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, and we will certainly endeavor to answer them. We thank you for your patience with our process, and we look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Dhont
Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division



Heather Parker
Community Involvement Coordinator
Superfund Division

Iron King Mine / Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site

Environmental Protection Agency Updates on Current Work at Superfund Site

Here at EPA, we recognize that it has been some time since we provided an update about our work at the Iron King Mine / Humboldt Smelter (IKHS) Superfund site. We would therefore like to describe our current and recent activities at the site.

Key Reports. At the time of our last visit in spring of 2015, EPA mentioned that we had not yet completed two critical pieces of our work: the **human health risk assessment** and the **remedial investigation report**. EPA now has these two reports in draft and will present them to the Dewey-Humboldt community in a few months' time.

The completion of the remedial investigation report and the human health risk assessment are an essential part of the Superfund cleanup process, which EPA must follow at all Superfund sites. These reports will inform how EPA designs cleanup options, not only for the residential yards affected by the site, but also for the site's non-residential areas containing contaminated material, such as the site's tailings piles.

Residential Yards. As we proceed, EPA intends to prioritize residential yard cleanups, thus focusing first and foremost on mitigating health risks where people live. As we have discussed in our fact sheets and community meetings, soils in the vast majority of residential yards have not been contaminated by the site. However, cleanup action will be appropriate in some yards. Prior to starting cleanup, we will conduct extensive outreach to ensure residents are aware of our cleanup process and timeframe. So far, the residential cleanups that EPA has completed at the IKHS site have entailed removing contaminated soil and replacing it with clean soil. However, EPA is currently evaluating other cleanup options in order to identify the most efficient – and effective – cleanup method.

Drinking Water. EPA has recently received questions about arsenic contamination in private drinking wells in Dewey-Humboldt. Most private drinking water wells that EPA has sampled do not have arsenic above drinking water standards. However, levels are variable and groundwater in some locations in the Dewey-Humboldt area contains arsenic and other contaminants at levels above drinking water standards. *These contaminants are naturally occurring due to the surrounding geology and do not originate from tailings at the IKHS site.* EPA urges all Dewey-Humboldt residents using private drinking wells to get their tap water tested for lead and arsenic, and, if levels above drinking water standards are found, to install an in-home water treatment system. For more information about testing private drinking wells, please contact the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) at (602) 364-3128 or the University of Arizona at (520) 621-3516.

We will be reaching out in the next few months to plan our next public meeting. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns about EPA activities in Dewey-Humboldt, please contact Heather Parker, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (415) 972-3112 or parker.heather@epa.gov.

From: DHONT, JEFF []
To: Parker, Heather [Parker.Heather@epa.gov]
CC:
Subject: Email to Sue Tone regarding IKHS, with Delisting and Process Issue
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:47:15

Heather,

Please pass along to ADEQ. This is what we sent to Sue Tone after her inquiry prior to her article (we also talked to her by phone). The first main paragraph addresses delisting.

Jeff

From: PerezSullivan, Margot
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 4:12 PM
To: Susan Tone <stone@prescottaz.com>
Subject: RE: Iron King Humboldt Smelter Superfund site

Hi Sue, This is a bit long and take what you need for your story. Thanks! Also, here's a website that outlines the delisting process. <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-national-priorities-list-deletion>

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thanks again and happy new year.

The Iron King Mine / Humboldt Smelter site is on the Superfund National Priorities List. Through extensive investigations, EPA has identified and characterized many locations within the site where contaminants can pose a threat to human health or the environment. The federal Superfund law requires a specific process that starts with comprehensive investigation of the problem, development and comparison of cleanup alternatives, public input and involvement, and then leads to a determination as to the cleanup to be performed. After that, the cleanup is designed and implemented. A site is not considered for delisting – meaning to remove the site from the National Priorities List - until this process is completed for all aspects of the site.

EPA has now completed its investigation and is preparing to issue its remedial investigation report. Our investigation addresses the former mine, the 4 million cubic yard mine tailings pile, the former smelter, the very large amounts of toxic mine tailings backed up in the gulch and held back by a dam in the Canyon behind the smelter. It also includes investigation in the soils at over 400 residential properties. The residential cleanup is our first priority. We now know that soils in the great majority of yards we have tested do not pose an unacceptable risk to public health from the site. EPA is now completing a risk assessment for all the properties, identifying those that need to be cleaned up and developing a plan to

clean them up.

We expect to release the remedial investigation and risk assessment, and hold public outreach on residential cleanup this year. Our focus will then shift to developing cleanup options for the tailings, the mine, and the smelter. It is not an appropriate time in the process to consider delisting for the IKHS Site as the determination of cleanup

Margot Perez-Sullivan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
D: 415.947.4149

C: 415.412.1115

E: perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov <mailto:perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov>

From: Susan Tone [mailto:stone@prescottaz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 1:31 PM
To: PerezSullivan, Margot <PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov <mailto:PerezSullivan.Margot@epa.gov> >
Subject: Iron King Humboldt Smelter Superfund site

Hi Margot,

Thanks for giving me a call yesterday, sorry I wasn't at my desk.

Dewey-Humboldt Mayor Terry Nolan was at a meeting in which Sen. John McCain was in attendance. Nolan was requesting of McCain his support in efforts to "delist" IKHS from Superfund status. I believe D-H council member Doug Treadway spoke to the senator's aide afterward, telling him that Nolan was not speaking on behalf of the council or the town residents.

Nevertheless, I wanted an "official" comment from EPA about the possibility – or not – of delisting the site.

Part of the article will be historical, part bringing our readers up to date with the latest efforts by EPA. I think the April 2015 newsletter is all I have for update material.

If you have anything more recent I can pull from, please send it my way via email.

Thanks in advance. As indicated, my deadline is Friday, so anything you can possibly send by end of day Thursday would be great!

Sue

Sue Tone

Reporter

Prescott Daily Courier

928-445-3333 x 2043

stone@prescottaz.com <mailto:stone@prescottaz.com>



TOWN OF DEWEY-HUMBOLDT
P.O. BOX 69
HUMBOLDT, AZ 86329
Phone 928-632-7362 • Fax 928-632-7365

April 26, 2016

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
2201 East Camelback Road
Suite 115
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Dear Senator McCain:

In your conversation with Dewey-Humboldt Council Member Arlene Alen at the recent Tri-City Chambers of Commerce Luncheon, you advised that you would like to personally visit our community. We would love the opportunity to show you our fine community. Please contact the Town Manager, Yvonne Kimball, at 928-632-7362 to schedule your visit.

We, the Dewey-Humboldt Town Council, have also received your correspondence dated February 5, 2016, regarding the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site. We sincerely appreciate your offer of assistance in this matter.

You indicated that you recognize that there may have been some divisions in opinions amongst the Town Council regarding the Superfund site. However, what the Town Council does agree upon is that, as a community, we have grown tired of the continuing wait for eventual remediation. The site was designated a superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2006. Over ten years have passed with numerous studies and much research having been conducted, resulting in no tangible clean-up action plan, which was what we have been seeking. This prolonged process has taken a toll on our citizens and thwarted economic development in our area.

Further, over 75% of the Dewey-Humboldt residents are served by domestic wells and private septic systems. Since so much time has gone by without a resolution, there are health issues in our community that our citizens believe may be the result of the mine tailings and arsenic in their well water. The recent incident with the water supply in Flint, Michigan has only escalated the worry and concern of our citizens in regard to their domestic well water.

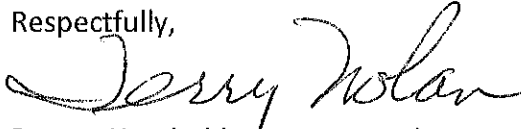
Instead of waiting for EPA, while there was no progress being made or a plan of action adopted, we independently took steps toward the resolution of this problem. The Town instituted a free well water testing program in order to enable our residents to determine the actual level of arsenic, copper and lead contaminants in their domestic well-produced water. Based on the results, we hope that our residents will make informed decisions for their families. Despite a significant impact on our tiny budget, Town Council was committed to this program, as the well-being of our citizens is of the utmost priority.

We are grateful that you are interested in assisting Dewey-Humboldt in our ongoing challenges with the EPA and the Superfund site. We appeal to you for help, as we realize that we cannot accomplish the clean-up goal by our own means. The Town Council, collectively, petitions you to direct the EPA to expedite the entire clean-up process for the Dewey-Humboldt Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Superfund site.

We want our community to be healthy with revived economic development. With your furtherance, we believe that our Superfund site clean-up process would be accomplished quickly.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Dewey-Humboldt.

Respectfully,



Dewey-Humboldt Town Council

Terry Nolan, Mayor

Doug Treadway, Vice Mayor

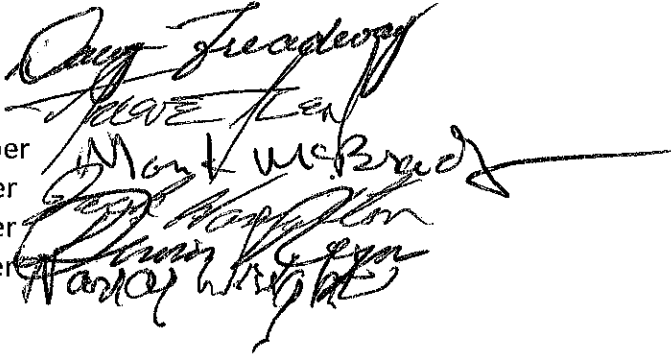
Arlene Alen, Council Member

Mark McBrady, Council Member

Jack Hamilton, Council member

Dennis Reban, Council Member

Nancy Wright, Council Member



cc: Senator Jeff Flake

Representative Paul Gosar