



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

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JUN 28 2018

Ref: 8EPR-SRD

The Honorable David Strohmaier, Chair  
The Honorable Jean Curtiss, Commissioner  
The Honorable Nicole Rowley, Commissioner  
Missoula County Board of County Commissioners  
199 West Pine  
Missoula, MT 59802-4292

**RE: Comments on the Draft Human Health Risk Assessment and Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Work Plan for Operable Units 2 and 3 at the Smurfit-Stone Mill Superfund Site**

Dear Commissioners Strohmaier, Curtiss, and Rowley:

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2018 transmitting Missoula County comments on the draft Human Health Risk Assessment and Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment Work Plan for Operable Units 2 and 3 at the Smurfit-Stone Mill Superfund site. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been thoroughly evaluating your extensive comments and working to incorporate the concerns into work plans for additional sampling, analysis, and evaluation to be conducted as part of the risk assessments and remedial investigation for the site. The EPA will provide a detailed response to your concerns in the next several weeks. As you requested, the risk assessments will not be finalized until after the requisite data can be collected and evaluated. There will be additional opportunity for review and comment on successive documents and drafts.

The EPA agrees that a thorough evaluation of site conditions and risks is required prior to making a decision for appropriate cleanup. The EPA agrees that a protective cleanup and redevelopment to promote beneficial reuse of the site are top priorities for Superfund. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Missoula County, other stakeholders, and the local community to complete the comprehensive investigation and cleanup in a timely manner to protect human health and the environment and revitalize the former Smurfit-Stone Mill site. We look forward to working with you to resolve your questions and concerns with the risk assessment process. If you have any questions or if you require additional information, please contact me or the Remedial Project Manager, Sara Sparks at (406) 782-7415.

Sincerely,

Joseph Vranka, P.E.  
Montana Superfund Unit Supervisor

cc: Senator Daines Office  
Senator Tester Office  
Congressman Gianforte Office  
Tom Livers, Montana DEQ