



Board of County Commissioners
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BCC 2018-141
May 22, 2018

Sara Sparks
sparks.sara@epa.gov
klarger@mt.gov

Dear Ms. Sparks,

We, the Board of County Commissioners, have reviewed the footage from the Missoula County Sheriff's Office showing tea-colored water being discharged from the Smurfit Stone Site yesterday afternoon. There is a clear differentiation of the color of this water and we are concerned that high water levels in the river have saturated contaminated sediments on the site and that these sediments are now being mobilized into the river channel since river elevations have receded. We are further concerned that contaminants may be mobilized to the Clark Fork River.

We request the EPA take immediate action to order collection of samples along the river side of the berm wall to determine if contaminants are being off site. We request that at least four samples be collected at equal intervals including downgradient of pond 2 and extending to pond 13A and that these samples be analyzed for dioxins and total metals. This sampling should occur before river levels come back up. In addition, we request EPA order a round of groundwater elevation data. It is important to determine how shallow groundwater depths are on the site, in particular, the areas around the dumps. We further request EPA order PRP's to collect groundwater samples to determine if further saturation of landfill materials are leaching into groundwater. In addition, the county recommends that sampling from the shallow ponded areas on site be expedited.

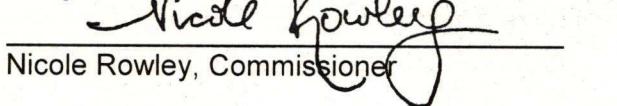
We are preparing to have river samples taken as well. This is a critical time to collect these samples.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


David Strohmaier, Chair


Jean Curtiss, Commissioner


Nicole Rowley, Commissioner

BCC/sb

cc: Travis Ross, Environmental Health