



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

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May 12, 2014

Earl Liverman
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
US EPA Coeur d'Alene Field Office
1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

**Re: O&M Following EPA Removal Action
Former Bonanza Mine – Douglas County, OR**

Dear Mr. Liverman:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) thanks EPA for collaborating with DEQ to conduct a Removal Action at the former Bonanza mine site. DEQ understands that EPA intends to complete a Removal designed to eliminate current and future human health exposure to mercury and arsenic associated with tailings and other contaminated soil and *debris* at the site. Further, it is our understanding that only limited State managed Operations & Maintenance (O&M) will be necessary following completion of the proposed Removal. To facilitate implementation of the Removal and required follow-up work, and in the event that the current land owner will not have the resources to fulfill O&M obligations, DEQ will conduct O&M at the site after the Removal is completed.

Subject to availability of funds and as DEQ's Orphan Site Account allows, DEQ will conduct annual site inspections of the areas of excavation, capped areas, repository, drainage below the repository, adit-closures, former pond (pending completion of dam removal), and will provide health-oriented fact sheets to residents. DEQ will identify areas of erosion or compromised areas of the caps and may conduct minor repairs as needed. DEQ may re-seed areas where removal action seeding did not provide a reasonable vegetative cover to reduce erosion. DEQ will conduct minimal post removal action sampling and analysis for up to 3 years. The sampling work will include mercury vapor analysis and mercury and arsenic particulate analysis in and around the new homes (to be provided as a part of the Removal) near the former mill site. The sampling work will also include analysis of methyl mercury in surface water and/or sediment in

Foster Creek to evaluate the effectiveness of the removal of the pond, if the EPA removes the pond. DEQ may be able to conduct additional annual sampling if funding is available.

Again, DEQ greatly appreciates EPA's support at the former Bonanza mine site and we look forward to the completion of the Removal. Please call Bryn Thoms at (541) 687-7424 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Kucinski".

Michael E. Kucinski
Manager, Western Region Environmental Cleanup Program

Cc: Steve Campbell, DEQ Orphan Program
Lauren Karam, Oregon Health Authority