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## BOARD OF PUEBLO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Shaun McGrath  
Regional Administrator, USEPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street, Mail Code: 8RA  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

May 13, 2016

Dear Mr. McGrath:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group (CAG). We would like to raise some issues of concern that we discussed at our CAG meeting this week. The group asked me to summarize the concerns and share them with EPA immediately.

First and foremost, please be assured that our community is totally committed to working cooperatively with EPA, the Colorado Department of Health and the Environment (CDPHE) and the Pueblo City-County Health Department (PCCHD). We very much appreciate the committed staff on this effort and their willingness to work with us as a team.

This week, the CAG met as a community-without our federal and state partners. This provided an opportunity to discuss issues of neighborhood concern and priority. What became quickly clear to all of us in attendance was that our collective level of frustration is quite high right now, and growing. Four items quickly rose to the top of the list.

### 1. Sampling Results

The CAG would like confirmation as quickly as possible from EPA that soil and dust results will be shared with us at the June meeting. In January, EPA stated that results would be available at our March meeting. We have had repeated delays but so far we have not heard the results. In some cases, homeowners have waited five months for their individual results. We understand if the results are preliminary and require further confirmation-but we would like a detailed report in June, when it has now been promised. The group discussed various ways to encourage EPA to share these results in June such as inviting the media, drafting a letter to our congressional members, and using social media. But, in keeping with our collaborative approach, we decided to begin with a letter.

### 2. Revitalization Effort

Last summer the EPA promised that the Visioning workshop would happen no later than the first quarter of 2016. As you might recall, the CAG expressed strong frustration with that timing and requested it happen sooner. This year, our community hosted its own visioning workshop as a way to kick-start the EPA effort. We would like confirmation of a date for when the workshop will be held and request the event be scheduled for no later than September 2016.

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### **3. Schedule**

We would all like a more detailed schedule of the Colorado Smelter Superfund process from start to finish, including anticipated deadlines. The Pueblo community has worked with the DOD process of using a Gantt chart in the past and found this extremely helpful. We understand that deadlines may move, but having a clear plan is essential to the public acceptance of this project and the economic health of our community.

### **4. Public Outreach**

There continues to be great public concern that information for protecting our health is not getting out to the community. At this meeting, the CAG selected a new chair for the public involvement workgroup, Julie Shue. The group anticipates meeting May 28 at 9:00 a.m. The location is yet to be determined, but the group would like the support of EPA, CDPHE, and the City-County Health Department. One immediate request is for EPA to quickly share with Amy Winegardner (Pueblo City School District 60) health information for children and their families. School ends June 7, but Ms. Winegardner believes that if quick action is taken, information can be sent home with children for the summer. The group would also like EPA to immediately provide information to day cares, nursery schools, and private schools in the area.

We also discussed our concern about our critical need to have facilitation assistance with the workgroups we have established and may establish in the future. Staff facilitation is needed to provide the legwork we need to make sure our workgroups are effective, efficient, and durable. We are hereby asking for such assistance.

We would like a response to the CAG by no later than May 27th on the above items so that we can move each of these items and have reportable progress by our next CAG meeting scheduled for June 14th.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration of these important concerns to our community.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Terry A. Hart*

Terry A. Hart  
Pueblo County Commissioner  
(On behalf of the Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group)  
719-821-8877 c

Cc:  
CAG  
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