



A JOINT LETTER FROM THE  
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF PUEBLO and  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, PUEBLO COUNTY

December 31, 2013

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor of the State of Colorado  
136 State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792

Subject: Proposed Listing of the Colorado Smelter site on the EPA's Superfund National  
Priorities List

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

We need your help to gain access for Colorado to millions of federal dollars that are potentially available to improve an historic area in Pueblo, protect public health, boost the local economy, provide badly needed local jobs, and make our community a cleaner, safer, more attractive place to live and work. This letter is being sent to formally request a letter from you to the EPA supporting the listing of the Colorado Smelter Site located here in Pueblo on the EPA's National Priorities List.

The US Environmental Protection Agency's Region 8 is actively considering the possible addition of the old Colorado Smelter site on Pueblo's south side to the National Priority list for cleanup. The site is contaminated with lead and arsenic and is adjacent to residential neighborhoods, portions of which are also contaminated.

People who live in these areas are routinely exposed to these toxic metals and are subjected to a number of immediate and long term negative health consequences, including brain and nervous system damage and increased cancer risk. Our youngest and growing children as well as our as-yet-unborn are especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of exposure to these toxins.

As elected officials representing Pueblo, we share responsibility for protecting the people, the neighborhoods, and the economy of this community. Yet neither the Pueblo community, nor our local governments, possesses the resources necessary to resolve this complex problem.

Thus we have concluded that the Superfund program is the most logical and best option to comprehensively address both the residential yard contamination as well as the residual slag pile and to provide the most appropriate clean up for this site. We are anxious to see the EPA proceed with listing of this site and anxious to see these historic areas restored to safe and productive use.

For the EPA to proceed, they need to hear from you that the State supports listing. We strongly urge you to write a letter to the EPA as soon as possible indicating your support for the listing of the Colorado Smelter Site on its Superfund National Priorities List and ask them to move forward expeditiously with this critical cleanup project. We would also respectfully request that your letter to the EPA request that the listing and cleanup process:

- ✓1. Assure the availability of federal, state, and other third-party funding to make certain that this project, once undertaken, does not languish;
  - ✓2. Assure that the neighborhood landowners, small business owners, and local governments are not held liable for the costs of the clean-up now or in the future.
  - ✓3. Make certain that funding is available for programs that focus on childhood well-being to include education programs which provide information to parents designed to reduce children's exposure to lead sources;
  - ✓4. Provide for meaningful community and local government input at all stages of the remedial process, from inception through completion, through appropriate methods including the establishment of a local advisory group, or groups, representative of all of the appropriate local interest groups including residents in the involved areas surrounding the smelter site and the City and County governments;
  5. Move quickly so that any negative consequences of this process are minimized;
  - ✓6. Isolate the slag pile and any other highly contaminated areas pending cleanup, and address publicly accessible areas first where imminent high-level threats are found, including homes, vacant land, commercial properties, and Benedict Park, with the goal of cleaning up and restoring those areas within five years if possible ;
  - ✓7. Set the boundaries of the Superfund site at the earliest possible date and change those boundaries only after ample notice and opportunity for meaningful local and state review and input;
  - ✓8. Ensure that the EPA and CDOT work together to maximize efficiency and assure adequate resources to expedite positive conclusion of both projects in the area;
  - ✓9. Ensure that quality of testing follows EPA guidance and that remediation results meet all federal and state soil and human health protection levels and that remediated land is safe and available for reasonable future uses;
  10. Provide job training grants that will foster workforce development and help with cleanup and revitalization, and assure that workers hired for the project have completed proper training programs;
-

11. Assist with the revitalization and long-term economic improvements of the neighborhood by ensuring that the "whole home" and surrounding soils (to include lead based paint) are cleaned up and improved; and

12. Ensure that the local economy and the Eiler's neighborhood are benefited by the characterization and cleanup activities, not harmed.

Many recommendations from area residents, including the Eiler's and Bessemer Neighborhood Associations, have been incorporated into this letter and it is anticipated that more questions and concerns will arise as the process proceeds and we learn more. We look forward to working with you and the EPA to assure that the entire effort involves and protects all of those affected by the cleanup effort.

We would be truly grateful for your support in this critically important matter for our Community.

Sincerely,

From City Council,  
City of Pueblo, Colorado:

Alvin M. Neri

El Bui

Jose G. Montoya

Doreen K. Day

Richard Kufman

Christy A. Hall

The Board of County Commissioners,  
Pueblo County, Colorado:

Terry A. Hart

Carl Kane

Wanda Rossie  
Robin McBride