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Summer 8-8-2023

Re: Approval letter for the Request for Change (RFC) to the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit (BPSOU) Request for Change (RFC)-BRW-2023-03 to the Final Butte Reduction Works (BRW) Smelter Area Mine Waste Remediation and Contaminated Groundwater Hydraulic Control Site Phase III Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (Phase III) (dated June 29, 2023).

Nikia Greene Environmental Protection Agency

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE

FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 West 15TH Street, Suite 3200 Helena, MT 59626-0096 Phone 866-457-2690 www.epa.gov/region8

Ref: 8MO

August 8, 2023

Mr. Josh Bryson Liability Manager Atlantic Richfield Company 317 Anaconda Road Butte, Montana 59701

Re: Approval letter for the Request for Change (RFC) to the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit (BPSOU) Request for Change (RFC)-BRW-2023-03 to the Final Butte Reduction Works (BRW) Smelter Area Mine Waste Remediation and Contaminated Groundwater Hydraulic Control Site Phase III Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (Phase III) (dated June 29, 2023).

Dear Josh:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in consultation with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is approving the *Request for Change (RFC)-BRW-2023-03 to the Final Butte Reduction Works (BRW) Smelter Area Mine Waste Remediation and Contaminated Groundwater Hydraulic Control Site Phase III Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (Phase III) (dated June 29, 2023)* with the following comment. Please attached the signature page and distribute this RFC-BRW-2023-03 as final.

Comment:

1. The EPA suggests that the water level sondes used in the piezometers could include conductivity probes to help determine if Silver Bow Creek (SBC) is acting as a groundwater recharge boundary. Recharge by SBC, if it occurs, should act to dilute the groundwater, resulting in lower conductivity readings. Please consider this suggestion when finalizing RFC-BRW-2023-03.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (406) 457-5019.

Sincerely,

Nikia Greene Remedial Project Manager

Attachments: signed RFF-BRW-2023-03 (electronic version).

Butte File

Chris Greco / Atlantic Richfield

Josh Bryson / Atlantic Richfield

Mike Mc Anulty / Atlantic Richfield

Loren Burmeister / Atlantic Richfield

Dave Griffis / Atlantic Richfield

Jean Martin / Atlantic Richfield

Irene Montero / Atlantic Richfield

David A. Gratson / Environmental Standards

Mave Gasaway / DGS

Adam Cohen / DGS

Brianne McClafferty / Holland & Hart

Daryl Reed / DEQ

Amy Steinmetz / DEQ

Dave Bowers / DEQ

Katie Garcin-Forba / DEQ

Carolina Balliew / DEQ

Jim Ford / NRDP

Pat Cunneen / NRDP

Katherine Hausrath / NRDP

Ted Duaime / MBMG

Gary Icopini / MBMG

Becky Summerville / MR

John DeJong / UP

Robert Bylsma / UP

John Gilmour / Kelley Drye

Leo Berry / BNSF

Robert Lowry / BNSF

Brooke Kuhl / BNSF

Lauren Knickrehm / BNSF

Doug Brannan / Kennedy Jenks

Matthew Mavrinac / RARUS

Harrison Roughton / RARUS

Brad Gordon / RARUS

Mark Neary / BSB

Eric Hassler / BSB

Julia Crain / BSB

Brandon Warner / BSB

Abigail Peltomaa / BSB

Eileen Joyce / BSB

Sean Peterson/BSB

Josh Vincent / WET

Scott Bradshaw / W&C

Emily Stoick / W&C

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