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Summer 8-8-2024

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

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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE**

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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
Brienne 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 Duaine / MBMG
Gary Icopini / MBMG
Becky Summerville / MR
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