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CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
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United States Senate

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The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I write to inquire on the status of the Dewey-Humboldt Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Superfund site. I have met personally with members of the Dewey-Humboldt Town Council concerning this matter, who are—as am I—eager for information on when and how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to address contamination at this site.

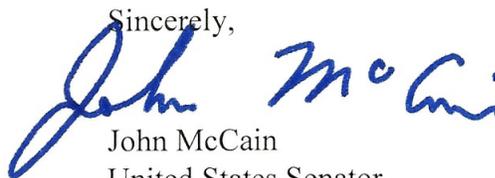
In 2008, the EPA added the Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter site to Superfund program's National Priority List. In 2010, the EPA released the results of the site's remedial investigation (RI). That investigation summarized the sources of contamination, risks to both human health and the environment, and the resulting need to remediate the contamination mining industries have left behind since the mine's opening in 1904.

As you know, the next step in the Superfund process is a feasibility study to evaluate and determine cleanup options for the site. That study, aimed at developing cleanup options, has been ongoing since the RI was completed back in 2010. In a report dated April 30, 2015, the EPA stated that sampling studies were completed in Dewey-Humboldt and that the EPA would “begin to study cleanup alternatives for the site.”

This cleanup is a priority matter for the Town of Dewey-Humboldt as the town is partly located between the mine and the smelter. Over 75% of Dewey-Humboldt residents are served by domestic wells and private septic systems.

With the foregoing in mind, I ask, on behalf of the Town of Dewey-Humboldt, that you (1) indicate when the EPA will complete its study of cleanup alternatives; (2) release a proposal to remove contaminants from the site; and (3) begin a public comment period in connection with its proposal. I appreciate your prompt consideration of this request, and I ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with all agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator