

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 0 2 2011

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Corrective Action Plan for OIG Report No. 11-P-0430,

An Overall Strategy Can Improve Communication Efforts at Asbestos

Superfund Site in Libby, Montana, August 3, 2011

TO:

James B. Martin

Regional Administrator, EPA Region 8

Thank you for your November 9, 2011, response to the subject report, which included revised actions planned by Region 8 to implement our three recommendations. We accept the revised corrective action plan and will close out recommendations 1, 2, and 3 in our tracking system.

On September 22, 2011, we received your initial corrective action plan, and we discussed the proposed plan with your staff. As a result of these discussions, your staff provided additional detail on how Region 8 plans to "strive, to the extent possible, for producing public information at or below a 12th grade reading level." The revised plan also gives details on identifying quantifiable measures of success and becoming aware of when certain customer satisfaction tools become available. Region 8 will also develop overall key messages that address public concerns and site activities. The revised plan also specifies completion dates for each activity associated with recommendations 2 and 3.

We appreciate your commitment to addressing the OIG report recommendations. In accordance with OIG policy, we will periodically follow up to determine how well the Agency's ongoing and planned actions have addressed the recommendations. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Wade Najjum, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation, at (202) 566-0827; or Eric Lewis at (202) 566-2664.

Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.

cc: Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response James Woolford, Director, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation Paul Anastas, Assistant Administrator for Research and Development