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Roderick K. Davey
Vice President & General Manager

12/035/002

Kennecott

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Dear Employee:

This spring, the Salt Lake County Health Department and the University of Cincinnati will be conducting a follow up environmental lead and arsenic study of children living along Bingham Creek in West Jordan and South Jordan. The study will be funded by Kennecott Corporation and ARCO.

The purpose of the study is to see how much lead is in the blood of children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers living in the Bingham Creek area and to determine the amount of lead in the environment. Because arsenic has also been found in the soils along Bingham Creek the study will also measure arsenic in the homes and in children's urine.

Children are most sensitive to lead poisoning and are most likely to have direct contact with the soils in question. There is a lot of controversy regarding the risk to human health from lead in mine waste. In several similar studies conducted in mining communities such as Butte, Montana and Aspen and Leadville, Colorado little or no direct connection has been found between lead concentrations in soils or tailings and lead concentrations in children's blood. The Salt Lake County Health Department wants to undertake a similar study to verify that the Bingham Creek tailings behave in a similar manner.

We want to keep you up to date on this project and would like to provide you with the following information:

BACKGROUND

To put the proposed study into perspective, it is helpful to have a little background on the history of the tailings in the Bingham Creek area.

From the late 1800's through the early 1930's lead tailings and some copper tailings were washed down the Bingham Creek channel and deposited along the length of the channel. Some of these tailings were washed into areas of the Bingham Creek flood plain that were later developed for residential purposes. Currently homes are located on or near the tailings.

The lead tailings are known to contain high concentrations of lead and arsenic. In contrast, the concentration of the lead and arsenic in the copper tailings is much lower. The companies responsible for the lead contamination are either now defunct or no longer operating in Salt Lake County. None of the lead tailings are related to Kennecott's Bingham Canyon Mine operations or its predecessors, but they are located on some of the property Kennecott currently owns.

When the Utah State Health Department discovered elevated levels of lead in soil in the Bingham Creek area in 1990, the state and EPA prepared a plan for removal of the contaminated soil.

In the summer of 1990, the Utah State Health Department conducted a blood lead level study of children living near the Bingham Creek area. The results showed no elevated bloodlead levels among the 157 children and 12 adults who participated. Although this study was useful in demonstrating the absence of adverse health effects, the study group was small and no environmental sampling was conducted.

In 1991, Kennecott and the United States Environmental Protection Agency worked together to remove lead contaminated soils from residential properties in the Jordan View Estates, where lead concentrations were found to be above 2500 parts per million. This year, Kennecott and the U.S. EPA will continue the cleanup to remove soil from the Bingham Creek Channel itself, even though no adverse health effects have been found to date.

The purpose of this investigation is to:

1) Determine whether children living in the Bingham Creek area show any elevated blood lead or urinary arsenic,

2) Measure sources of lead or arsenic in and around Bingham Creek area homes.

3) Determine how exposures in the Bingham Creek area compare with other communities across the country and verify that mine tailings have not created a public health hazard, as has been shown at other mining sites.

4) If any elevated lead or arsenic levels are found, provide Bingham Creek area residents with specific information about sources of exposure on their property and steps that can be taken to minimize such exposure.

Child lead exposure is a public health issue of concern nationwide. Because of this, Dr. Robert Bornschein of the Institute of Environmental Health at the University of Cincinnati, one of the nation's leading expert in childhood lead exposure, and his team will conduct the study.

In addition, the Utah State Departments of Health and Environmental Quality and the United States Environmental Protection Agency will be informed on the progress and results of this study. Both the West and South Jordan City Councils have been informed of the study and have offered assistance.

In order for this study to be as useful as possible, we need a large number of residents living near the lead tailings to participate. As Kennecott employees, you are in a unique position to provide information to our neighbors about Kennecott, our operations, and this program. We ask that you share the information in this letter with friends or family members who may live in the Bingham Creek area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Alexis Fernandez in our Government and Public Affairs Office at 322-8036.

Sincerely,

Roderick K. Davey

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RKD/sn