

Study: HJ18 Interim Study Poll Rank: 3 of 6

Short Title: Interim study of remediation at Smurfit-Stone Mill Site and future actions

Staff Recommendation: Environmental Quality Council

Preliminary Analysis

Issue(s) as listed in legislation:

- examine past and ongoing investigations into the extent of contamination at the [Smurfit-Stone mill site](#), assessment of risks to human health and the environment, and proposed options for cleanup;
- examine the creation, implementation, and ongoing operation of the [Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee](#) and related statutes pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 16, as a possible model for state involvement in the ongoing cleanup at Smurfit-Stone;
- offer recommendations, if any, to ensure full cleanup of the mill site, mitigation of risks to downstream communities, determination of impacts to the state fishery, restoration of the floodplain, and rehabilitation of the mill site as an economic driver for the Frenchtown community.

Preliminary study approach:

- Provide background on federal Superfund process in general and with Smurfit-Stone specifically. Understand process timeline up to current phase, which is Remedial Investigation and Risk Assessment.
- Understand process going forward. EPA project teams are examining contamination migration within and beyond the site and understanding risks. Study current institutional controls and evaluate options for future controls.
- Gather information and options from stakeholders including local, state, and federal agencies, community members, and property owners involved or responsible for site remediation.
- Examine similarities with Libby Superfund Site process and establishment of Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee.
- Field trips/public meetings in Frenchtown and Libby.

Deliverables; end products:

Report with recommendations, legislation by September 15, 2024

Role for LFD or LAD staff? Yes No

Role for Executive agency? DEQ

Additional costs, over meetings? _____ Yes x No

Estimated LSD staff time: 720 hours

Other comments:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE = 144 hrs = 18

.10 FTE = 288 hrs = 36 days

.25 FTE = 720 hrs = 90 days

.50 FTE = 1440 hrs = 180 days

.75 FTE = 2160 hrs = 270 days

1 FTE = 2880 hrs = 360 days