



September 11, 2024

Lemhi County Commissioners
206 Courthouse Drive
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Via email: clerk@lemhicountyidaho.org

Subject: Gilmore Townsite Letter and Citizen Petition

Dear Commissioners:

On August 12, 2024, you transmitted a letter and citizen petition outlining concerns and future expectations for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) related to the Gilmore townsite. After reviewing the letter, DEQ offers the following roadmap regarding the Gilmore townsite and Idaho's involvement with it point-by-point from your correspondence.

Item 1: Actively consider the wishes of the petitioners as outlined in the petition

For the Gilmore Townsite, DEQ will no longer conduct sampling of public spaces, will not request permission to access or sample private property, and will not continue providing information about potential options or opportunities to cleanup the contamination, unless specifically requested by private property owners.

DEQ's activities provided property owners and users with health risk information related to metal contamination at Gilmore and identified potential cleanup options to mitigate those health risks. The Superfund or National Priorities List (NPL) route was discussed as one of the potential cleanup options. DEQ's approach was to inform and educate stakeholders and obtain feedback from stakeholders through community engagement activities to determine the next steps at Gilmore.

Item 2: Express to federal and state agencies the local resistance to NPL actions

DEQ provided your letter and citizen petition to the EPA, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), US Forest Service (USFS), US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Idaho Department of Health Welfare (IDHW), and Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH). DEQ also informed state and federal health officials that DEQ will not be participating in future public outreach events such as the "Soil Shops" or community meetings such those held in Leadore. DEQ will also share this letter with the above-referenced agencies to inform them of DEQ's path forward.

Item 3: Continue providing information and technical support to individual landowners interested in minimizing any risk at their private property in Gilmore

DEQ welcomes individual landowners concerned about lead, arsenic, and other metal contamination to contact the DEQ office in Idaho Falls at 208.528.2650 with any questions about reducing exposures to metals when spending time at Gilmore.

Item 4: Establish informational kiosks or displays on State or BLM managed land about the history of Gilmore, the threats of contamination and safety information about historic abandoned mines

DEQ will provide support as IDHW seeks funding opportunities and explores options to install information kiosks outside of the Gilmore townsite.

Item 5: Regularly update Lemhi County on any potential actions under consideration by other agencies such as Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Department of Lands, EPA or ATSDR, etc

DEQ values the open communication with the County and will continue to share all the information we have which could benefit the citizens of Lemhi County.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if my office can provide any support related to items of mutual jurisdiction.

Sincerely,



Troy Saffle
Regional Administrator
Idaho Falls Regional Office

c: Gilmore Distribution
Beth Sheldrake, EPA
Eric Vanderboom, EPA
Kathy Price, Colt Dickman, Michael Witson, BLM
Kathy Zamba, USFS
Brigitta Gruenberg, IDHW
Shannon Chollette, Heath Hancock, IDL
Rhonda Kaetzel, ATSDR
Kellye Johnson, EIPH
Dana Swift, Micheal McCurdy, Dean Ehlert, DEQ