

**UNOCAL** 

**MOLYCORP**

September 27, 1996

Mr. LeRoy S. Person  
Project Manager  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Low Level Waste and Decommissioning  
Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and  
Safeguards  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Community Outreach  
License(SMB 1393)

Dear Mr. Person:

As mentioned in my phone message, I am enclosing for your review a short-term plan describing communications activities to be conducted by Molycorp, Inc. in the remediation of its Canton Township, Washington County facility. We believe the steps outlined in the plan will provide a very comprehensive introduction of this project to the community.

The community outreach activities in this plan are generally consistent with those applied to the remediation of properties under the federal Superfund program, along with project-specific elements.

Molycorp is eager to initiate this initial plan as the first step in establishing a baseline of understanding. I am available at (412) 222-5605 if you or others at the NRC wish to discuss our plan in greater detail.

Thank you in advance for reviewing our proposed approach. I look forward to talking further with you.

Sincerely,



Barbara K. Dankmyer  
Resident Manager

enclosure

cc: J. Dean  
J. Bray

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**Molycorp, Inc.  
Canton Township, Washington County Site**

**Short-Term Community Outreach Strategy**

This document outlines a proposed short-term communications approach to support the decommissioning of Molycorp, Inc.'s Washington County facility. The project will be regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with input from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

As a licensee, Molycorp recognizes its responsibility to initiate and maintain communications with the community throughout the course of the decommissioning. At the same time, the company believes this project is somewhat unique. Most projects under the Site Decommissioning Management Plan have a high level of community awareness; by contrast, this facility has virtually no visibility in the community.

As a result, Molycorp is proposing to undertake a focused and direct communications effort to reach all of the individuals and groups in the community that will likely have an interest in the project. Once these initial meetings and project briefings are completed, Molycorp will sustain a communications program consistent with federal CERCLA guidelines and in full cooperation with the NRC's Environmental Impact Statement process.

The plan is divided into three sections; an overview of Molycorp's approach; a description of the communications plan; and a conclusion.

***Purpose of Initial communications plan***

The need for Molycorp to undertake decommissioning activities at the Canton Township plant is widely unknown to the majority of the people in the community. The facility's molybdenum roasting operations have been dormant for nearly a decade, further reducing the company's visibility as an industrial operation in the area.

The process of decommissioning represents a new and highly visible activity that is complicated by issues ranging from the development of an Environmental Impact Statement under the requirements of NEPA to the explanation of technical terms in layperson's language. Molycorp believes the best approach in communicating the decommissioning project is through a series of meetings that focus on providing people with individual attention and answers to their questions.

With the greater level of understanding provided through these initial meetings, both NRC and Molycorp can implement an ongoing program of meaningful communication with the project's stakeholders.

### ***Initial Communications Approach***

The actions outlined below represent the first elements of Molycorp's long-term communications plan to support the Washington decommissioning project. This first scope of work, to be implemented during October and November 1996, is intended to increase awareness of the project at a grassroots level and provide consistent information to the project's most important external stakeholders.

1 **Project Briefings for Government Officials** -- Molycorp personnel will hold a series of briefings with elected and appointed officials at the municipal, county, state and federal level to provide them with an overview of all issues related to the decommissioning. These sessions will include the distribution of information on the project and the opportunity to raise questions and issues of interest to the community.

2 **Meetings with Residential and Commercial Neighbors**-- Molycorp staff will meet with residents near the Canton Township plant to present an overview of the decommissioning project, provide leave-behind informational materials and answer questions. Informal presentations will be given to both residential and industrial neighbors in close proximity to the facility.

3 **Preparation/Distribution of Support Materials** -- Informational materials distributed at these meetings and for use in other forums will be written in clear, easily understandable language. Among the materials Molycorp will create are the following:

- fact sheets for both the Washington and York facilities,
- a history of plant operations and decommissioning activities to date,
- an overview of the decommissioning process as applied to Molycorp's facility,
- an explanation of technical terms common to decommissioning and information on radioactive material, and
- supporting drawings and diagrams outlining the property and the decommissioning project.

As a follow-up to the above mentioned meetings, Molycorp will also write and distribute answers to the most representative questions raised by local officials and residents. This document will maintain the company's goal of providing

consistent and timely information to all of the interested people in the community.

4. **Development of Project Mailing List** -- Molycorp will develop and update a mailing list for use in the distribution of all project material and direct mail pieces. The mailing list will include those people with whom meetings were held to introduce the project, public officials, state and federal regulatory contacts and the local news media. This list will be amended regularly to add the names of individuals and groups brought to Molycorp's attention.

5. **Review/Revise Communications Approach** -- While Molycorp has developed an overall approach to communications for the decommissioning project, the specifics of the plan will be reviewed and modified based on the questions, concerns and issues raised during the course of the introductory meetings described above. In doing so, the long-term communications plan will include the benefit of the thinking of people who best know the community.

### ***Conclusion***

Molycorp has outlined in this proposal its first proposed steps for communicating information regarding the Canton Township facility decommissioning. The company recognizes that the project warrants a coordinated community outreach program between the NRC and the licensee, and offers this plan for review and comment.

By taking the time and effort to first establish a baseline of understanding about the project with individuals and groups in the community, Molycorp can assist the NRC in holding a more productive public meeting to introduce the EIS process.