



## *City of Libby*

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24 July 2019

City-County Board of Health Chair Person Ms. Ivers,

I respectfully request the Board of Health pause its sponsorship of the proposed Control Groundwater Area (CGA). International Paper (IP) has exercised its option to cancel the water payment agreement it has had with the City of Libby since 2009. IP has indicated it wishes to negotiate a new agreement with the City and the City is preparing to enter those negotiations.

The City's current well ban IP will seek to keep in place as a part of any new water payment agreement is a form of institutional control the EPA requires be kept in place to prevent use and exposure of the contaminated groundwater in the Libby area. Likewise, the Controlled Groundwater Area the Board of Health is sponsoring would be another form of institutional control to serve that same purpose.

In the past IP and the EPA have assured the City that the existence of a Controlled Groundwater Area would not lessen the need for the City's well ban. However, our legal counsel has advised me that if the development of the Controlled Groundwater Area were paused until the City had a new water payment agreement with IP the City would be in a better position to negotiate with IP which will result in a better agreement for the City.

There-for I request that the Board of Health pause its efforts to create a Controlled Groundwater Area until the City has a new water payment agreement with International Paper.

Brent Teske

City of Libby Mayor

