

## Site Contacts

If you need more information on the work being conducted, please call or email one of the following EPA or DEQ project staff:



- **Rosemary Rowe**, EPA Remedial Project Manager, (866) 457-2690 (toll free), [rowe.rosemary@epa.gov](mailto:rowe.rosemary@epa.gov)
- **Wendy Thomi**, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, (866) 457-2690 (toll free), [thomi.wendy@epa.gov](mailto:thomi.wendy@epa.gov)
- **Catherine LeCours**, DEQ Project Manager, 444-0497, [clecours@state.mt.us](mailto:clecours@state.mt.us)

## Document Repositories

EPA maintains two site document repositories where the public can have access to site documents. The repository locations are:



- **Belt Ranger Station** (236-5511).
- **Great Falls Public Library**, 301 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N. (453-0349).

Documents available currently include EPA's *Final Data Summary and Evaluation Report, Residential Area Environmental Evaluation, Carpenter Snow Creek Mining District NPL Site, Neihart, Montana, February 2003*, which details the results of the 2002 sampling. Additional documents will be added as they become available.



# Remedial Investigation Begins in Neihart in September 2003

*Carpenter-Snow Creek Mining District Site*

August 2003

## Carpenter-Snow Creek Site Facts

- Added to EPA's National Priorities List of Superfund sites in September 2001.
- Includes the Town of Neihart, which was sampled by EPA in 2002.
- Contains approximately 96 abandoned mines.
- DEQ identified 26 abandoned mines as sources of arsenic, lead, and other contaminants.
- A ball mill for processing ore was located next to the Neihart Community Center.
- 2002 samples from Neihart show elevated levels of metals in soils in some residential yards and alleys.
- No elevated levels of metals were seen in 2002 surface water, sediments, or ground water samples in or near Neihart.
- A potential threat to human health and the environment exists from arsenic and lead in soils in portions of the Neihart area.

## What Is a Remedial Investigation?

EPA's environmental investigations in Neihart to date have been done to answer three questions:

- Is contamination from mining present?
- Is the contamination a potential threat to human and environmental health?
- Is additional investigation warranted?

The results collected to date have shown that the answer to all three questions is "yes". This has made it possible for EPA to move to the next step in the Superfund process, the remedial investigation.

The remedial investigation is a study that defines the nature and extent of contamination in the Neihart area. Data from the remedial investigation will be combined with data from previous sampling events in a human health risk assessment. The risk assessment defines the potential threat to human health.

The first step in the remedial investigation is the collection of additional soil and ground water samples. EPA's contractor, CDM, will conduct that work between September 15 and 26, 2003.

EPA's goal for the September field work is to sample the soils at all remaining residential properties in Neihart for which access has been granted. Soil samples will be collected from at least 31 residences in Neihart. Groundwater samples will also be collected from two natural springs and from two residential wells.

Soil and groundwater samples will be analyzed for arsenic, cadmium, and lead. EPA plans to present the sample results to the public after the data have been thoroughly reviewed and incorporated into the data base. It is anticipated that this will be sometime in late Fall 2003.

If you know someone who should be on the mailing list, please have them contact EPA with their mailing address.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 - Montana Office  
10 W. 15th St., Suite 3200  
Helena, MT 59626  
Attn: Wendy Thomi

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## Community Interviews

As part of the RI, EPA will be preparing a **Community Involvement Plan (CI Plan)** for the Carpenter-Snow Creek Site. The CI Plan will outline the steps that EPA will use to make sure that the issues and needs of the community are identified and addressed during the Superfund investigation and potential cleanup.

As a first step, EPA will be interviewing a number of people in the community. This information will be incorporated into a section of the CI Plan called "**Community Issues and Concerns**".

These interviews may take place in October or early November. The interviews will be held at a central location in Neihart and in Great Falls, also (if there is interest). Each interview should take about an hour.

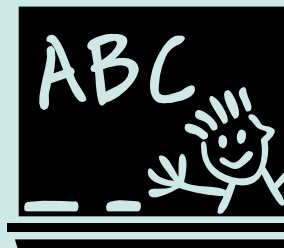
**If you would like to be interviewed, or know of someone whom we should interview, please call Wendy Thomi, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, (toll free) at (866) 457-2690.**



## Preventative Measures

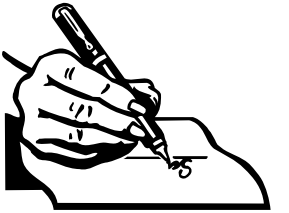
As noted in previous fact sheets, if you are concerned about the potential for elevated levels of metals in your yard soils, there are several simple steps you can take to minimize potential exposures.

- Always wash hands before eating.
- Keep non-food items out of children's mouths.
- Reduce household dust by wet mopping and dusting with a damp cloth.
- Use a door mat for people to clean their shoes before entering the house.
- Wash root vegetables prior to eating.
- Test private drinking water wells for contaminants.
- Minimize contact with dirt.
- Maintain grass cover in areas where children play.
- Use clean sand in sand boxes or play areas.



## How and Why to Participate in the Sampling...

It is very easy for Neihart property owners to participate in EPA's environmental sampling program. Simply contact EPA, either at the phone number provided below, or while the sampling crew is in the field in September. Someone will discuss the sampling with you and will arrange to get your signature on a consent form that allows EPA to collect the samples. You do not need to be present when the samples are collected (although you may be, if you wish), and the sampling requires only a minor amount of soil from your property.



Participating in the environmental sampling can be beneficial both for the town in general and for individual property owners.

## Benefits for the Town of Neihart

EPA's goal is to sample all residential properties that it believes are potentially affected by the historic mining activities. In general, these properties are located in the older section of Neihart, within the floodplain of Belt Creek. Other properties of interest are those that may have used fill from sources contaminated with mining waste. Please let EPA know if there are properties you believe may be contaminated.

The more properties that are included in the remedial investigation, the better our assessment of the extent of contamination and threat to human health and the environment will be. More sampling points help to ensure that potential sources of contamination will not be missed due to a lack of access and that any cleanup work that may be necessary is as thorough as possible. Remember, EPA is trying to protect future residents, as well as current residents.

## Benefits for Individual Property Owners

If the sample results show that cleanup is necessary in Neihart, that cleanup will be performed by the EPA at **no cost to the residential property owner**. Cleanup will follow completion of the remedial investigation and Record of Decision. Participation in any cleanup is voluntary. Property owners who participate will be provided with a "comfort letter" that explains the work that was done and the reasons for doing the work. At other sites, such letters have proven valuable to property owners during real estate transactions. Once EPA is finished with any cleanup activity, there will be no further opportunities for owners to have a cleanup conducted by EPA.



If you would like the soil or groundwater at your property to be sampled during the next round of activities or if you know of someone we should contact to encourage to participate, please call EPA's Remedial Project Manager, Rosemary Rowe, or Wendy Thomi at (866) 457-2690 (toll free).

Any names received will be added to the list of potential sampling locations, and EPA will send the forms necessary to grant permission to sample.