

First Quarter 2009

Exide is currently preparing the necessary logistics to implement the second phase of the residential cleanups. The 2009 cleanups will consist of approximately forty-three (43) residential properties. Properties that require soil cleanup and have not been contacted by Exide's contractors this year will be cleaned up in 2010. In preparation for the soil cleanup Exide is presently surveying the properties. The information from the survey will be used to develop individual cleanup plans that will address the specific layout and condition of each property. Prior to the cleanups Exide will schedule pre-meetings with the property owners to explain the soil cleanup and to address any concerns that the property owners may have. Exide has started to schedule the pre-meetings with the property owners. The pre-meetings will take place during the months of March, April and possibly May. Exide will work with the property owners to insure that the cleanups will meet the owners' satisfaction. The 2009 residential cleanups will begin late spring/early summer and will continue into the fall.

In June 2008, the City of Reading submitted an official request to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to review the [Final Draft Human Health Risk Assessment for the Northwest Portion of Bernhart Park Report](#). The PADOH and ATSDR are in the final stage of submitting the final draft report. EPA anticipates that the final draft report will be available for public comment by the end of April. The PADOH and ATSDR will review and consider all public comments prior to finalizing the report.

In addition to the human health risk assessment for Bernhart Park, Exide is in the process of completing the ecological risk assessment. Additional soil samples at greater depths were collected in January 2009 to assess the ecological impact of lead in soil. Along with the supplemental soil samples Exide will conduct a fish study later this spring to evaluate the impact of aquatic life and the consumption of fish that are caught from the reservoir.

Second Quarter 2009

Exide implemented the cleanup of forty-three (43) residential properties. The cleanups consist of soil excavation, backfilling with clean soil and restoring the property to its original condition. Initially, the cleanups were expected to be completed in early fall. Because of ideal weather conditions and the effective coordination between Exide's contractors and the homeowners, Exide will complete the forty-three (43) residential properties by the end of June, which is well ahead of schedule. Given this opportunity, Exide has proposed to complete the third and final phase of the residential cleanups in 2009, which consists of forty-two (42) remaining properties. Similar to the previous cleanups and prior to soil excavation, Exide will survey the properties in June and July. The survey is used to develop individual cleanup plans that will address the specific layout and condition of each property. EPA anticipates that soil excavation of the final residential cleanups will begin in mid-August with an expected completion date by mid fall.

In May 2009, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) issued the public comment version of the [Health Consultation \(HC\) Report](#) on Bernhart Park. The original June 8, 2009 deadline for public comment has been extended by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. For more information regarding the new deadline please contact Christine Lloyd, PADOH Health Assessor at chlloyd@state.pa.us or at (717) 265-8882. The PADOH and ATSDR will review and consider all public comments prior to finalizing the report.

Also in May, Exide submitted the draft ecological risk assessment report for Bernhart Park. EPA is currently reviewing the report. Once the HC report is finalized, EPA will evaluate the HC report's recommendations and the findings of the ecological risk assessment report to propose a cleanup plan that will be submitted to the City of Reading.

Third Quarter 2009

Exide completes the cleanup of the residential properties one year ahead of schedule. As previously stated in the 2nd quarterly update, Exide proceeded with the soil remediation of the remaining forty-two (42) residential properties in early August. The cleanups were completed in mid-October. As a follow-up, Exide will conduct property inspections in Spring 2010 to ensure that ground cover is established and final restoration is satisfactory. In the coming months EPA will issue cleanup completion letters to the property owners.

The final cleanups conclude the soil lead investigation of residential and commercial properties that were impacted by the facility's past operations. Out of the six hundred twenty-five (625) properties investigated, Exide cleaned up a total of two hundred three (203) residential properties that exceeded the protective soil lead level of 650 mg/kg. Four hundred twenty-two (422) properties did not require cleanup.

In May 2009, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) issued the public comment version of the [Health Consultation \(HC\) Report](#) on Bernhart Park. PADOH and ATSDR received several comments. They will address and respond to the comments in the final report. EPA expects that PADOH and ATSDR will issue the final HC Report in the coming weeks. The final report will be posted on the EPA/Exide website.

Exide recently submitted the revised ecological risk assessment report on Bernhart Park to address EPA and PADEP's comments on the original draft report. EPA and PADEP are currently reviewing the report. Based on the recommendations and findings of both the final HC Report and the ecological risk assessment EPA will propose a cleanup plan for Bernhart Park that will be submitted to the City of Reading. Moving ahead to next year, EPA looks forward to resolving any pending issues regarding Bernhart Park with the anticipation that the park can be cleaned up and re-opened in 2010.