

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
LEAD DISTRICT - POTOSI
MISSOURI
EPA ID# MON000705023**

**EPA Region 7
City: Potosi, Cadet, Mineral Point,
Springtown, Happy Hollow, Shibboleth,
Summit, Bates Creek Camp
County: Washington
Other Names:**

12/22/2008



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Potosi Site encompasses an area greater than 45 square miles in the eastern portion of Washington County, Missouri. It primarily includes residential areas within and around the communities of Potosi, Cadet, Mineral Point, Springtown, Happy Hollow, Shibboleth, Summit, and other smaller communities, and is a portion of the larger Washington County Lead Mining District. The Potosi Site is mostly residential, although a number of commercial businesses are present. Soil and/or groundwater contamination by arsenic, barium, cadmium, and lead at the Potosi Site is most likely the result of lead and barite mining, milling, and smelting. Continuous lead mining began in Washington County in 1721 at the surface and near-surface (ten feet or less below ground surface (bgs)) in an area north of Potosi. Galena, the main lead ore, was mined in both the red clay residuum, which generally ranged from a few feet to over 30 feet thick, and the underlying dolomite bedrock. Barite (barium sulfate), another local mineral, became valuable after the Civil War and barite mining began to boom in the area in 1926. Remnants of mining activities throughout the area include strip mines, mineshafts, mine dumps, tailing areas, tailings ponds, and associated dams. There are numerous large tailings impoundments, associated dams, and leachate ponds with elevated levels of lead in surface soil present at the site.

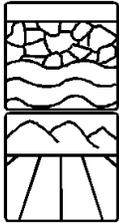
Site Responsibility:

The site is currently being addressed through federal action.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date:	09/19/2007
Final Date:	03/19/2008
Deleted Date:	

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS



Extensive lead contamination in surface soil, at levels exceeding health-based screening levels, has been identified at 716 residential properties at the site. Occasional elevated levels of barite, arsenic, and cadmium have also been identified at the site. In addition to surface soil contamination, 138 private drinking water wells have been identified with lead levels exceeding the federal drinking water standard of 15 micrograms per liter.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: Removal Assessment activities are ongoing and consist of sampling private properties for lead-contaminated surface soil and drinking water wells. Through Time-Critical Removal Actions, contaminated surface soil has been replaced at 180 residences, and bottled drinking water has been provided to 126 residences whose drinking water wells were contaminated above federal drinking water standards.

Site Studies: The initiation of a Remedial Investigation (RI) occurred in January 2008. The RI will include the characterization of numerous tailings ponds and streams, determine the extent of groundwater contamination, and complete the characterization of residential surface soil. Residential interior dust samples have been collected for developing the Human Health Risk Assessment.

Site Facts: An Action Memorandum was signed on October 17, 2005, for Time Critical Removal actions to be taken to replace residential surface soil contaminated with high lead levels and to provide bottled drinking water to residents with lead-contaminated, private drinking water wells.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



1601 residential properties have been sampled for surface soil metals contamination.
764 private drinking water wells have been sampled for metals contamination.
Lead-contaminated surface soil has been replaced at 180 residential properties.
Bottled water is being provided to 126 residences.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EPA has facilitated several public meetings to inform citizens of site contamination and removal actions. EPA, with the participation of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, hosted meetings to inform the local community about the Washington County Lead District - Potosi Site on the following dates: May 16, 2005; October 18, 2005; June 7, 2006; and October 24, 2006. Fact sheets were mailed to invite the local community to site meetings and to inform them about site activities as follows: May 2005; October 2005; May 2006; September 2006 and September 2007. Overall, the public has been very supportive of EPA actions taken at the site.

SITE REPOSITORY



Washington County Library
235 East High Street
Potosi, MO

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-7166

REGIONAL CONTACTS

SITE MANAGER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COORDINATOR:

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STATE CONTACT:

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

MO

A78D

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

8th District

EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-SPEB

MODIFICATIONS

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