

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

P/E

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on proposed plan

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MONTANA OFFICE

April 13, 2007

Scott Brown
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VIII, Montana Office
10 West 15th Street, Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626

Subject: Comments on the Proposed Plan for Residential Soils and Undeveloped Lands at the East Helena Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Brown:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed plan for the East Helena Superfund Site. While I do not have much background in this type of issue, I do have one major concern about the contamination issues in my community. It seems to me that the Proposed Plan places a lot of emphasis on the East Helena Lead Abatement Program to continue to provide information to the public about the risks of lead and ways to prevent exposure to lead, particularly since the cleanup level is higher than that recommended by the state agency, DEQ. I also understand that this program is the one that conducts the blood screenings to make sure our children have not been exposed to unsafe levels of lead. The problem with this scenario is that this program is not all that well known or advertised. I feel that I can say this with certainty because I have lived in this community for nearly five years and have only seen one postcard having anything to do with the Lead Abatement Program. The troubling part is that I have a four year old son who plays outside in our yard on an almost daily basis and another baby on the way. From what I have been told, my particular neighborhood may be a lesser concern than others, as it is farther away from the source. However, as I mentioned before, I have not received any real information about risks to my children, nor have I been made aware that such information was available. I consider myself to be a well educated and concerned parent and worry that if I was not aware of the risks and/or available information sources, there must be a lot of other parents in the community who have no idea about this issue either.

It seems to me that it may be more protective to use a lower cleanup level to ensure that these children are protected. This is particularly true given that the Lead Abatement Program is not necessarily accomplishing all that it attempts to. While the program seems like a great idea, it wouldn't need to be relied on to such an extent if more cleanup work was done. I encourage EPA to use a lower cleanup level and ensure protection of the children of East Helena.

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Thank you for consideration of my comments.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ari Swan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed address.

2675 Cody Drive
East Helena, MT