



Pilsen Community is Focus of Continued Soil Sampling

Pilsen Environmental Projects

Chicago, Illinois

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For more information

For questions, comments or more information about U.S. EPA's environmental work in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, contact:

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U.S. EPA's Pilsen Website:

www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen/

Chicago Department of Public Health:

www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html

Neighborhood group:

Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization
pilsenperro.org
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues making progress on a number of environmental projects in Chicago's Pilsen community in response to residents' concerns about potential lead contamination in area soil.

U.S. EPA has been studying soil samples to determine if local industries released lead and other metals into the air that settled into the neighborhood over the years and caused unacceptable health risks to residents. Here are brief updates on the four neighborhood soil studies. (*See maps, Page 2.*)

Pilsen Area Soils Site

In April and November 2014, U.S. EPA identified industrial sources that may have contributed to lead contamination in surface soil. Agency reports included contaminated areas along a railroad spur and alley, and in two residential areas – referred to as Residential Areas 1 and 2 – to the north and east of H. Kramer & Co. at 1345 W. 21st St.

A cleanup of lead-contaminated soil should begin later this year at the railroad spur and alley behind the H. Kramer facility. U.S. EPA will publish a final cleanup plan before work begins. The Agency is also planning a cleanup in the residential areas.

East Pilsen Soil Site and Heart of Chicago Area Soils Site

The 2014 reports did not clearly identify an industrial source of lead in two other Pilsen residential areas: the Heart of Chicago neighborhood, labeled as the Harrison Park Reference Area in the report, and an area farther east of the H. Kramer facility, labeled as Residential Area 3.

The Agency has been collecting soil samples from other potential industrial sources to determine if they may have contributed to elevated lead levels found in those portions of the Pilsen area. U.S. EPA continues to study those areas, and will coordinate with Illinois EPA and the Chicago Department of Public Health on what to do next.

Sangamon Street Right-of-Way Site

U.S. EPA continues to work with the city of Chicago and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad on soil contamination along the Sangamon Street right-of-way. U.S. EPA has prepared a legal document, which BNSF is reviewing. It would require BNSF to submit a cleanup plan to explain how it would handle air sampling, dust control, site control and decontamination of equipment, all under U.S. EPA oversight.

U.S. EPA On-scene Coordinators

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Pilsen Area Soils Site and

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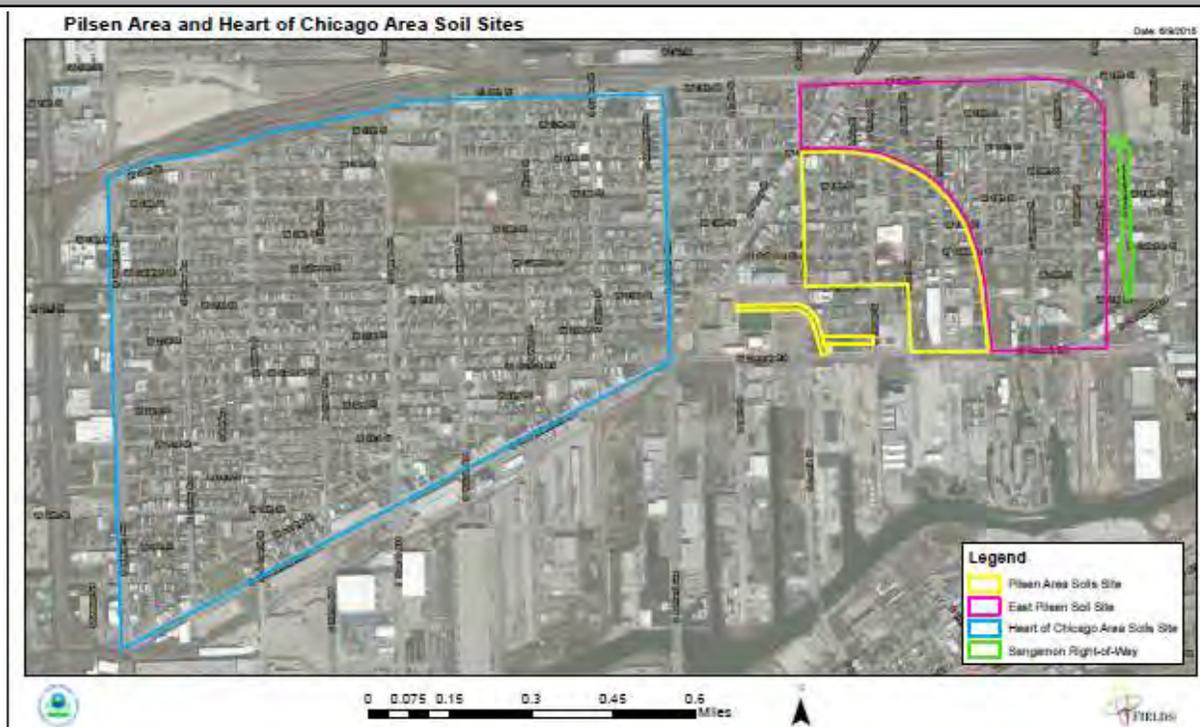
Sangamon Street Right of Way Site

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Here are some short-term measures residents can take to prevent exposure to lead in soil:

LEADPOISONSKIDS

-  Wash children's hands, pacifiers, and toys often to remove dust.
-  Have children play on grass instead of bare dirt. Lead stays in the soil.
-  Take off shoes when entering a home to avoid tracking in soil that may contain lead.
-  Regularly wet-wipe floors, window sills, and other surfaces that may contain lead dust.



For more information go to www2.epa.gov/lead#soil