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# EPA Contacts Pilsen Area Property Owners for Sampling

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## Pilsen Area Soils site

Chicago, Illinois

January 2016

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### You are invited

EPA will share information and answer questions about soil sampling in the Pilsen Area Soils site during a meeting and open house:

**Wednesday, Jan. 27**

Open house, 5:30 p.m.

Public meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Croatian Church  
Basement - 1850 S. Throop St.

### For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the Pilsen Area Soils site, contact:

*For technical questions:*

**Ramon C. Mendoza**

On-scene Coordinator

Superfund Division

U.S. EPA Region 5

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Chicago, Illinois 60604

312-886-4314

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*For general questions and to turn in your signed access agreement:*

**Heriberto León**

Community Involvement

Coordinator

Superfund Division

U.S. EPA Region 5

77 W Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604

312-886-6163

leon.heriberto@epa.gov

### EPA toll-free:

800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,  
weekdays

### For information and to download the access agreement, visit:

[www3.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/pilsenareasoils/](http://www3.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/pilsenareasoils/)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is asking owners of over 100 properties in a portion of the Pilsen neighborhood for permission to take samples in their yards and gardens for lead-contaminated soil. The specific residential area – referred to as Operable Unit 2 of the Pilsen Area Soils site – is bounded by 18th Place to the north, an alley halfway between Allport Street and Racine Avenue to the east, 21st Street to the south, and Loomis Street to the west (*See map, Page 2*).

If you own a residential property within these boundaries, EPA urges you to complete an access agreement allowing us to sample your property for lead to find out if a cleanup is needed. Turning in your signed access agreement (*see box, left*) during January and February will help the Agency begin work when the first signs of spring arrive.

### Agreement reached

In December, EPA finalized a legal document that requires H. Kramer and Co. to sample soil lead levels in the 25-acre area of the Pilsen neighborhood. EPA will oversee the sampling process. There are about 178 residential properties within the boundary area. About 121 of these properties have yards with bare soil, grass or gravel and are eligible for sampling.

### Sampling process

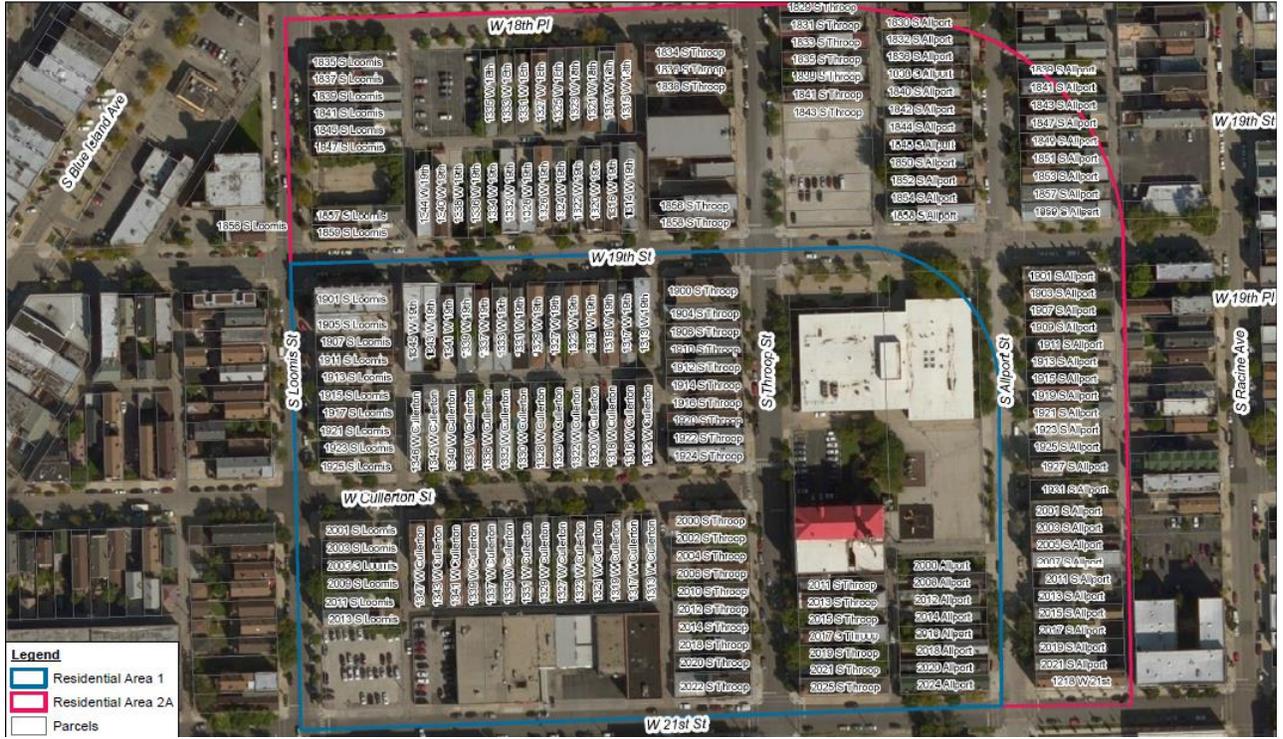
Here is a general outline of the steps EPA follows when sampling yards:

- Get a signed access agreement from the property owner.
- Have public meetings to explain the project to everyone in the area.
- Develop a sampling schedule for the work in the neighborhood.
- Contact the owner to set the time and date of the work.
- Collect soil samples, inventory the landscape and get information on the physical features and conditions of the property.
- Send samples to a laboratory for analysis.
- Communicate with the owner after EPA receives the laboratory results.

### About the Pilsen Area Soils site

EPA has been investigating lead contamination in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood since 2011, when it became involved with a cleanup at the former Loewenthal Smelter. Residents requested additional investigation into potential lead contamination given the area's long industrial history.

EPA conducted soil sampling in 2012 and 2013 and found high levels of lead in soil collected from two residential areas, as well as from the alley and railroad spur near the H. Kramer facility. Starting in November, EPA oversaw the removal of tracks and ties along a railway spur between South Laflin Street and 21st Street and Cermak Road, and the excavation and disposal of lead-contaminated soil from the railroad spur and alley behind the foundry at 21st Street. All areas will be covered with asphalt or gravel in the spring.



This map shows the area where EPA would like to sample residential soils for lead levels.

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