



EPA To Begin Cleaning Up Lead-Contaminated Yards

U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery Superfund Site

East Chicago, Indiana

September 2016

Attend a meeting

EPA will be holding an open house in the neighborhood and you are invited to attend:

Saturday, Sept. 24
2 – 5 p.m.

Riley Park
1005 E. Chicago Ave.
East Chicago

Contact information

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You may call EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays.

Access agreements

EPA may contact you and ask you to sign a document called an access agreement. The access agreement allows EPA to come onto your property to collect soil samples and clean your property.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will soon begin cleaning up contaminated soil in parts of East Chicago's Calumet neighborhood with no cost to the homeowner.

Zone 3

EPA and the state of Indiana have reached an agreement with Atlantic Richfield Co. and E.I. Du Pont De Nemours and Co. for the two companies to fund the cleanup project.

Soil in the Calumet neighborhood, which is part of the USS Lead Superfund site, contains high levels of lead and arsenic. EPA will clean up Zone 3 under this agreement starting this month (*see map, Page 2*).

Zone 3 contains 468 properties and officials received access to sample 411. EPA is notifying property owners about the sampling results. If your property meets the criteria for cleanup, EPA will contact you to discuss the next steps. If you have not received your sampling results, please contact Tim Drexler or Tom Alcamo (*see box to left*).

EPA will prioritize properties for cleanup based on lead and arsenic levels found in the samples. Before work begins, EPA officials will meet with each property owner to discuss details of the cleanup on their property. In general, workers will dig up and remove contaminated soil about 2-feet deep and replace it with clean soil, including 6 inches of topsoil. Then they will put sod on the clean soil, restoring each yard to the condition it was in before work began – all at no cost to the homeowner. ARC and DuPont will transport the contaminated soil to a licensed landfill for proper disposal.

Zone 2

Preliminary results from soil testing in Zone 2 of the USS Lead Superfund site show lead and arsenic levels at some properties that warrant further action. While the results are still being finalized, EPA is preparing to begin cleanups this fall. Based on the early results, at least 20 properties out of the 136 sampled will be targeted for cleanup this construction season, weather permitting.

This summer, EPA began testing properties in Zone 2 to develop an engineering plan for the cleanup of the entire site. Starting at the south edge of the zone – closest to the former USS Lead factory – to date EPA has sampled soil from 136 properties out of 590. EPA will finish sampling this year and will deal with properties needing cleanup in the spring.

EPA will notify residents as soon as final, validated sampling results become available for their properties and then outline the next steps. EPA will post the data on its website after removing personally identifiable information, including street addresses.

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Site location and history

The USS Lead site comprises two areas called “operable units.” Operable Unit 1, or OU1, is a 322-acre residential area bounded by East Chicago Avenue on the north, East 151st Street on the south, the Indiana Harbor Canal on the west and Parrish Avenue on the east. OU2 is the former USS Lead facility on 151st Street. EPA often divides sites into OUs based on how the land was used; in this case residential versus industrial use. OU1 was then divided

into three zones. Zone 1 is the West Calumet Housing Project; EPA is currently cleaning homes in Zone 1.

On Nov. 30, 2012, EPA issued its final cleanup plan for OU1, the residential area. The plan includes removal and off-site disposal of soil with lead concentrations exceeding 400 milligrams per kilogram, or mg/kg, and arsenic concentrations exceeding 26 mg/kg.



Map showing OU1, the residential area of the site. An agreement has been reached on cleanup work in Zones 1 and 3. Work in Zone 2 will be done under a separate agreement.

USS LEAD SITE: EPA to Begin Cleaning Up Yards

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