

For More Information....

If you need more information on the work being conducted, please call or email one of the following EPA project staff (toll free):

- **Rosemary Rowe**, Remedial Project Manager, (866) 457-2690, rowe.rosemary@epa.gov
- **Wendy Thomi**, Community Involvement Coordinator, (866) 457-2690, thomi.wendy@epa.gov



If the EPA contacts are unavailable, you may also contact Bob Rennick, CDM Project Manager, (406) 495-1414, or Kathryn LeCours, DEQ Project Manager, (406-444-0497).

Need More Details?

Additional details on the scope and results of the 2002 sampling event can be found in EPA's *Final Data Summary and Evaluation Report, Residential Area Environmental Evaluation, Carpenter Snow Creek Mining District NPL Site, Neihart, Montana, February 2003*. This document is available to the public at the two document repositories:



Belt Ranger Station
Neihart, Montana
236-5511

Great Falls Public Library
301 2nd Avenue N.
Great Falls, Montana 59401
453-0349

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 - Montana Office
10 W. 15th St., Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626
Attn: Wendy Thomi

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Additional Sampling Begins in Neihart in June 2003

Carpenter-Snow Creek Mining District Site



June 2003

Beginning in June 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will collect additional soil/mine waste samples at the Carpenter-Snow Creek (CSC) Mining District Site to further define the extent of contamination from mining sources.

The CSC Site was added to EPA's National Priorities List of Superfund Sites in September 2001. It contains 96 abandoned mines, 26 of which were identified by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to be sources of arsenic, lead, and other contaminants.

The town of Neihart is located within the CSC Site, and has not been previously sampled. EPA conducted environmental sampling in September and December 2002 to collect the data necessary to answer three questions. Sample results show the following:

1. **Q. Are there elevated levels of metals in Neihart?**
A. Yes, elevated levels of metals are seen in soils from some residential yards and alleys. No elevated levels were seen in surface water, sediments, or ground water.
2. **Q. Is there a potential threat to human health?**
A. Yes, in some locations (residential soils) there is a potential threat to human health from arsenic and lead.
3. **Q. Is additional sampling needed to define the nature and extent of contamination?**
A. Yes, additional sampling of residential soils in Neihart is necessary. Additional samples from other media may also be collected to further define the boundaries of contamination.



Beginning in June 2003, EPA will collect the additional data needed to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination and define the potential human health threat. EPA's goal is to sample the soils at all remaining residential properties in Neihart. Samples from additional media (groundwater, sediments, and surface water) may also be collected in the future as part of a remedial investigation.

Please contact EPA if you want your Neihart property sampled and have not already signed an access form!

Which Properties Will be Sampled?

EPA's goal is to sample all residential properties in Neihart. Using funding remaining from the 2002 activities, EPA will collect samples from 10 properties during the week of June 16, 2003 and from an additional 10 properties during the last week of July 2003. The property owners will be contacted in early June 2003 to discuss the sampling.

If the funding for the remedial investigation is received this summer (as expected), EPA will continue sampling residential properties, until all properties for which access has been given are sampled, or until the weather precludes further sampling.

The sampling order is based on potential risk, as follows:

- Properties in the vicinity of the north end of the community center (where contamination was highest)
- Properties occupied by full-time residents
- Properties occupied by part-time residents
- Vacant lots

At present, EPA does not plan on sampling properties outside of Neihart, such as those on Johnson or O'Brien Creeks. This may change, if information surfaces indicating a potential for contamination. Residents with such information are encouraged to contact EPA. EPA will be happy to inspect additional properties to determine if sampling is warranted.

How Are Soil Samples Collected?

Residential soil samples will be collected as pairs of *shallow* (0- to 2-inch interval) and *deep* (12- to 18-inch interval) samples.

Generally, properties will be divided into quadrants, with four pairs of samples being collected from each quadrant, for a total of 32 samples.

The samples will be collected using hand tools (trowel or shovel) and will be placed in labeled containers for shipment.

About a cup of soil will be taken from each location, and any sod will be removed prior to sampling and replaced. Sample locations should be virtually unnoticeable.



Upcoming Activities

The results of the 2002 sampling indicated that a potential threat to human health and the environment exists in the Neihart area. Funding has been authorized to allow EPA to initiate a remedial investigation that will define the nature and extent of that contamination.

EPA will begin the following list of activities as additional funding becomes available:

- *Additional sampling*
- *Human health and environmental risk assessment*
- *Feasibility study of cleanup alternatives*
- *Proposed plan for cleanup*
- *Record of decision*

Throughout this process, there will be ample opportunity for public meetings, discussion, and other communication, as needed. For more information on each of these activities, please see the March 2003 fact sheet, or contact EPA.

Missing Your Sample Results?

Results of the sampling at each property were mailed to individual property owners in early March. If your property was sampled, you should have received your results by now. If you believe your property was sampled and you have not received any results, please call Rosemary Rowe, EPA's Remedial Project Manager, at 1-866-457-2690 (toll free).

Please contact EPA if you are aware of families with children who have moved into the Neihart area, so we can provide them with health information.

Do You Want Your Soils or Well Water Sampled?

If you would like the soil or groundwater at your property to be sampled during the next round of activities, just call EPA's Remedial Project Manager, Rosemary Rowe, at (866) 457-2690 (toll free) and let her know.

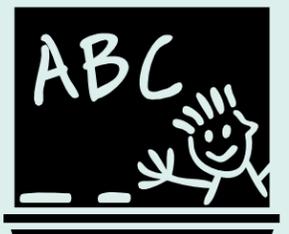
Your name will be added to the list of potential sampling locations, and we will send you the form necessary to grant EPA permission to sample.



Preventative Measures

If you are concerned about the potential for elevated levels of metals in your yard soils, there are several simple steps you can take to minimize potential exposures.

- Always wash hands before eating.
- Keep non-food items out of children's mouths.
- Reduce household dust by wet mopping and dusting with a damp cloth.
- Use a door mat for people to clean their shoes before entering the house.
- Wash root vegetables prior to eating.
- Test private drinking water wells for contaminants.
- Minimize contact with dirt.
- Maintain grass cover in areas where children play.
- Use clean sand in sand boxes or play areas.



What's Next?

Samples will be analyzed for arsenic, cadmium, and lead by CDM in Helena using a mobile X-ray fluorescence laboratory. A portion of the samples will also be sent to Mitkem Laboratories for analysis as confirmation on the x-ray fluorescence methodology.

Properties where all samples are below the detection limit for arsenic or lead will require no additional investigation. All other properties will be included in the pool of properties that may require cleanup. The cleanup level will not be known until the remedial investigation, risk assessment, and feasibility study are completed and EPA issues a record of decision. Property owners will be notified of their results by mail, and EPA will again hold public meetings in Neihart and Great Falls after the results have been received and reviewed.