



## Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 Superfund Site (VB/I-70)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 8 • JUNE 2012

In 1998, EPA began an investigation of potential metals contamination in residential soils in north Denver, including the neighborhoods of Cole, Clayton, Swansea, Elyria, and a portion of Curtis Park. EPA found that some yards had elevated levels of lead and/or arsenic, posing potential health risks to both adults and children. In 1999, EPA listed the area on the Superfund National Priorities List, a national list of contaminated sites, referring to it as the Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) Superfund Site.

After a thorough soil sampling investigation effort, a site-specific risk assessment, and an extensive public involvement process, EPA issued its final cleanup decision in 2003. At yards where sampling results showed more than 400 parts per million (ppm) for lead and/or 70 ppm for arsenic, EPA offered to remove the contaminated soil and replace it with new soil. EPA then re-landscaped the yards similar to original conditions.

In 2006, EPA declared that the VB/I-70 Superfund Site residential soils cleanup was complete. EPA had gained access to sample approximately 96 percent of the more than 4,000 properties in the site. Of those, EPA removed and replaced soils at almost 800 properties. However, EPA was not able to gain access to all properties to remove and replace soils and those properties continue to pose a potential health threat to residents.

In 2009, EPA conducted a standard five-year review of the remedy at VB/I-70. Based on the results of its review, EPA determined that the remedy as a whole was not protective of human health because there are still approximately 150 properties where EPA was never able to gain access from the property owner to either sample or cleanup. EPA is offering to sample those outstanding properties in the summer of 2012 and clean up those that require it in spring/summer 2013.

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***If your yard has not been sampled, or if it has been sampled and still requires a cleanup, or if you are unsure, please contact us as soon as possible. Our contact information is listed on the reverse of this fact sheet. It is important to protect you and your family as well as future residents from developing health problems associated with high levels of lead and arsenic in the soil.***

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***Current Action:*** This summer, EPA is offering a final opportunity for property owners to take part in the VB/I-70 Superfund Site residential soils sampling and cleanup action.

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EPA will sample remaining properties *at no cost to the homeowner*. The sampling is simple, takes only an hour or two, and requires a small bit of soil to be taken from various areas across the yard. Each sample will be no more than a cup of soil and the EPA will immediately fill any holes and replace sod. If the sample results show that lead and arsenic levels in the yard pose no health risk, no further action will be required.

In the event that one or both of the metals is above EPA cleanup levels, EPA will contact you to begin planning the cleanup of your yard soils which involves removing and replacing the yard soil. The yard will be re-landscaped to a condition similar to the original. Again, EPA will conduct this work at no cost to the homeowner. The process takes about a week and EPA crews coordinate closely with the homeowner throughout the work.

The VB/I-70 Superfund Site cleanup for residential soils has been a collaborative effort since the beginning of the project. The work was a partnership between EPA, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Denver Department of Environmental Health, the community group CEASE, Inc., other governmental agencies, community groups and individuals. In addition, the project included unique features, tailored to the local community. These included an external lead-based paint assessment and abatement program and a Community Health Program. In the Community Health Program, residents of the affected neighborhoods were trained as community health workers to educate and discuss environmental health issues with their neighbors, focusing on lead paint.

## Contacts

For information about your property, please call the following number. Leave your name and phone number and property address and an EPA representative will return your call promptly with the information you requested:

**For information about your property sampling results, please call 303-312-6585.**

Otherwise, please feel free to contact one of the following EPA representatives:

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U.S. EPA, Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street (OC)  
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Or, visit our website at:

[www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/vbi70](http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/vbi70)