



PALMERTON ZINC SITE

November 1994 Fact Sheet

U.S. EPA Region III



Discussion of Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area Site Proposed Plan

BACKGROUND

In July 1994, the Palmerton Environmental Task Force (PETF) sponsored a Scientific Symposium concerning the Palmerton Zinc Site. At the symposium, members of the PETF recommended that the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III (EPA Region III) examine the plan developed for the Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area Site (Butte Site) in Montana as an example of what could be done for Palmerton.

EPA Region III was very impressed with the Butte Site Response Action and its goal of reducing the exposure of Butte area residents to all sources of lead (in soil, interior and exterior paint, indoor dust, and water pipes). EPA Region III highly recommends adapting the Butte Site Response Action to the Palmerton Zinc Site.

EPA Region III followed up with its counterparts in Montana to find out more about the Butte site. There are many similarities between the Butte Site and the Palmerton Zinc Site. Both the Butte Site and the Palmerton Zinc Site are the result of former smelting operations and contain lead as a primary contaminant. Both sites also are affected by contamination from current activities: mining in Butte and metals recycling in Palmerton. Finally, in response to the lead contamination threat, both sites have developed Lead Intervention/Abatement Programs to address possible sources of lead contamination not related to site activities (e.g., lead in paint).

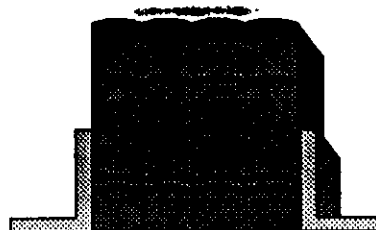
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VIII (EPA Region VIII) and the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (MDHES) designed a Response Action that combines activities being conducted under the Butte-Silver Bow Lead Intervention/Abatement Program with actions addressing site-related contamination. The resulting Response Action addresses all sources of lead contamination in the Butte area, not just those caused by site activities.

BUTTE RESPONSE ACTION ADDRESSES ALL SOURCES OF LEAD CONTAMINATION

According to the Proposed Plan of the Response Action designed by EPA Region VIII and MDHES, the Butte-Silver Bow government (BSB) and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) (with BSB acting as the lead agency) will be responsible for:

- Identifying children with elevated blood lead levels;
- Conducting an environmental assessment in homes of children with elevated blood lead levels to prioritize homes for cleanup;
- Cleaning interior and exterior lead paint by replacement, encapsulation, paint removal, and/or house siding as necessary;
- Removing indoor dust contaminated with lead by cleaning heating ducts, interior surfaces, and attics and replacing insulation, cloth furniture, and carpeting;
- Cleaning yards, parks, and play areas with high soil lead levels by removing contaminated soils and capping with cover soil and sod, concrete, or asphalt;
- Continuing blood-lead testing of young children, lead education and awareness activities, and tracking, through the Geographical Information System (GIS), the residence changes of young children and mothers.

The PRPs also will clean up source areas with high soil lead levels by removing contaminated soils, capping, and revegetating.





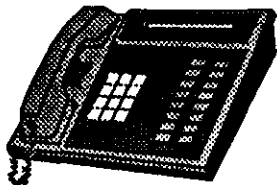
EPA CONTACTS

Terri White (3EA21)

Community Involvement Facilitator
EPA Region III
841 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 597-6925

Fred Mac Millan (3HW22)

Remedial Project Manager
EPA Region III
841 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 597-3166



INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The following location contains all available information on the Palmerton Zinc Site, including the Administrative Record File, the Community Relations Plan, any recent fact sheets, and relevant reports, such as the NEIC Source Identification Study Report.

Palmerton Library

4th Street and Delaware Avenue
Palmerton, PA 18071
Gerald Geiger, Director
(215) 826-3424

OPEN

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4:55 p.m.
Monday through Wednesday,
7:00 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
841 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use
\$300