

Additional Sampling to Begin in June; Open House Scheduled

Sandoval Zinc Superfund Site
Sandoval, Illinois

May 2017

You're invited

You are invited to attend an open house to meet one-on-one with U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA staff to learn more about sampling and the status of the Sandoval Zinc investigation.

Date: June 7, 2017

Time: 2-4 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Place: City Hall, Community Room
132 E. Commercial Ave., Sandoval

For special needs or accommodations, contact Heriberto León (*see below*).

Contact information

For questions, comments or for more information about the Sandoval Zinc site, contact these U.S. EPA team members:

Heriberto León

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You may call EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays, or visit www.epa.gov/superfund/sandoval-zinc

Access agreements

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



Abandoned Sandoval Zinc property.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to do additional soil sampling within the village of Sandoval beginning in early June. The sampling will be done in response to new U.S. EPA guidance on lead pollution. The guidance requires the federal Agency to obtain what scientists call site-specific Relative Bioavailability, or RBA. The information will be calculated for lead in the soil at the Sandoval site. RBA is how much of a contaminant a person absorbs from soil through skin contact, swallowing or inhalation compared with how much of that contaminant is absorbed from food or water. The new RBA information will be used to evaluate if the health risk assessment needs to be revised or updated to provide appropriate cleanup levels necessary to keep people safe in Sandoval. The RBA data and health risk assessment will be in an updated report called the Remedial Investigation, or RI. The RI determines the kinds of pollutants and their extent at a Superfund site.

The updated RI will then be used to produce another document called a Feasibility Study, or FS. The FS explains and evaluates all of the cleanup options for the site. The cleanup options will deal with both the former smelter site and any properties within the residential area of the village of Sandoval that require cleanup. U.S. EPA then selects and recommends one of the cleanup options, which is explained in a document called a proposed plan. The community will have an opportunity to comment on the federal Agency's recommended plan as well as all of the options examined in the FS report. All of these documents will be made available to the public at local repositories and through U.S. EPA's website. U.S. EPA will set a comment period and will hold a public hearing on the proposed remedy. The federal Agency will announce these events in the local newspaper. Officials will evaluate comments received before selecting the final cleanup plan for the site.

Site location and history

The Sandoval Zinc Co. site is located in Sandoval, Ill. The business operated a smelter for 85 years. Zinc smelting is the process for converting zinc-bearing ores into pure zinc. The company closed the smelter in 1985 and filed for bankruptcy. Air emissions from the plant included metals and wind-blown ash. Large amounts of smelting wastes were used in making secondary roads and for fill material on-site. The company offered excess material to the public and the village of Sandoval for use in surface roadways, driveways, sidewalks and parking lots. In 1991, Illinois EPA sealed the abandoned facility by court order. Despite the fencing and posted signs, trespassing continued.

Site investigations and cleanups

In 1991, Illinois EPA also removed spilled fuel oil from an aboveground storage tank. In 1998, Illinois EPA repaired and replaced site fencing, removed hazardous substances inside the buildings and then demolished the structures.

In 2009, Illinois EPA conducted an assessment of the site. The assessment involved collecting sediment (mud) samples from the drainage area east of the Sandoval Zinc property to determine if contaminants had moved into Prairie Creek and wetlands. Soil samples were also

collected from portions of residential areas in Sandoval. Some of these samples showed elevated levels of metals such as zinc and lead. As a result of the assessment, the state of Illinois referred the site to U.S. EPA to do a more comprehensive cleanup of the site. In 2010, the federal Agency performed residential soil sampling throughout the village to determine the extent of lead contamination.

In 2011, the site was added to the National Priorities List, or NPL. The NPL is U.S. EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for long-term cleanup under the Superfund program. Also in late 2011, U.S. EPA identified 10 properties as having unsafe lead concentrations in the soil. Of these 10 properties, eight were cleaned up (access was denied at the other two) and a total of 1,296 tons of contaminated soil removed.

U.S. EPA conducted sampling as part of the site's RI in 2013 and 2014. The RI is the first step in the Superfund process to determine the site's long-term cleanup. The sampling assessed the zinc smelter site and its surrounding properties. The results of this and additional sampling will be included as an addendum to the RI Report expected to be completed later this year.

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