



Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 Superfund Site Operable Unit 2 Removal Action Fact Sheet

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Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 Operable Unit 2

The Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) Superfund Site Operable Unit 2 (OU2) is approximately 50 acres located in north Denver. The boundaries are roughly from Brighton Boulevard west to the South Platte River between 38th Avenue and Interstate 70. OU2 includes the Denver Coliseum, nearby businesses, and the Globeville Landing Park. The former Omaha & Grant Smelter operated at the OU2 site from 1883-1903. The purpose of the smelter facilities was to separate metals from rock brought from mines in the Rocky Mountains. EPA listed OU2 on the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites in 1999 due to heavy metals contamination remaining at the site.

The City and County of Denver (the City) is both the major landowner and a responsible party for addressing the contamination at OU2 because the City is the owner of the Denver Coliseum and surrounding area, including Globeville Landing Park. The City also used the site as a municipal landfill from 1933-1945. However, the site is not a Superfund Site because of the landfill, but rather because of the heavy metals in soils and groundwater from the past smelter operations.

EPA is overseeing environmental investigations at OU2 which have shown that some surface and subsurface soils are impacted by lead and arsenic. EPA has and is continuing to conduct additional environmental investigations of the groundwater. EPA has not yet issued a final cleanup decision for OU2.

The Removal Action

The City has plans to construct the Globeville Landing Outfall Project (GLO) through a portion of OU2. GLO is part of the City's larger Platte to Park Hill Stormwater Drainage Project, and traverses OU2 through both the Denver Coliseum parking lot and the Globeville Landing Park. The City is conducting the Globeville Landing Outfall Project on their prop-

erty. Since the project is in OU2 of the VB/I-70 Superfund Site, EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) are providing oversight.

The City and County of Denver and EPA negotiated a settlement agreement for a removal action to formalize EPA's oversight. This settlement agreement was finalized in July 2015. Under the removal action agreement, the City agreed to develop a materials management plan for the screening, excavation, handling, and disposal of waste materials from the site during construction of the GLO project. Specifically, the City agreed to address:

- (1) the management and disposal of waste material;
- (2) the management and, if necessary, treatment and/or disposal of dewatering liquid during construction;
- (3) the design and construction of an impermeable barrier system to prevent any waste material remaining onsite from adversely impacting water being carried by the stormwater drainage feature, as well as to prevent stormwater infiltration into any contamination remaining onsite.

EPA and the CDPHE have approved the City's design plan, materials management plan, and other guiding documents for this project.

Protection of Human Health & the Environment

There are stringent measures in place to minimize impacts to the community during this project. The methane, odor, and dust control plan details what the City's protocol will be for the monitoring of gases, odors, and fugitive dust; identifies mitigation measures; and presents plans for communicating with the communities that could be affected by nuisance odors and fugitive dust.

Air and dust monitoring will occur as the work is conducted, and all contaminated soil and debris will be handled and disposed of safely and appropriately. The three key environmental concerns during this project will be gases and odors from digging into the landfill, and fugitive dust which may be released during excavation.

Gases should dissipate to safe levels within a short distance from the source. A gas indicator will be utilized at all times to monitor air quality when crews are working within ten feet of an open excavation or stockpile. If gas is detected above acceptable levels, work in the area will cease until measures can be taken to decrease the level of gas.

Odor monitoring will be conducted by trained personnel along all of the OU2 property boundaries, as well as parking and walkway areas of the Denver Coliseum. Odor control measures will be taken if there is a detection of a nuisance odor above allowable limits at the property boundary; if five or more complaints from neighbors are received within 30 days; or if there is an on-site presence and persistence of an overly obnoxious odor.

Fugitive dust will be controlled such that it does not extend beyond site boundaries. A person specially trained as a fugitive dust monitor will be on site to detect visible fugitive dust. Should visible fugitive dust cross a site boundary, operations contributing to that activity will be curtailed or halted. Air monitoring will be conducted in four locations around the site. One sample will be collected every six days at each of the four sites. Each sample will be collected over a 24-hour period. Sampling will be conducted for just over a period of one year. The air monitors will be monitoring for particulate matter, lead, and arsenic.

Community Involvement

In September 2015, EPA issued a public notice in the Denver Post announcing the availability of the administrative record for this removal action and the opportunity for the public to comment. In 2015, EPA offered to meet with local businesses and others about the removal action to hear their interests or concerns. In 2015-2016, the City and County of Denver assisted EPA by conducting numerous additional meetings to

inform community members about this removal action as part of the city's broader outreach for the Platte to Park Hill project. In June 2016, EPA finalized a Community Involvement Plan update. Additionally, EPA, CDPHE, and the City hosted two community open houses on November 3rd and 5th, which were advertised by direct flyering of nearby homes and businesses, through neighborhood associations and other avenues. The City, CDPHE, and EPA are hosting a regularly-meeting Community Advisory Group to discuss issues surrounding the VB/I-70 Superfund site. These meetings are open to the public.

Contacts

For more information regarding VB/I-70 OU2, please contact:

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Or, visit the EPA Website at:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/vb-i70>

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For more information regarding the Globeville Landing Outfall Project, please visit the following Website or contact the numbers listed below:

<http://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/environmental-health/environmental-quality/land-use-and-planning.html>

City and County of Denver Globeville Landing Outfall
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