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# Residential Soil Cleanup Set to Begin

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## Pilsen Area Soils Site

Chicago, Illinois

April 2017

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### For more information

For questions, comments, or more information about the Pilsen Area Soils site, contact:

*For technical questions:*

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*For general questions and to turn in your signed access agreement:*

#### **Heriberto León**

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#### **EPA toll-free:**

800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

#### **For more information and to download the consent for access form, visit:**

[www.epa.gov/il/pilsen-area-soil-site](http://www.epa.gov/il/pilsen-area-soil-site)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing the cleanup of lead-contaminated soil in the residential area referred to as Operable Unit 2 of the Pilsen Area Soils site. Contractors from H. Kramer & Co. are resuming the work this month in the area bounded by West 18th Place to the north, an alley halfway between South Allport Street and South Racine Avenue to the east, West 21st Street to the south, and South Loomis Street to the west (*See map, Page 2*). The work is being conducted in compliance with U.S. EPA's unilateral order issued to H. Kramer & Co. on Sept. 22, 2016, to remove lead-contaminated soil from at least 54 residential yards in the target area.

The current schedule calls for work to restart late April and continue throughout the summer. U.S. EPA needs property owners to give their permission for the removal work by signing a consent for access form. After coordinating with property owners who have signed the form, H. Kramer & Co. will dig up yards and remove lead-contaminated soil.

Cleanup will consist of excavating contaminated dirt in the yards and gardens of homes with lead in surface soil greater than 400 parts lead per million parts soil. You will see this abbreviated as 400 ppm. Engineering controls such as dust suppression and monitoring will protect workers and residents. The soil will be disposed of at a permitted disposal facility. Yards will be filled in with clean soil and restored to their original condition as much as possible.

From January through June 2016, U.S. EPA officials and H. Kramer's contractors reached out to OU2 residents and homeowners to get permission to sample their yards and gardens. The sampling was to determine if their surface soil was contaminated with lead. About half the homeowners in OU2 gave permission to have samples collected on their property and cleanup conducted if necessary. If you own a residential property within OU2, U.S. EPA urges you to complete an access agreement allowing the federal Agency to sample your property for soil lead and find out if a cleanup is needed. Please contact Heriberto León or Ramon Mendoza (*see left-hand box*) for more information.

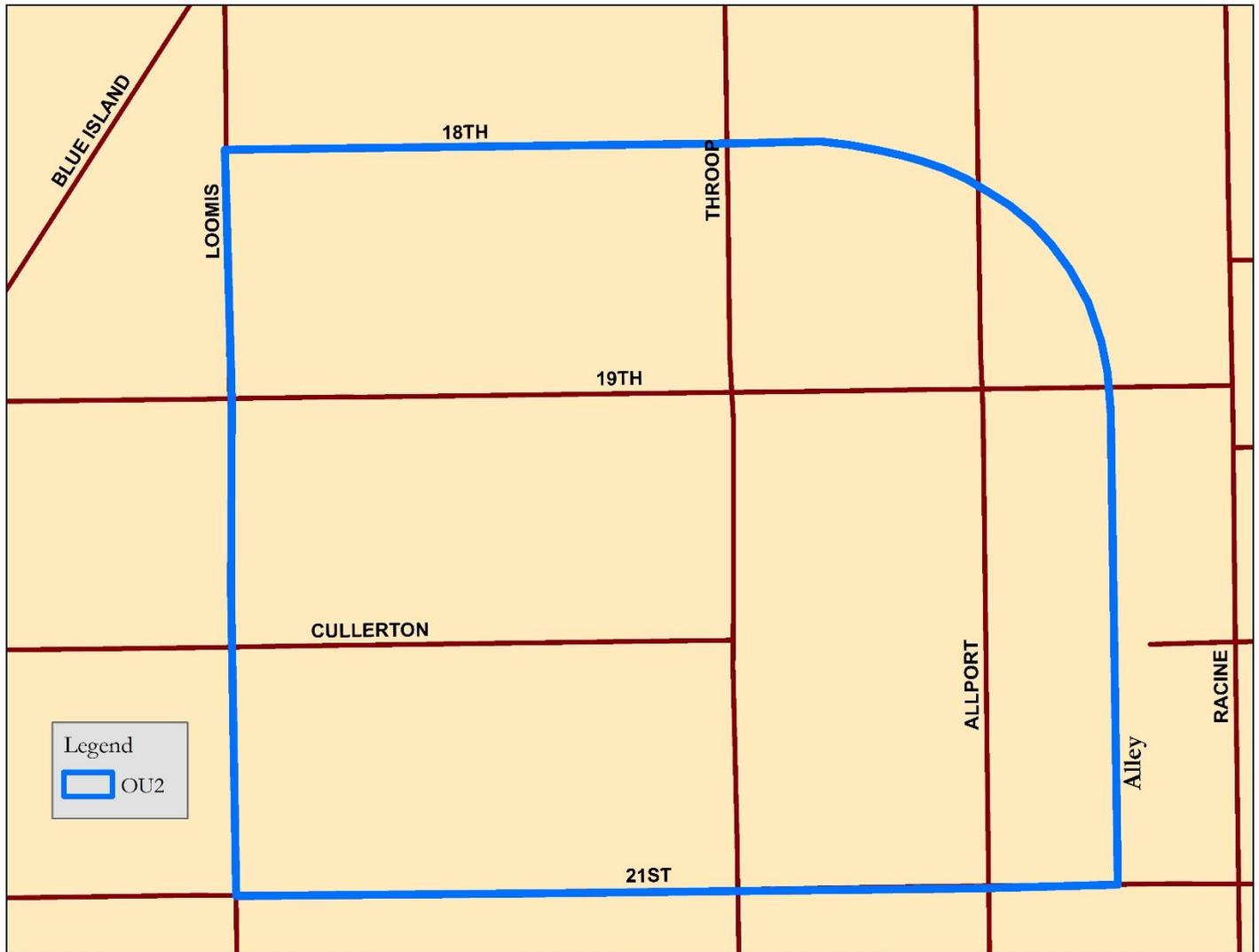
U.S. EPA continues to provide residents with information and advice on how to protect their families from lead:

- Cover any exposed soil with grass, mulch, gravel, or pavement.
- Use raised beds or containers only for growing vegetables.
- Prevent children from playing in dirt or mulch.
- Wash children's hands after they play outside.
- Wash children's toys regularly. Wash hands thoroughly before preparing food, eating or drinking.
- Regularly wet mop floors and wet wipe flat surfaces.
- Remove shoes before going inside the home.

### About the Pilsen Area Soils site

U.S. EPA has been investigating lead contamination in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood since 2012 in response to residents' concerns about the area's long industrial history. The federal Agency conducted soil sampling in 2012 and 2013 and found high levels of soil lead collected from two residential areas, as well as from the

alley and railroad spur near the H. Kramer facility. Starting in November 2015, U.S. EPA oversaw the removal of tracks and ties along a railway spur between South Laflin Street and 21st Street and Cermak Road. Workers also excavated and disposed of lead-contaminated soil from the railroad spur and alley behind the foundry on 21st Street. All areas were covered with asphalt or gravel in spring 2016.



*This map shows the area in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood where U.S. EPA would like to sample residential soil for lead levels.*