

EPA Starting New Phase In Lead Cleanup

Federated Metals Site

Hammond/Whiting, Indiana

May 2018

EPA contacts

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the Federated Metals site you can contact the site's **Hotline** at **219-561-9553** or these EPA team members:

For soil sampling and cleanup questions:

Andrew Maguire

On-Scene Coordinator
312-353-8782
maguire.andrew@epa.gov

Adrian Palomeque

Community Involvement
Coordinator
312-353-2035
palomeque.adrian@epa.gov

For Federated Metals plant site cleanup:

Rafael P. Gonzalez

Community Involvement
Coordinator
312-886-0269
rafaelp.gonzalez@epa.gov

Monica Onyszko

Project Manager, Corrective Action
312-353-5139
Onyszko.monica@epa.gov

EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431,
weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

EPA mailing address:

U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Mail Code: SI-6J
Chicago, IL 60604

On the web:

<https://www.epa.gov/in/federated-metals-corporation-site>

After overseeing cleanup on the Federated Metals property, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this spring will begin removing and replacing soil from residential yards contaminated with lead that moved off the plant site due to operations into surrounding neighborhoods. Initially, the soil removal project will be done at high-priority properties with the homeowner's permission and at no cost to them.

Sampling late last year and this April showed that historical pollution had spread beyond the boundaries of the Federated Metals plant site. The soil on some properties was found to contain lead above EPA's designated level. In order to take early action at priority properties while the soil investigation continues, EPA will use its legal authority under the Superfund law to conduct what is called a "time-critical removal action." This will occur in the neighborhoods surrounding the former Federated Metals facility. In this first round of yard cleanup, EPA is targeting properties where surface lead levels are equal to or exceed 1,200 parts lead per million parts soil and sensitive population reside. For this project, sensitive population is defined as pregnant women and children under seven. EPA will also evaluate removal actions in properties where children in the house have a blood lead level at or above a scientific measurement of 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter.

If the homeowners at these target properties agree, the time-critical removal action will include excavation of contaminated soil, backfill of clean soil, and restoration of the yard.

EPA continues to work with the cities of Whiting and Hammond as well as
(continued on back page)



Federated Metals Corporation site map. The site is located at 2230 Indianapolis Boulevard in Hammond, Indiana.

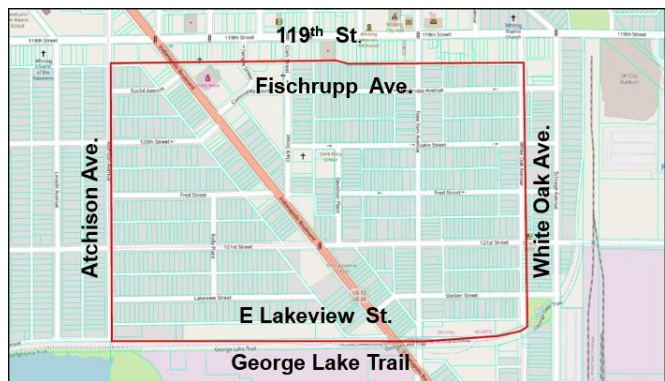
(continued from front)

Lake County and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to assess the extent of contamination around the Federated Metals plant property.

Study area

The time-critical removal is just the beginning of EPA's investigation into residential lead contamination. The Agency has established a Soil-Sampling Study Area defined as a rectangular zone bounded by the alley between 119th Street and Fischrupp Avenue to the north, extending to Atchison Avenue to the west, and to White Oak Avenue to the east. The southern border is located between George Lake Trail and East Lakeview Street. The area includes a mixture of industrial, commercial, and residential properties as well as vacant lots, community centers, playgrounds, parks, churches, and schools.

EPA is offering soil sampling to residents living within the study area. If you live in the study area and would like to have your soil sampled, please contact EPA representatives Andrew Maguire and Adrian Palomeque listed on Page 1.



Soil sampling Study Area

Site background

EPA has been working to clean up the actual plant site since the early 1990s. The property is located about a mile south of Lake Michigan, and is east of and adjacent to Lake George. From 1937 to 1983, Federated Metals Corp., or FMC, produced copper, lead, and zinc-based alloys in a scrap metal smelting, refining, and metals recovery operation.

EPA used another federal law called the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, to supervise FMC's handling and disposal of hazardous materials and to compel the company to clean up uncontrolled pollution releases.

In 1992, EPA and FMC entered into a legal order called a consent decree requiring the company to perform corrective measures to clean up contamination at the site, including performing a RCRA facility investigation, conducting a corrective measures study, and carrying out a corrective measures implementation plan.

In 2001, EPA issued a Final Remedy Decision, identifying several steps needed to manage or clean up contamination on the plant property. Through late 2005, FMC completed many, but not all, of the corrective actions that were specified in the Final Remedy Decision. Some of these corrective actions that were performed included removing waste material from areas on site, consolidating the waste into the existing onsite landfill, and demolishing and disposing of the onsite baghouse structures.

FMC had been acquired by a company called American Smelting & Refining, or ASARCO, in the 1930s. In 2005, ASARCO declared bankruptcy. In 2009, a federal bankruptcy court allocated \$1.2 million to a federal trustee to complete corrective actions at the Federated Metals site. The remaining actions consist primarily of maintaining a landfill cap and installation and monitoring of underground water wells to ensure the cap is protective to human health and the environment.