



USS LEAD SUPERFUND SITE

April 2019

Issue 01

Welcome to the first USS Lead neighborhood newsletter.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will publish this newsletter regularly. Its purpose is to provide updated and useful information about cleanup and restoration efforts on the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago. Feedback on articles and ideas for future issues are welcome. Send comments to Janet Pope, CIC, at EPA, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SI-6J), Chicago, IL 60604 or e-mail Janet at janet@epa.gov.

During the 2018 construction season, workers completed excavations and restorations at 298 properties plus performed in-home dust sampling and interior cleaning as needed in Zones 2 and 3. As winter approached, EPA shut down its soil removal activities in the residential areas near the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago. During the winter months, EPA continued to oversee interior dust sampling at properties where soil removal took place and cleaned properties where dust exceeded health standards.

EPA is getting ready to resume property excavations and restorations and is hosting an open house on April 6 to kick off the 2019 construction season.

Date: Saturday, April 6

Time: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Place: Former Carrie Gosch Elementary School Front Foyer/Atrium

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Access agreements

EPA staff or someone from Parsons, contractors working with EPA, may contact you and ask you to sign a document called an access agreement. The access agreement allows EPA workers to come onto your property to collect soil samples and clean your property.

To make sure that you respond to only EPA staff, be aware that Agency staff will wear EPA logo clothing or you may ask to see their EPA identification. Parsons staff will wear Parsons clothing and will also have an identification card indicating they work with EPA.



ZONE 2

In total, 178 properties were excavated, backfilled and restored during the 2018 construction season. Contractors for the parties responsible for the contamination

conducted the cleanup work under a legal framework called a Unilateral Administrative Order with EPA overseeing the remediation activities. Cleanup actions in Zone 2 have stopped for the winter months and will resume in spring 2019. Along with yard cleanups, indoor dust samples were collected, with the property owner's permission, once exterior work was completed at the property. Dust was collected and tested for lead and arsenic. Houses showing results above EPA screening levels were cleaned.

EPA is continuing to conduct soil sampling in Zone 2 to develop plans for the cleanup of the entire site. To date, the Agency has sampled soil from 541 of the 596 properties in Zone 2, of which 459 properties required soil removal. EPA continues to pursue access to the remaining properties where access has not been granted. Soil sampling will occur occasionally throughout the year as access is granted on the few remaining properties.

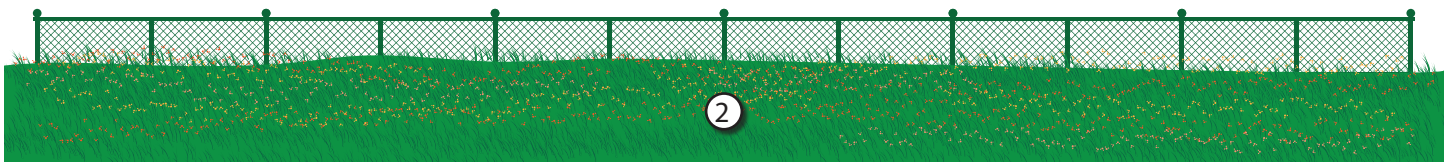
The 2019 construction season began in late March. EPA anticipates that all remaining properties in Zone 2 that require remediation, with the exception of properties where access has not been granted, will be completed this construction season.

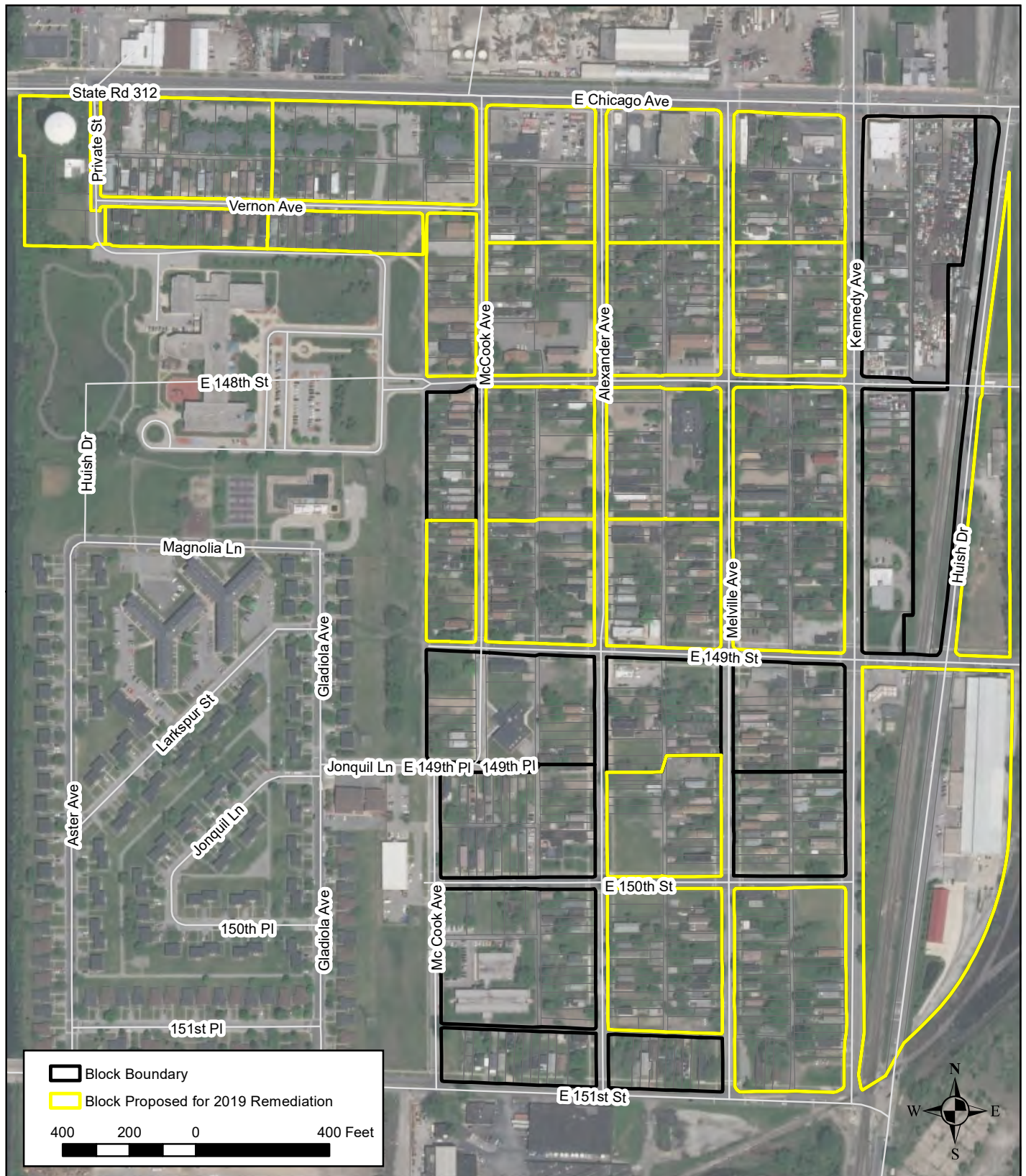
Prior to soil cleanup work, EPA officials and Parsons, the contractors working on behalf of the parties responsible for the contamination, will meet with the owner of each property that requires remediation to discuss details of the work on their property. In general, workers will dig up and remove contaminated soil up to 2-feet deep and replace it with clean soil, including 6 inches of topsoil. Then they will put sod on the clean soil, restoring each yard to its original condition. All work will be done at no cost to the homeowner. Contaminated soil from Zone 2 will be transported to a licensed landfill for proper disposal. Interior dust sampling and cleaning, if necessary, will continue during the 2019 construction season at properties where exterior work is completed. Access for interior sampling will also be sought at residences where the soil was cleaned in 2017 and 2018 who have not responded to previous attempts for access

**To schedule testing or cleanup,
call or e-mail the contractor
working with EPA:**

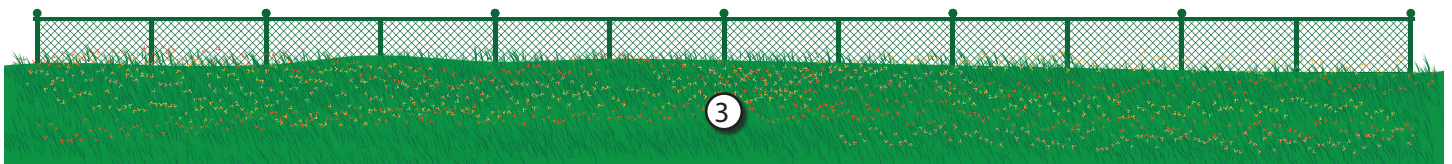
Jessica MacQueen
Parsons Corp.
512-658-3087

jessica.macqueen@parsons.com





Zone 2 Blocks with Proposed Remediation in 2019



ZONE 3

In total, 120 properties were excavated, backfilled and restored during the 2018 construction season. EPA completed all properties in Zone 3 where

EPA has been granted access and lead and/or arsenic concentrations were found above EPA's cleanup goals. Along with yard cleanups, indoor dust samples were collected, with the property owner's permission, once exterior work was completed at the property. Dust was collected and tested for lead and arsenic. Houses showing results above EPA screening levels were cleaned.

Zone 3 contains 481 properties, and EPA has sampled soil at all 481 properties, of which 297 required remediation. In total, 278 properties have been cleaned up in Zone 3. The Agency is currently pursuing access to the

remaining properties where soil needs to be cleaned and anticipates that all residential properties will be remediated in 2019. Access for interior sampling will also be sought at residences where the soil was cleaned in 2016, 2017 and 2018 who have not responded to previous attempts for access.



ZONE 1

During the demolition of the West Calumet Housing Complex (WCHC) in 2018, EPA provided full-time oversight of the environmental monitoring during

the demolition. Air monitoring during the demolition showed that lead and arsenic in the soil did not spread from the Zone 1 area during the demolition.

Due to the demolition of the WCHC, EPA has completed a study of possible revised cleanup options for soils in Zone 1 and has proposed a new remedy for the soil. The Agency released its Zone 1 proposed plan with the first public comment period open between Nov. 12, 2018, to Jan. 14, 2019. A public meeting to present the proposed new cleanup plan to the community was held Nov. 29, 2018, at the Robert A. Pastrick Library, 1008 W. Chicago Ave. A second public comment period began Feb. 11 and ended March 13, 2019. A second public meeting to discuss the proposed plan was held Feb. 13 at the former Carrie Gosch Elementary School. Transcripts of the November 2018 and February 2019 public hearings and redacted public comments submitted through January 2019 are posted on the USS Lead web page www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site and are available at the information repositories (see Page 7). Comments submitted through March 13, 2019 will be posted once personal information has been redacted.

EPA will evaluate the public comments and determine if EPA's proposed remedy will require modification. EPA uses nine evaluation criteria, including community acceptance, to determine what the appropriate remedy will be for the soils in Zone 1. EPA will document its final remedy decision in a record of decision amendment. EPA will respond in writing to the public comments and the response to comments will be attached to the record of decision amendment. EPA expects to make a remedy decision for the soils in Zone 1 sometime in summer 2019.

A frequently asked questions fact sheet based on comments and questions received during the Nov. 29 public meeting was developed and distributed at the Feb. 13 meeting and mailed to residents.



OU2

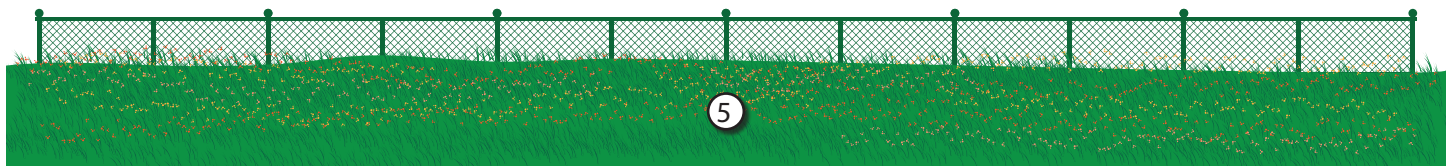
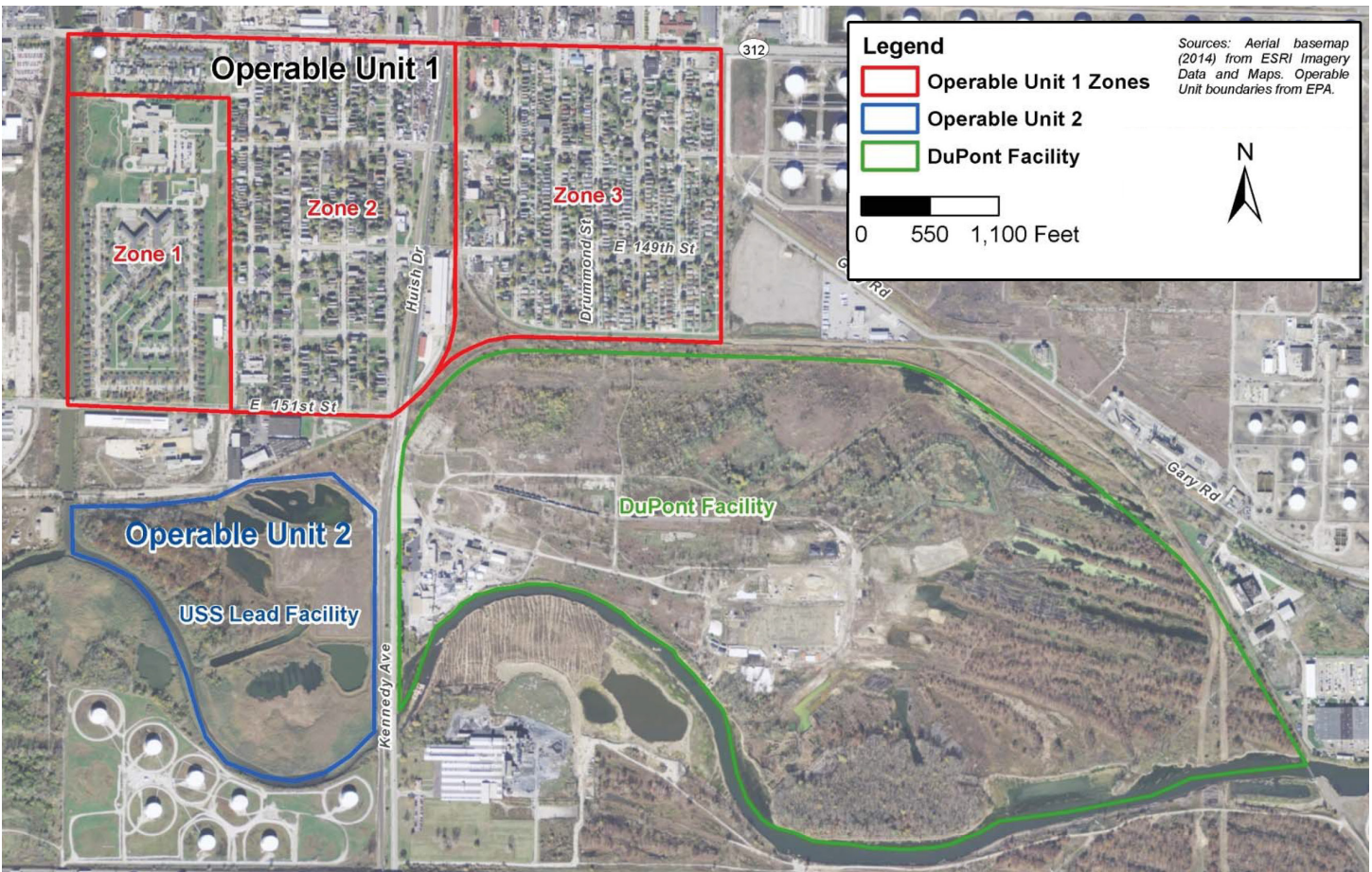
Operable Unit 2 is the designated name for the former USS Lead facility and the groundwater underneath the entire USS Lead Site, including the residential neighborhood.

EPA is overseeing the environmental investigation at OU2 that is being conducted by the parties responsible for the contamination under a legal framework called a Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent.

The responsible parties conducted preparatory activities and site assessment work in 2018. Contractors installed groundwater monitoring wells in the residential neighborhoods in November and December. Groundwater monitoring wells in the residential neighborhood and at the former industrial facility were sampled in December and will be sampled quarterly throughout 2019. Additionally, soil sampling was conducted at the former facility in December and an

ecological assessment will be conducted in spring 2019. EPA also conducted additional sampling in basements as part of an investigation into groundwater seepage.

EPA decided early on to first address those areas of the site that present the most risk to the public (i.e., the contamination in the residential areas in OU1) before initiating an investigation at OU2. Access to the land area of OU2 is restricted, and no residents are currently drinking site groundwater, therefore risk to the public from OU2 contamination is much lower than OU1.



The More You Know!

Here is a list of other useful numbers you can call to get answers to questions about different topics.

Health concerns

– including childhood lead exposure and blood lead testing

City of East Chicago Health Department
 100 W. Chicago Ave.
 219-391-8467

Lead Testing hours at the Health Department
 Monday - Friday
 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
(Results will return between 1 - 2 weeks)

Indiana State Department of Health
 2 N. Meridian St.
 Indianapolis
 317-233-9264

HealthLinc
YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
 1313 W. Chicago Ave.
 219-398-9685

**City of East Chicago
 Lead Hotline:**
 219-391-(LEAD)
 219-391-5323

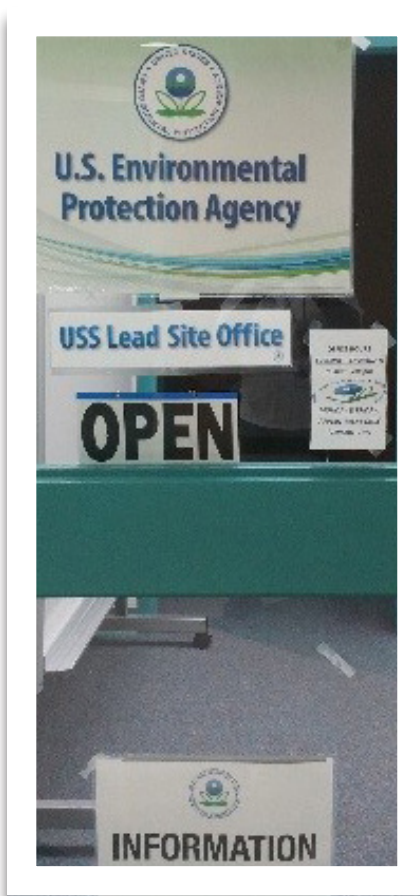


IMPORTANT:

For answers to your questions or to address your concerns, you can reach us at the **USS Lead Hotline 219-801-2199.**

City of East Chicago contact information

- Lead service line replacements and general questions: Water Department, 219-391-8469
- Drinking water filters: 219-512-3158
- East Chicago Housing Authority: Tia Cauley, Executive Director, 219-397-9974 ext. 30
- Former Carrie Gosch Elementary School: Dr. Paige McNulty, Superintendent, 219-391-4100 ext. 12344
- Goodman Park: Public Works Department, 219-391-8463



EPA has a community information office:

Former Carrie Gosch Elementary School
455 E. 148th St.

Information Repository and Administrative Record

East Chicago Public Library

2401 E. Columbus Dr.
East Chicago
219-397-2453
www.ecpl.org

East Chicago Public Library Robert A. Pastrick Branch

1008 W. Chicago Ave.
East Chicago
219-397-5505
www.ecpl.org

Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.;
Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

EPA Region 5 Records Center

Room 711, 7th Floor
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

EPA Web Pages

**Superfund – USS
Lead Site**
www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site



RCRA – DuPont Facility

www.epa.gov/in/hazardous-waste-cleanup-dupont-facility-east-chicago-indiana

EPA contacts

For questions, comments or for more information about the USS Lead cleanup, contact these EPA team members:

Janet Pope

Community Involvement Coordinator
312-353-0628, pope.janet@epa.gov

Zone 1

Tom Alcamo

Remedial Project Manager
312-886-7278, alcamo.thomas@epa.gov

Zones 2 and 3

Sarah Rolfes

Remedial Project Manager
312-886-6551, rolfes.sarah@epa.gov

Katherine Thomas

Remedial Project Manager
312-353-5878, thomas.katherine@epa.gov

Charles Rodriguez

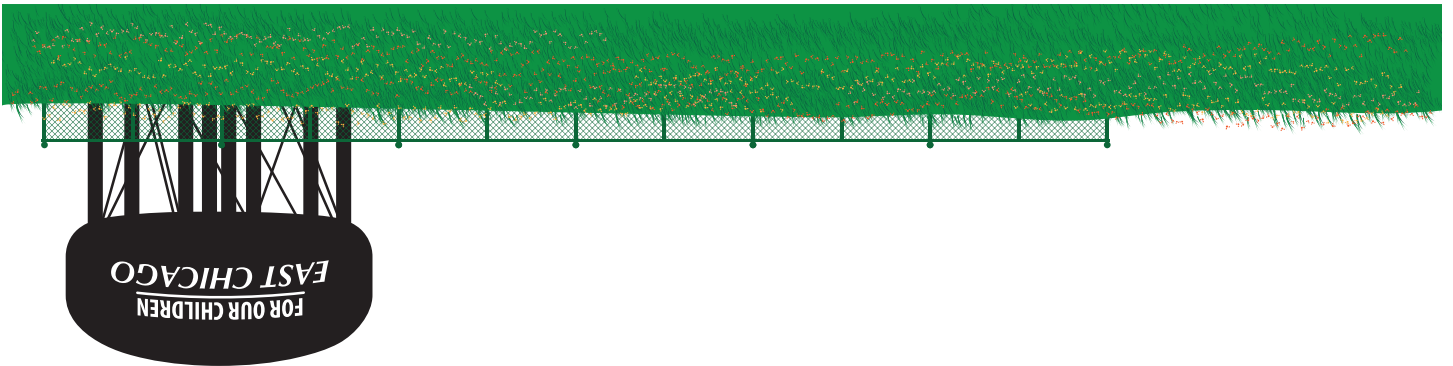
Community Involvement Coordinator
312-886-7472, rodriguez.charles@epa.gov
"Para atención en español"

Si prefiere recibir una copia en español de este documento, por favor comuníquese con Charles Rodriguez, Coordinador de Participación Comunitaria al 312-886-7472, o por correo electrónico a rodriguez.charles@epa.gov. Una copia electrónica en español de este plan propuesto también está disponible en www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site.

You may call EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431,
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

Visit www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site

EPA Hotline
219-801-2199



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region 5
Superfund Division (SI-6J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

