



USS LEAD SUPERFUND SITE

July 2019

Issue 02

Welcome to another edition of the USS Lead neighborhood newsletter.



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This is the second edition of the USS Lead newsletter 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 Community Involvement Coordinator Janet Pope, at EPA, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. (RE-6J), Chicago, IL 60604, or email Janet at pope.janet@epa.gov.

The construction season is in full swing (as weather allows). Construction equipment is out on the roads in the neighborhoods so please warn children to be aware of the traffic.

Access agreements still needed

EPA staff or someone from Parsons, contractors working with EPA, may stop by your home 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 official EPA representatives, 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.

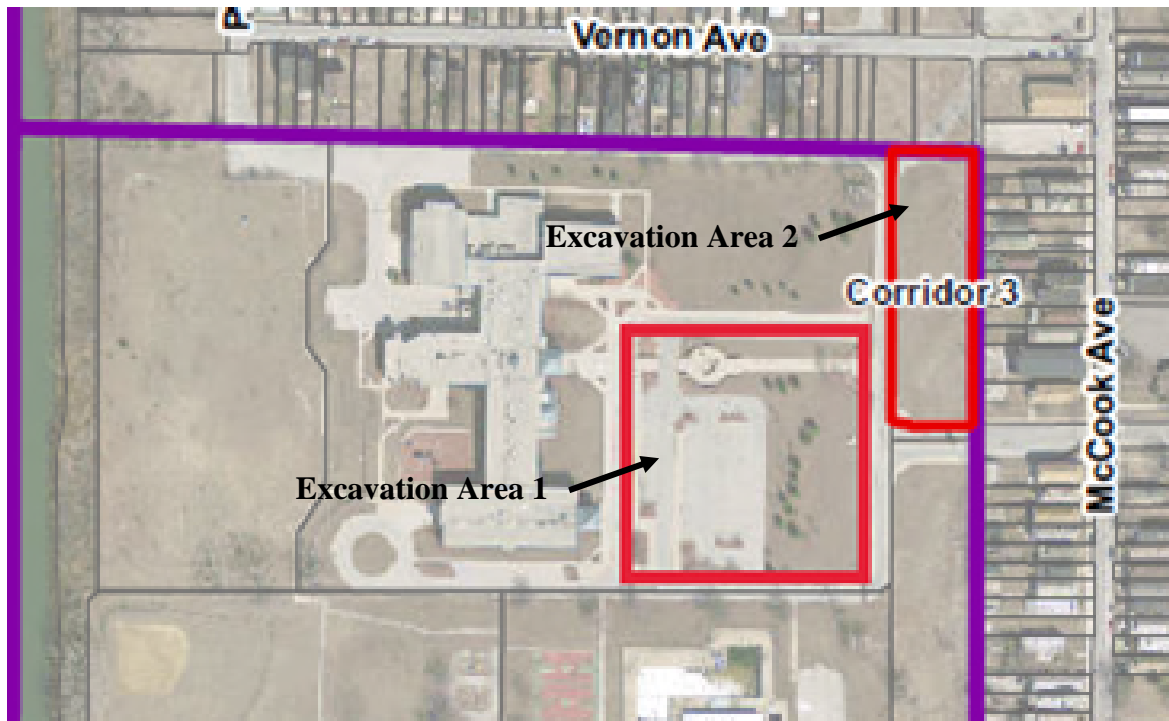


Status of Zone Activities

ZONE 1

EPA is still evaluating all public comments and will update the community when the cleanup decision is made.

Beginning in early July, the parties responsible for the pollution will begin cleaning up two areas around the former Carrie Gosch Elementary School. One area (*Excavation Area 1*) is on the school property located inside the main gate and is owned by School City of East Chicago. The other area (*Excavation Area 2*) is located just outside the main gate to the former school and is owned by the East Chicago Housing Authority (*see the map below*). The contaminated soil will be removed from these areas and replaced with clean fill. The areas will then be restored to natural conditions. Due to underground pipelines, the mounded area located within *Excavation Area 2* will be restored to its current condition.



Residents and businesses in the vicinity may notice increased truck traffic and noise during the soil excavation and have already been notified of the upcoming work in the area. All work will occur Monday through Friday during normal business hours to minimize disruptions. At times, Saturday work may be necessary due to weather delays or to maintain newly installed landscaping.

The excavation work will be conducted in a manner similar to the ongoing construction activities in the USS Lead Superfund site. All excavations will be fenced to prevent entry to the area until it is backfilled and covered with clean soil. Contractors will employ dust-control measures, including the use of water, during all excavation activities. Due to the size of the digging and to increase efficiency, the contractor may stage clean material on portions of the former Carrie Gosch Elementary School property. This material will be covered at all times that it is not in use. The contractors will also be providing overnight security at the site.

All site construction workers will wear logo clothing at all times. You may also ask to see their identification cards.

Status on Properties in Zones 2 and 3

The table below describes the number and status of the properties in each zone. The table shows how many properties are in each zone, the number of properties that require cleanup, the number of access agreements still needed, the number of properties that have been cleaned up since June 15, 2019, and the number of properties that still need to be cleaned up.

Zone	Total Number of Properties in Zone	Number of Properties that Require Cleaning	Number of Soil Sampling Access Agreements Still Needed	Current Number of Properties Cleaned (through June 15, 2019)	Number of Properties Remaining to be Cleaned
2	597	494	19	409	80
3	481	297	0	278	19

ZONE 2

The 2019 construction season began in April with a total of 185 properties targeted for cleanup this year. As of June 15, 2019, 105 properties have been excavated and 83 properties have been restored. EPA continues to pursue access to sample soil in remaining properties where access has not yet been granted. Soil sampling will occur occasionally throughout the year as access is granted on these few remaining properties. EPA anticipates that all remaining properties in Zone 2 that require cleanup, with the exception of properties where access has not been granted, will be completed this construction season.

The parties responsible for the contamination are conducting the 2019 cleanup work under a legal framework called a Unilateral Administrative Order with EPA oversight during the remediation activities. Along with yard cleanups, indoor dust samples will be collected with the resident’s permission once exterior work is completed at the property. Dust will be collected and tested for lead and arsenic. Houses showing results above EPA safe levels will be cleaned with the resident’s permission.

Prior to soil cleanup work, EPA the PRP construction workers will meet with the owner of each property that requires cleanup 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. Sod will be placed over the clean soil and each yard’s landscaping will be restored 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. EPA continues to try to get access from property owners for interior sampling at residences where the soil was cleaned in 2017 and 2018 and who have not yet responded to previous attempts for access.

To schedule testing or cleanup, or if you have landscape restoration issues, call or email the contractor working with EPA:

Jessica MacQueen

Parsons Corp.

512-658-3087

jessica.macqueen@parsons.com

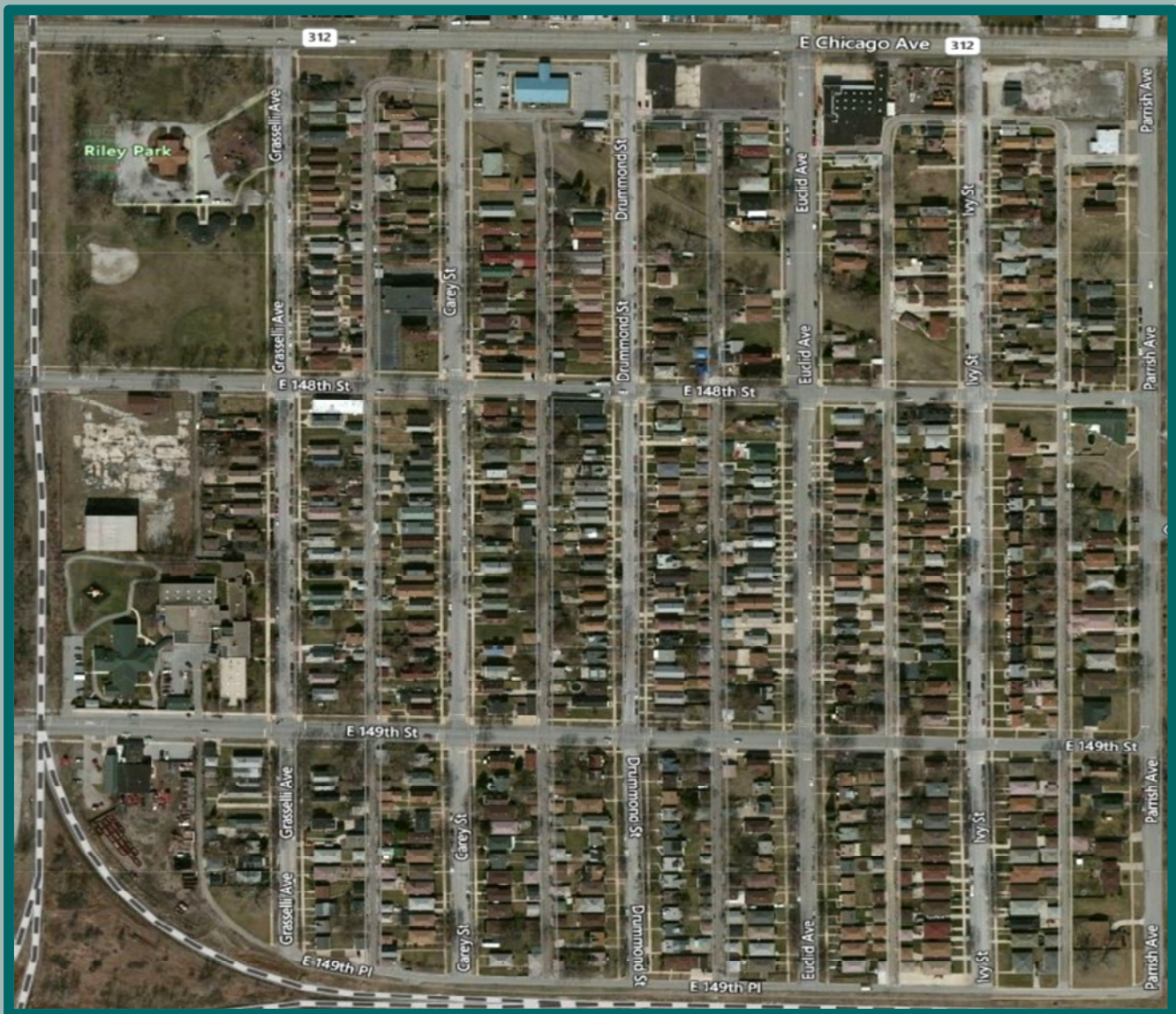


Zone 2 Blocks with Proposed Remediation in 2019

ZONE 3

EPA has completed soil sampling at all 481 properties in Zone 3. Sampling results showed 297 properties required cleanup. As of June 2019, 278 properties have been cleaned up. At the end of the 2018 construction season, EPA remediated all properties where access was given. See the table on Page 3 for the current status of properties in Zone 3. The Agency is currently pursuing access to the remaining properties where soil needs to be cleaned and anticipates that all seven remaining residential properties in Zone 3 will be cleaned up in 2019.

Along with yard cleanups, indoor dust samples were collected with the resident’s permission once exterior work was completed at the property. Dust was collected and tested for lead and arsenic. Houses showing results above EPA health standards were cleaned with the resident’s permission. Access for interior sampling is still being sought at homes where the soil was cleaned in 2017 and 2018 but who have not yet responded to previous attempts for access.



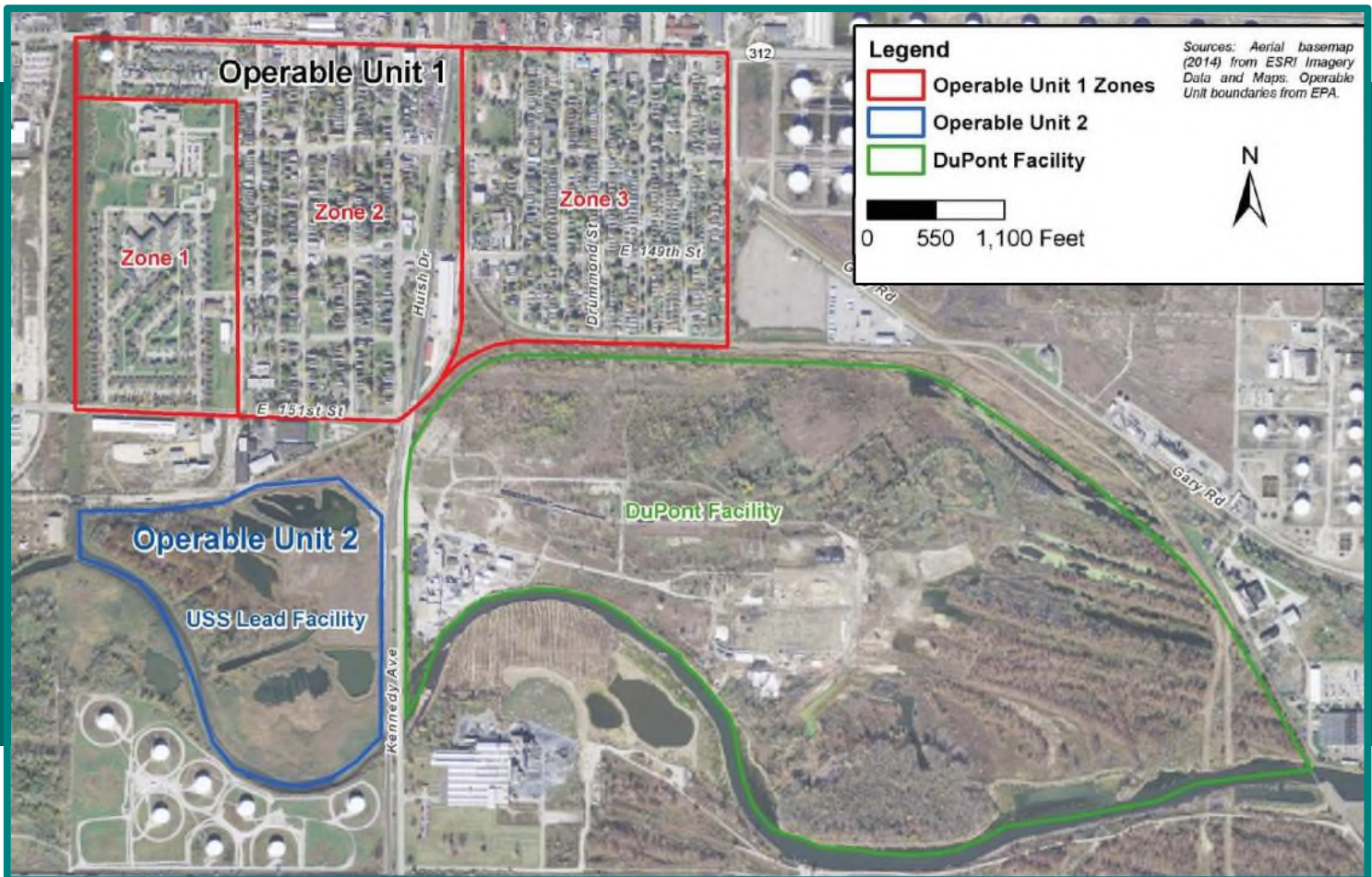
OU2

Operable Unit 2 is the designated name for the former USS Lead facility and the groundwater (underground water) beneath the entire USS Lead site, including the residential neighborhood. EPA is overseeing the environmental investigation at OU2 conducted by the parties potentially responsible for the contamination under a legal framework called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent.

As part of the Remedial Investigation, contractors working on behalf of the potentially responsible parties installed groundwater monitoring wells in the residential neighborhoods in November and December 2018. Groundwater monitoring wells in the residential neighborhood and at the former industrial facility were sampled in December 2018, March 2019, and June 2019. Soil sampling was conducted in the non-excavated wetlands on the southern half of the former USS Lead facility, and tissue samples from plants and invertebrate (no backbone) animals were collected as part of an ecological assessment in May and June 2019. Data from 2018 and 2019 sampling efforts will be compiled and in a Remedial Investigation report submitted to EPA.

EPA continues to investigate concerns related to basement seepage of groundwater by evaluating arsenic dust concentrations in basement dust samples. Interior basement sampling results collected through June 2019 do not show prevalent arsenic dust accumulation in basements that can be attributed to groundwater seepage.

EPA decided to first address areas of the site that present the most risk to the public, making the contamination in the residential areas in OU1 the priority before initiating an investigation at OU2. All residents are connected to East Chicago municipal water, which uses Lake Michigan as its water source. Access to the land area of OU2 is restricted. Therefore, risk to the public from OU2 contamination is much lower than OU1.



The More You Know!

Information for Families

Indiana Lead Protection Program

If your home was built before 1978, there is a good chance it contains lead-based paint. The Indiana Lead Protection Program can help protect your family from lead in your home.

About the Program

FREE lead testing and lead hazard control including health and safety repairs to qualifying homes are available. The program is offered to qualified homeowners, renters, and rental property owners. Lead-hazard repair work may include windows, doors, painting, and special cleaning. *There is **NO COST** whether you own or rent your home.*

Rental property owners must agree to participate in the program before work can begin on your unit.

For more information about the Lead Protection Program, please visit <https://www.in.gov/myihcda/2675.htm> or call Dave Pugh at 317-234-6289 for more information.



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

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

Information Repository and Administrative Record



East Chicago Public Library

2401 E. Columbus Dr.
East Chicago
219-397-2453

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.

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

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

**EPA Hotline
219-801-2199**

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

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

Charles Rodriguez

Community Involvement Coordinator
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"Para atención en español"

Zone 1 contact

Tom Alcamo

Remedial Project Manager
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Zones 2 and 3 contacts

Sarah Rolfes

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

Katherine Thomas

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

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

Visit EPA at the community information office:

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

