

Welcome to another edition of the USS Lead newsletter.



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This is the third edition of the USS Lead newsletter providing updated and useful information about cleanup and restoration actions within the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago. Feedback on articles and ideas for future issues are welcomed. 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](mailto:pope.janet@epa.gov).

The construction season is winding down for 2019. Limited numbers of construction equipment are still expected on neighborhood roads until the end of October so please warn children to be aware of the traffic.

## “End of Construction” Open House Scheduled

EPA is holding an Open House to meet with residents and answer questions during two informal sessions. The two sessions will be held at the former Carrie Gosch Elementary School 455 E. 148<sup>th</sup> St., on **Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019**, from 3 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. We hope you can attend. The following agencies will also be on hand to answer any questions you have:

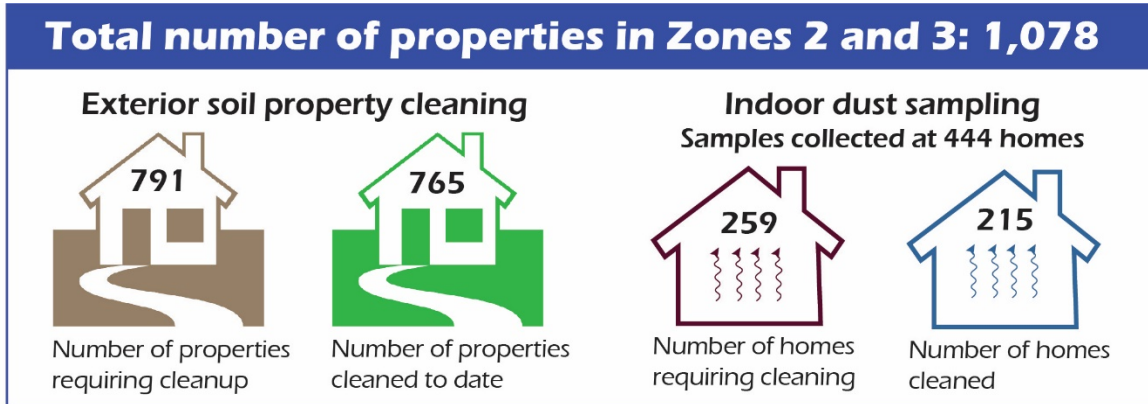
- The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- East Chicago Water Department
- EPA Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division – DuPont site

The Open House is an informal meeting in a public location where people can talk to officials on a one-on-one basis. It allows residents to ask questions and express their concerns directly to EPA staff and other representatives.



## Summary of Work Completed

The following update includes a summary of the work that EPA and potentially responsible parties completed in Zones 2 and 3. EPA is requesting access to conduct indoor sampling for lead and arsenic at homes that have had or need to have soil remediation completed in the yards.



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 Sept. 20, 2019)	Number of Properties Remaining to be Cleaned
2	597	494	12	480	14
3	481	297	0	285	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>26</b>

## Status of Zone Activities

### ZONE 1

*EPA is evaluating all public comments on the Record of Decision (cleanup plan) amendment for the cleanup at the former West Calumet Housing Complex and Goodman Park and will inform the community when EPA has made the final cleanup decision.*

Two areas around the former Carrie Gosch Elementary School have been cleaned up. One area is on the school property located inside the main gate and is owned by School City of East Chicago. The other area is located just outside the main gate to the former school and is owned by the East Chicago Housing Authority. As directed by EPA, the contaminated soil was removed from these areas and replaced with clean fill. The potentially responsible parties also restored the areas to natural conditions. Due to underground pipelines, the mounded area outside the main gate has been restored to its current condition.



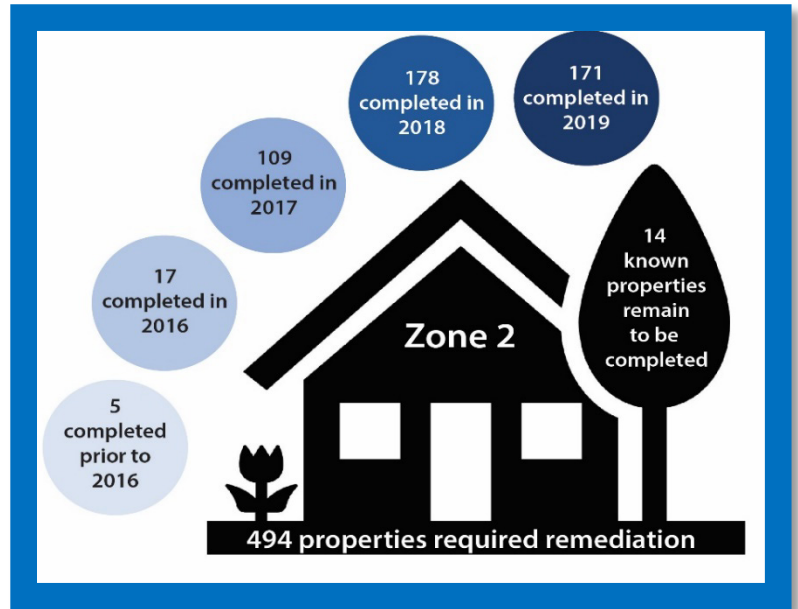
*Restoration of Carrie Gosch property.*

### ZONE 2

**Exterior Soil Cleanup:** The 2019 construction season began in April with a total of 185 properties targeted for cleanup. All residential properties that granted access for remediation have been cleaned this construction season, with the exception of a few properties that requested cleanup next construction season. EPA will continue to work on obtaining permission to clean up the remaining properties and anticipates that all remaining properties in Zone 2 that grant access will be remediated in early 2020. EPA recently received access agreements to sample the soil at seven properties. Any of these properties that require cleanup will be remediated in 2020. The Agency continues to pursue access to sample soil in 12 remaining properties where access has not yet been granted. EPA will conduct soil sampling occasionally throughout the year as access is granted on these few remaining properties and any remediation necessary will occur in 2020, with owners signed permission. As necessary, EPA will request warrants from the federal district court to secure access for sampling and orders for cleanup.

**Interior Dust Sampling and Cleanup:** Along with yard cleanups, indoor dust samples continue to be collected with the resident's permission once exterior work is completed at a contaminated property. Dust inside the home is collected and tested for lead and arsenic. Houses with results above EPA safe levels are cleaned with the resident's permission.

Interior dust sampling and cleaning, if necessary, will continue throughout 2019 at properties where exterior cleanup work has been completed. EPA continues seeking 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. Any residence that has exterior cleanup completed in 2020 will have the option to have the interior sampled and cleaned if required.



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

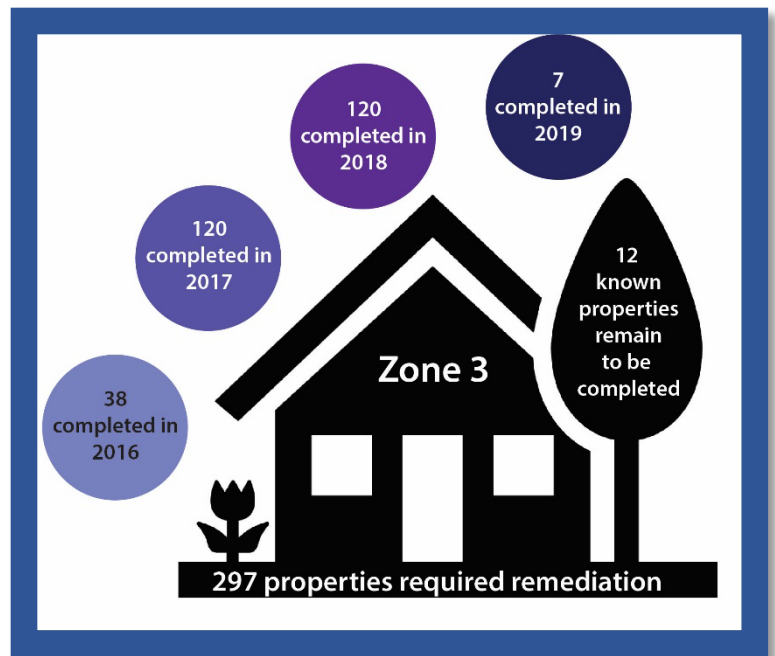
**Jessica MacQueen**  
 Parsons Corp.  
 512-658-3087  
[jessica.macqueen@parsons.com](mailto:jessica.macqueen@parsons.com)

**ZONE 3**

**Exterior Soil Cleanup:** EPA completed soil sampling at all 481 properties in Zone 3. Sampling results showed 297

properties required cleanup. As of September 2019, EPA and contractors working on behalf of the potentially responsible parties have cleaned up 285 properties. See the table on Page 3 for the current status of properties in Zone 3. All residential properties in Zone 3 have been cleaned and restored.

**Interior Dust Sampling and Cleanup:** 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 at 199 homes; 116 houses sampled require cleaning. With the resident's permission, 100 of these houses showing results above EPA health standards have been cleaned.



## Photo Album

The photos below show work done in remediating the properties at the USS Lead Superfund site.



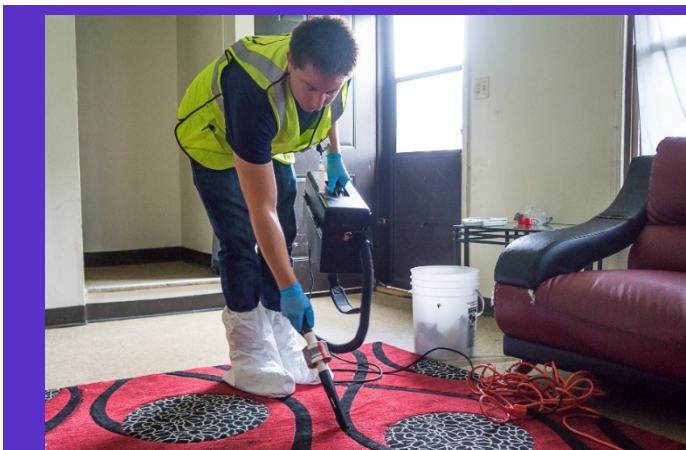
*Soil being removed from yard.*



*Clean fill replaces contaminated soil from yard.*



*Restored property.*



*Indoor dust sampling.*



*Interior dust cleaning.*

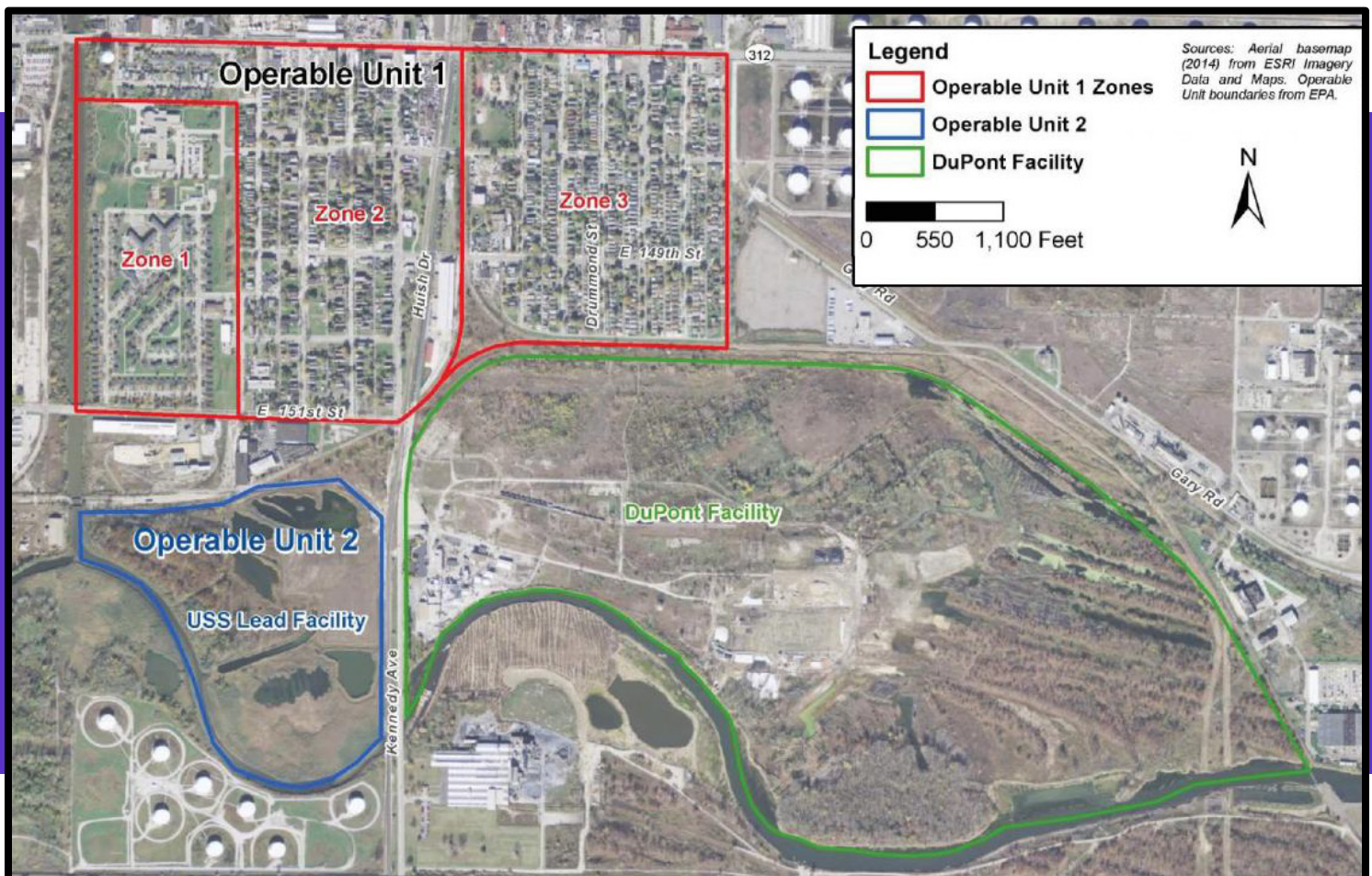
**OU2**

Operable Unit 2 is the designated name for the surface of the former USS Lead facility and the groundwater (underground water) beneath the entire USS Lead site, including the residential neighborhoods. 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, and in March, June and August 2019. The contractors conducted soil sampling in the non-excavated wetlands on the southern half of the former USS Lead facility and collected tissue samples from plants and invertebrate (no backbone) animals as part of an ecological assessment in May and June 2019. Data from 2018 and 2019 sampling efforts will be compiled into a draft Remedial Investigation and draft Risk Assessment reports and be submitted to EPA.

EPA continues to investigate concerns related to groundwater basement seepage by evaluating arsenic dust concentrations in basement dust samples. Interior basement sampling results collected through August 2019 have not shown arsenic dust accumulation in basements that can be attributed to groundwater and groundwater seepage.

EPA decided to first address areas of the site that posed the most risk to the public, making cleanup of the contamination in the residential areas in OU1 the priority before initiating an investigation within 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 lower than the direct contact, inhalation and ingestion risks posed by soils in OU1.



# The More You Know!

## City Program: Neighborhood Water Service Line Replacement

### Have you had your lead water lines replaced?

The City of East Chicago is requesting all property owners in Zones 2 and 3 of the USS Lead Superfund site, who have not already done so, sign a consent form and schedule an appointment to have their lead water service lines replaced. This lead water line replacement is part of the City of East Chicago's Neighborhood Water Line Replacement Program. The goal of the program is to improve water quality for customers by replacing existing water service lines that contain lead. The replacement will be performed at NO COST to the resident as the state of Indiana is assisting with the cost of the project. Calumet City Plumbing was awarded the contract to replace the service lines throughout these areas and has been performing this work since November 2018. As funding is limited, please sign up as soon as possible to participate in this program. Note that EPA must have cleaned or given clearance for your property prior to this work being performed.

### Scheduling Instructions

- Review, sign and file your access agreement (included in this newsletter) with the East Chicago Water Department at 400 E. Chicago Ave., East Chicago, IN 46312.
- Contact Winna Guzman at the East Chicago Water Department at 219-391-8469 or email at [wguzman@eastchicago.com](mailto:wguzman@eastchicago.com) to schedule your appointment to replace your water service line. A pre-inspection appointment will follow by Calumet City Plumbing, after you have initially scheduled your appointment.
- Appointments for the home survey pre-inspection will NOT be scheduled if an access agreement is not already on file with the East Chicago Water Department.
- The homeowner, or adult age 18 or older, must be on-site for the home survey and at the time of service line replacement.
- The work area must be cleared and accessible.
- Any cancellations or no-shows for home surveys or service line replacements will result in an address being "passed-over." Residents passed-over may be eligible for service line replacement at the end of the project, pending available funding.

For more information on this program please contact the East Chicago Water Department at 219-391-8469 or email at [wguzman@eastchicago.com](mailto:wguzman@eastchicago.com).



## 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](http://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**

- Drinking water filters: 219-512-3158
- East Chicago Housing Authority:  
Tia Cauley, Executive Director,  
219-397-9974 ext. 30
- Former Carrie Gosch Elementary School:  
Dee Etta Wright, Interim Superintendent,  
219-391-4100 ext. 12334
- Goodman Park:  
Public Works Department,  
219-391-8463

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

**Community Involvement Coordinators**

**Janet Pope**  
312-353-0628  
pope.janet@epa.gov

**Charles Rodriguez**  
312-886-7472  
rodriguez.charles@epa.gov  
*"Para atención en español"*

**Remedial Project Managers  
(Technical Questions)**

**Zone 1**

**Tom Alcamo**  
312-886-7278  
alcamo.thomas@epa.gov

**Zones 2 and 3**

**Sarah Rolfes**  
312-886-6551  
rolfes.sarah@epa.gov

**OU2 (Groundwater Investigation)**

**Leslie Patterson**  
312-886-4904  
patterson.leslie@epa.gov

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

**EPA  
Hotline  
219-801-2199**

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

**East Chicago  
Water  
Department  
219-391-8469**

**Visit EPA at the community  
information office:**

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



**EPA Web Pages**

**Superfund – USS Lead Site**  
[www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site](http://www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site)

**RCRA – DuPont Facility**  
[www.epa.gov/in/hazardous-waste-cleanup-dupont-facility-east-chicago-indiana](http://www.epa.gov/in/hazardous-waste-cleanup-dupont-facility-east-chicago-indiana)

