



# **New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical (DePue) Superfund Site**

DePue, Illinois

**U.S. EPA Transition and Next Steps**  
**December 4, 2019**

# Introductions



- **U.S. EPA**
  - Sarah Rolfes, Remedial Project Manager
  - Kristina Miller, On-Scene Coordinator
  - Charles Rodriguez, Community Involvement Coordinator
  - Janet Pope, Community Involvement Coordinator
  - Kevin Adler, Section Chief, Remedial Response Section 3
- **Illinois EPA**
  - Charlene Falco, Project Manager
  - Jay Timm, Office of Community Relations
- **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**
  - Motria Caudill, PhD, Environmental Health Scientist

# Agenda



- **Site Overview**
- **Site Transition**
- **Operable Unit 4 – Cleanup Details, Next Steps, Schedule**
- **Current Status – OU1, 2, 3 & 5**
- **ATSDR Overview**
- **Questions**

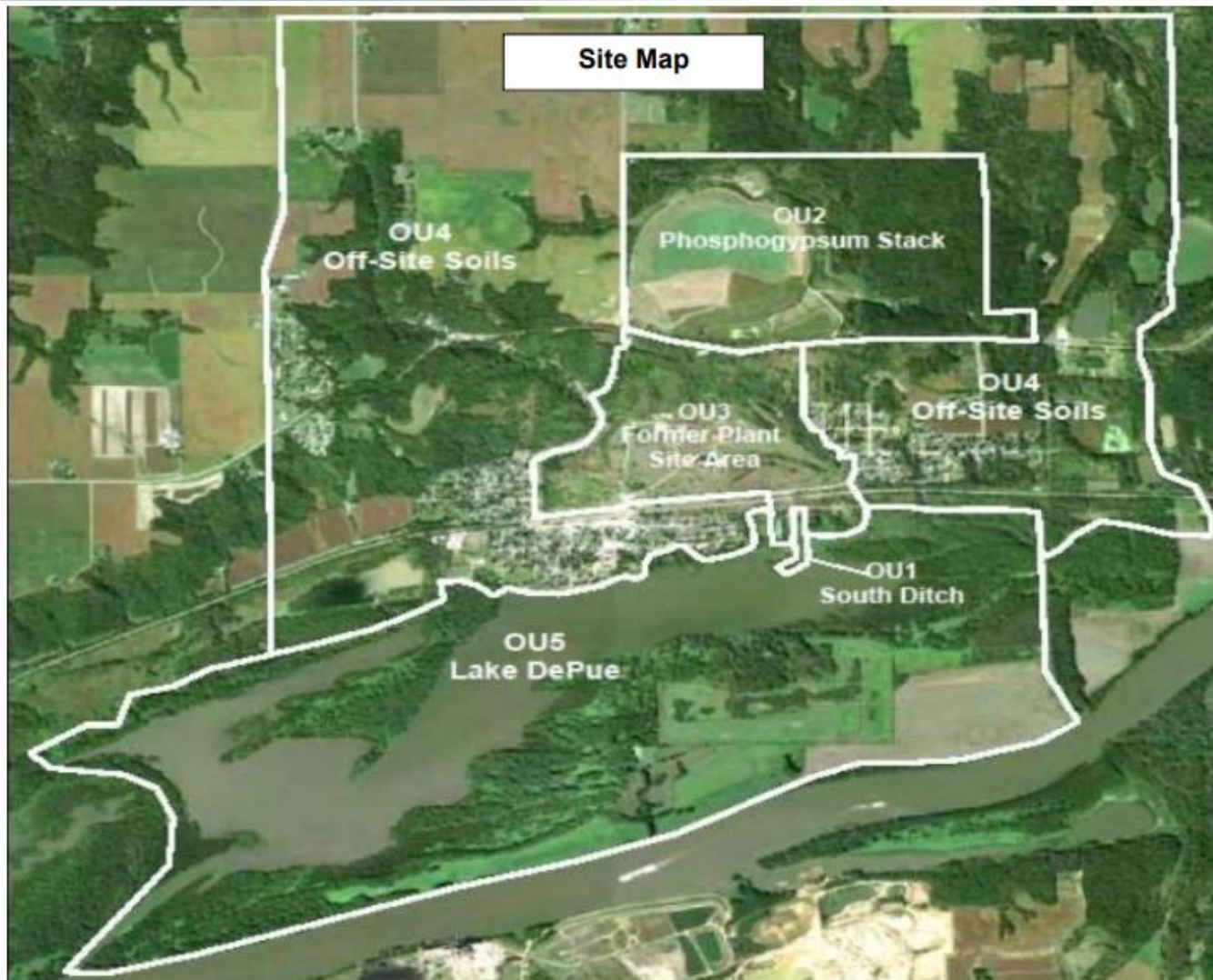
Reminder: Open House tomorrow, December 5 from 1-3pm and 4-7pm. Representatives from EPA, Illinois EPA, and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will be available.

# Site Overview



- **Superfund List: 1999**
- **Site has 5 OUs: South Ditch (OU1), Phosphogypsum Stack (OU2), Former Plant Site Area (OU3), Offsite Soils (OU4) and Lake DePue (OU5).**
  - **OU1: Interim Clean-Up Action in 2005.**
  - **OU2: Cleanup activities are near completion.**
  - **OU3: Remedial Investigation ongoing; Interim Water Treatment Plant operation ongoing.**
  - **OU4: Clean-up action determined in 2017 (ROD).**
  - **OU5: Remedial Investigation ongoing.**

# Site Map





# Site Transition



- US EPA assumed the role as the lead agency of the Site as of October 16, 2019, because cleanup negotiations between Illinois EPA and the potentially responsible parties reached an impasse.
  - Under federal law, US EPA has additional authorities to help leverage completion of the cleanup.
- Since the transition, Illinois EPA and US EPA have been working together to transition the site.
  - Illinois EPA will continue to work closely with US EPA throughout the various investigative and cleanup activities

# Site Schedule/Next Steps



- US EPA and Illinois EPA have a shared goal to begin the cleanup of residential properties in **spring 2020**.
  - US EPA has begun discussions with the potentially responsible parties concerning the cleanup of residential properties in OU4.
- US EPA will seek to negotiate agreements concerning investigations and cleanup of the additional operable units.

# OU4 Cleanup Remedy (ROD)



- Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 2017
  - EPA concurred on the remedy decision
- The Selected Remedy included:
  - Excavation of contaminated soils from residential areas, special use areas (i.e. parks and schools), and miscellaneous properties within OU4;
  - Excavated soil will be stockpiled and managed on OU3; and
  - Restoration of properties.
- Remedial goals were established for arsenic, cadmium, lead, and manganese.



# OU4 Residential Soil Remediation

## Remediation Process



1. **Obtain access agreement** from property owner and sample property
2. **Prepare design** for properties (or portions of properties) with arsenic, cadmium, lead, and/or manganese above Remedial Goals
3. **Meet with property owner** to discuss remediation and complete restoration agreement
  - Restoration agreement specifies areas and depths to be excavated, vegetation to be removed or left in place, and restoration (i.e. sod or seed, mulch, gravel, etc.)
4. **Document pre-existing conditions of property**

# OU4 Residential Soil Remediation

## Remediation Process, contd.



5. **Add property to remediation schedule** and have utilities located
6. **Excavate property** in accordance with design and agreement
  - Air monitoring is performed during excavation
  - Excavation completion is documented
7. **Restore property** with backfill, topsoil, sod, etc.
  - Temporarily relocated items are reinstalled
  - Completion of restoration is documented
  - Contractor waters sod during the establishment period
8. **Meet with property owner** to verify satisfactory completion and sign completion agreement

# OU4 Access Agreements



- **Access agreements must be signed in order for sampling and remediation to occur.**
- Contractors, working for the potentially responsible parties, have been mailing access agreements and going door-to-door.
- Copies are available today and tomorrow for signature.
  - Self-addressed stamped envelopes also available for mailing.
  - EPA is available to answer any questions.

# OU4 Soil Sampling



- Soil sampling began in earnest in 2018.
- As of November 2019 – 492 properties have been sampled
  - 41 properties sampled during Pilot Study
  - 142 properties sampled in 2018
  - 310 properties sampled in 2019
  - Of the properties sampled, 357 properties require clean-up.



**\*EPA will also be available tomorrow (December 5) during the Open House (1-3 and 4-7pm at the VFW) to discuss results letters or sampling results in person**

# OU4 Soil Results Letters



- Illinois EPA has been sending results letters to homeowners.
- U.S. EPA will continue to send out results letters and will begin contacting residents concerning soil sampling results next week\*.

\*EPA will also be available **tomorrow (December 5)** during the **Open House (1-3 and 4-7pm at the VFW)** to discuss results letters or sampling results in person

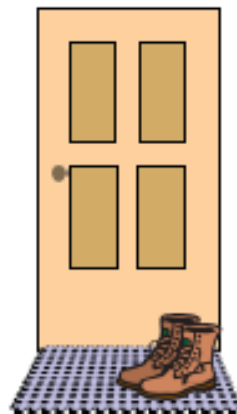
# Recommendations to reduce exposure to potential contamination in soil



Wash and peel all garden vegetables and fruits and avoid growing root crops (such as carrots, beets, potatoes)



Have children play on grassy areas, not on bare dirt.



Wipe shoes on doormat or remove shoes



Don't eat food, chew gum, or smoke when working in the yard and wear gloves



Damp mop floors and damp dust counters and furniture regularly



Bathe dogs regularly



Wash children's toys and babies' pacifiers regularly



Wash children's hands and feet after they have been playing outside



# OU4 Excavation Schedule



- EPA is working towards a spring 2020 start.
- Properties with sensitive populations and high concentrations in the surface soil will be prioritized.
  - Sensitive populations identified during sampling and pre-construction meetings.
- Excavation work is also scheduled in a manner to maximize efficiency and minimize neighborhood disruption.
- Community will be updated regularly on work progress.

# OU4 Soil Excavation



- Utilities are marked prior to arrival at property
- Small equipment (mini-excavator, skid steer, single-axle dump trucks, etc.) are often utilized during residential remediation due to access constraints
- Soil is removed in accordance with Remedial Design



# OU4 Soil Excavation, contd.



- Precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of contamination during excavation work
  - Geofabric or sheeting may be utilized
  - Personnel decontamination areas are set up at the excavation boundary
  - Equipment is decontaminated at completion of excavation
  - Trucks transporting soil are cleaned of loose soil and tarped prior to transport
  - Sidewalks and/or roadways are cleaned as needed
- Air monitoring will be conducted during the work to ensure safety of residents and workers





# OU4 Backfill



- Backfill and topsoil will be placed in the excavated areas.
- All fill materials will be tested to ensure they are clean prior to being utilized.

# OU4 Restoration



- Sod or seed and landscaping will be placed (based on restoration agreement).
- Satisfactory sod/seed establishment will be verified prior to completion meeting with the property owner.
- EPA will send homeowner a completion letter.



# Current Status/Next Steps Operable Units 1 and 2



- **OU1 (South Ditch) – Interim cleanup action was completed.**
  - Next Step: A permanent remedy will be incorporated into the cleanup action for OU5.
- **OU2 (Phosphogypsum Stack) – Construction has been completed. The cover has been completed and permanent vegetation will be installed next year.**
  - Next Step: Continue the long-term groundwater and surface water monitoring program.



# Current Status/Next Steps Operable Units 3 and 5



- **OU3 (Former Plant Site) – Remedial Investigation is ongoing, including the ecological risk assessment. The interim water treatment plant continues to operate.**
  - Next Step: After RI, a Feasibility Study to develop and evaluate cleanup options will be conducted.
- **OU5 (Lake DePue) – Remedial Investigation is ongoing, including the ecological risk assessment.**
  - Next Step: After RI, a Feasibility Study to develop and evaluate cleanup options will be conducted.

# **DePue/New Jersey/ Mobil Chemical Corp. Site**

**DePue, Illinois**

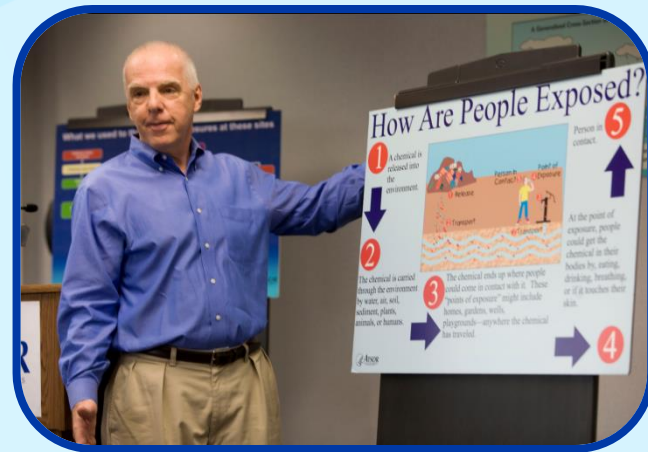
**Motria Caudill, PhD  
Environmental Health Scientist  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

Public Meeting  
December 4, 2019

# Who is ATSDR ?

**A public health agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Located in Atlanta, GA with 10 Regional Offices, including Chicago, IL.**

- ❑ Not a regulatory or enforcement agency
- ❑ Works with communities, local, state, tribal governments, and other federal agencies to protect people from environmental exposures



**For more information about ATSDR's public health activities at this site, please contact:**

Motria Caudill, Environmental Health Scientist  
(312)-886-0267; [mcaudill@cdc.gov](mailto:mcaudill@cdc.gov)

**For more information about ATSDR:**

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)/TTY: 1-888-232-6348

Email: [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)

# Questions



## Contact information

For more information about the cleanup,  
contact these U.S. EPA team members:

*For general questions:*

**Charles Rodriguez**

(Atención en español)

Community Involvement Coordinator

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*For residential soil questions:*

**Sarah Rolfes**

Remedial Project Manager

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*For health-related questions:*

**Motria Caudill**

Environmental Health Scientist

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mcaudill@cdc.gov

Call U.S. EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431,  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays, or visit

[www.epa.gov/superfund/depue-newjersey-zinc](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/depue-newjersey-zinc).

U.S. EPA is also holding an **open house** where you will be able to talk one-on-one with representatives from U.S. EPA, Illinois EPA, and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

**Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019**

Two sessions: 1-3 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.

DePue VFW Hall

202 W. 1st St.