

Welcome to this edition of the USS Lead newsletter

This is the fifth edition of EPA's 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- 19J), Chicago, IL 60604, or email Janet at pope.janet@epa.gov.



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USS Lead Superfund Site

The USS Lead Superfund Site is located in East Chicago, Indiana. The Site includes part of the former USS Lead facility along with nearby commercial, municipal and residential areas. The primary contaminants of concern are lead and arsenic. The USS Lead Site was listed on the National Priorities List of contaminated sites in 2009. The USS Lead Site is divided into two Operable Units, or OUs. The first, OU1, includes a public housing complex and residential properties. OU1 has been further divided into three zones. OU2 includes soil at the former USS Lead facility, as well as groundwater beneath both that facility and the residential neighborhoods. EPA is overseeing the implementation of cleanup work throughout the site.



Figure 1. USS Lead Site and DuPont Facility

EPA wants to hear from you!

EPA is holding community interviews to get your feedback during the Five-Year Review process (see Page 2 for more information on the Five-Year Review and how to schedule an interview).

Dates of Interviews: June 21-23



Five Year Review

EPA is currently working on the first Five-Year Review, or FYR, for the USS Lead Superfund Site. The purpose of the FYR is to evaluate whether the cleanup for the site continues to be protective of human health and the environment and complies with current EPA guidance and regulations. The first FYR is conducted five years after the start of remedial action. As FYRs evaluate the effectiveness of a cleanup, the first FYR will focus on the completed soil cleanups conducted in Zones 2 and 3. Because cleanup has not yet occurred at the former West Calumet Housing Complex property in Zone 1, it is not part of the current review. OU 2, which consists of soil at the former USS Lead facility and the groundwater beneath the entire, is also not included in the review, because the remedial investigation is currently in progress.

During FYR, EPA conducts several activities including community notification, document review and data review and analysis, among others. The information collected is used to decide if the cleanup remains protective. EPA assesses the protectiveness of a remedy by answering three questions:

1. Is the remedy functioning as intended in the cleanup decision document? For the portion of the USS Lead Site currently undergoing evaluation, the cleanup decision referenced is the 2012 Record of Decision (ROD) for OU1. EPA generally will not reopen remedy selection decisions contained in RODs unless a new or modified requirement calls into question the protectiveness of the selected remedy.
2. Are the parameters on which the cleanup decision was based still valid? In other words – are the cleanup levels still in accordance with EPA guidance, has the population changed, or has the land use changed?
3. Has any other information come to light that could affect the protectiveness of the remedy? Examples of this information include a change in land use that is being considered by local officials or ecological risks had not been evaluated at the Site.

All findings are summarized in a document named the Five-Year Review Report. The FYR Report identifies issues found during the review, if any, and documents recommendations to address them. For example, a FYR Report may identify inadequate institutional controls as an issue. The FYR Report may recommend implementing institutional controls and a timeline to complete the action.

The current review for the first FYR for the USS Lead Site is scheduled to be completed by October 2021. The final report will be posted on EPA's USS Lead Superfund website (www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site). Hard copies of the report will be available at the information repositories noted on page 7.

How can you provide feedback for the Five Year Review?

The FYR is an opportunity for you to tell EPA about any concerns you have with the cleanup that was completed in Zones 2 and 3. To schedule an interview, please contact Cheryl Vaccarello at cheryl.vaccarello@tetrattech.com or 312-201-7791. Cheryl is a contractor working for EPA. Information for the phone and virtual interviews will be provided when you call for an appointment.

Dates: In-Person/Phone Interviews: June 21 and 22, 2021
 Virtual Interviews: June 23, 2021

Location: Tents Outside Front Door of Former Carrie Gosch Elementary School
 455 E . 148th St.

If you need a Spanish interpreter for the interviews, please contact Heriberto León at 312-886-6163 by June 16, 2021 and we will have an interpreter available.

All in-person interviews will be conducted in accordance with current safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, with measures such as wearing face coverings, having hand sanitizer available, using disinfectant for wiping down any commonly touched surfaces and materials, using social distancing markings and queues when we have multiple visitors at the same time. All in-person attendees are required to wear a face covering and keep at least 6 ft of social distancing during their visit. Though appointments are not required, they are encouraged to maintain social distancing. People with appointments will be met at their scheduled time.

Summary of Work in Zones 2 and 3

As of the end of the 2020 construction season, all residential properties in Zones 2 and 3 have been cleaned up and all properties in Zones 2 and 3 have been sampled. In Zones 2 and 3, only four non-residential properties remain to be cleaned. EPA anticipates these remaining four non-residential properties will be remediated during the 2021 construction season. A limited number of residences remain requiring indoor sampling and cleaning, if necessary. EPA will continue to seek access to sample and clean, if necessary, at these limited properties during the 2021 construction season.

Zone	Total Number of Properties in Zone	Number of Properties that Require Cleaning	Current Number of Properties Cleaned (through Sept. 20, 2019)	Number of Properties Remaining to be Cleaned
2	597	510	508	2
3	481	297	295	2
Totals	1,078	807	803	4

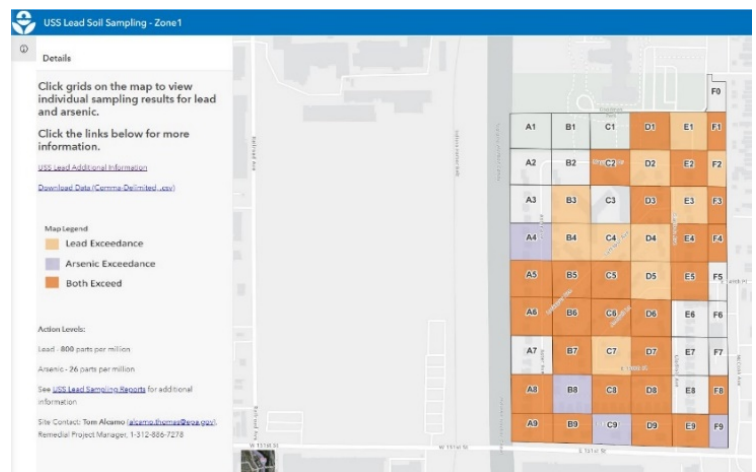
The 2012 Record of Decision for OU1 included excavation and removal of contaminated soil up to two feet below ground surface and institutional controls to protect against exposure to contamination remaining beneath two feet below ground surface at these properties. As cleanup nears completion in Zones 2 and 3, EPA has begun to review properties that have contamination remaining at depths of at

least two feet below the surface to determine what institutional controls may be required at these properties. During the cleanup process, EPA conducted additional sampling, where allowable, to remove this contamination at depth to limit the number of properties that will require institutional controls. Additional information concerning institutional controls will be published once the review is complete.

Zone 1 Update

EPA is currently in discussions with the developer chosen by the city of East Chicago, Industrial Development Advantage (IDA), to clean-up remaining soils contaminated with lead and arsenic in Zone 1. After the cleanup is complete, IDA has proposed to build a commercial warehouse over the 50-acre Zone 1 property. If an agreement is reached between EPA and IDA, the agreement, called a Prospective Purchaser Agreement, allows for the public to comment on the agreement before it is finalized.

EPA chose the cleanup plan for Zone 1, which is a residential cleanup in which two feet of contaminated soil would be excavated and disposed of off-site using a soil cleanup standard of 400 parts per million lead and 26 parts per million arsenic. The cleanup plan included a contingency remedy for a commercial/industrial cleanup if the city of East Chicago changed the zoning of Zone 1 from residential to commercial and the property transferred to a developer. In May 2020, the city of East Chicago changed the zoning of Zone 1 from residential to light industrial and is currently working with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to transfer the ownership of the Zone 1 property to IDA. A commercial/ industrial cleanup would consist of the excavation of soils to a depth of one foot using a soil cleanup standard of 800 parts per million lead and 26 parts per million arsenic.



Check out this link to the new Zone 1 web viewer.
<https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/minimalist/index.html?appid=7ba38bad68ed43388fa7a344bfb9d24c>

IDA performed soil sampling on Zone 1 last fall to further define the soil contamination. The results of the sampling can be found on the new Zone 1 web viewer (link above).

Operable Unit 2 Update

OU2 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 Potentially Responsible Parties’ (PRPs) environmental investigation at OU2 under a legal framework called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Administrative Settlement Agreement, and Order on Consent. In 2018 and 2019, as part of the Remedial Investigation (RI), contractors working on behalf of the PRPs installed groundwater monitoring wells in the residential neighborhoods, sampled those wells on a quarterly basis, 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 January 2020, the PRPs submitted a draft RI report detailing these activities. This report is available on EPA’s website at www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site along with EPA’s comments on the report. EPA required the PRPs to perform additional data collection, which included installation of additional monitoring wells in Zone 1 along with additional soil sampling in March of 2021. The PRPs will also complete additional data collection during the summer of 2021 and will submit a revised RI report to EPA.

The potential for groundwater basement seepage to introduce site-related contaminants to residential and other structures on site is known as subsurface intrusion. Sump water and indoor dust concentrations collected to date have not shown site-related arsenic dust accumulation in basements attributable to groundwater seepage. While contaminant concentrations in shallow groundwater in Zones 2 and 3 are generally below drinking water limits, EPA has observed localized elevated contaminant concentrations. The previously collected data will be evaluated and included in the PRPs revised RI report..

Former Cities Service Site

Groundwater and soil screening continues at the Former Cities Service site in East Chicago. The first rounds of groundwater and soil sampling didn’t show any results that required immediate action or a major change in the scope of the facility investigation. After finishing some additional sampling, the companies performing the work expect to deliver the final Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility

Investigation report by the end of 2021. Once EPA reviews this data, it will be made public. EPA will then determine what additional investigations and/or corrective measures are required at the Site. Recent data is available on the web site below and also at the East Chicago Public Library, 2401 E. Columbus Drive. More information about the Former Cities Service Site can be found at www.epa.gov/hwcorrectiveactionsites/hazardous-waste-cleanup-former-cities-service-refinery-east-chicago-indiana. Contact: Francisco Arcaute, Community Involvement Coordinator, 312-886-7613; arcaute.francisco@epa.gov.



Figure 2. Former Cities Service Site, East Chicago

Former DuPont East Chicago Facility

The comprehensive soil and groundwater cleanup continues at the Former DuPont East Chicago Facility, which is adjacent to the USS Lead Superfund Site. To date over 23,307 cubic yards of primarily lead and arsenic contaminated soil have been removed from the contamination source areas in the northern area of the facility and disposed of offsite. In addition, 5,404 cubic yards of deeper saturated contaminated soils were treated in place and stabilized. The excavation and off-site disposal of soils from the 12 remaining source areas in the southern area of the facility is underway and is scheduled to be completed in 2021. Soil removals in the eight northern source areas were completed in 2020. Baseline groundwater sampling of the southern network of wells has been completed, performance monitoring began in the northern network of wells and the preliminary groundwater treatment for the northern and southern groundwater injection zones will begin in 2021.

More information about the RCRA Corrective Action cleanup at the Former DuPont East Chicago Facility can be found at:

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

Contact: Jennifer Dodds, Corrective Action Project Manager, 312-886-1484; dodds.jennifer@epa.gov

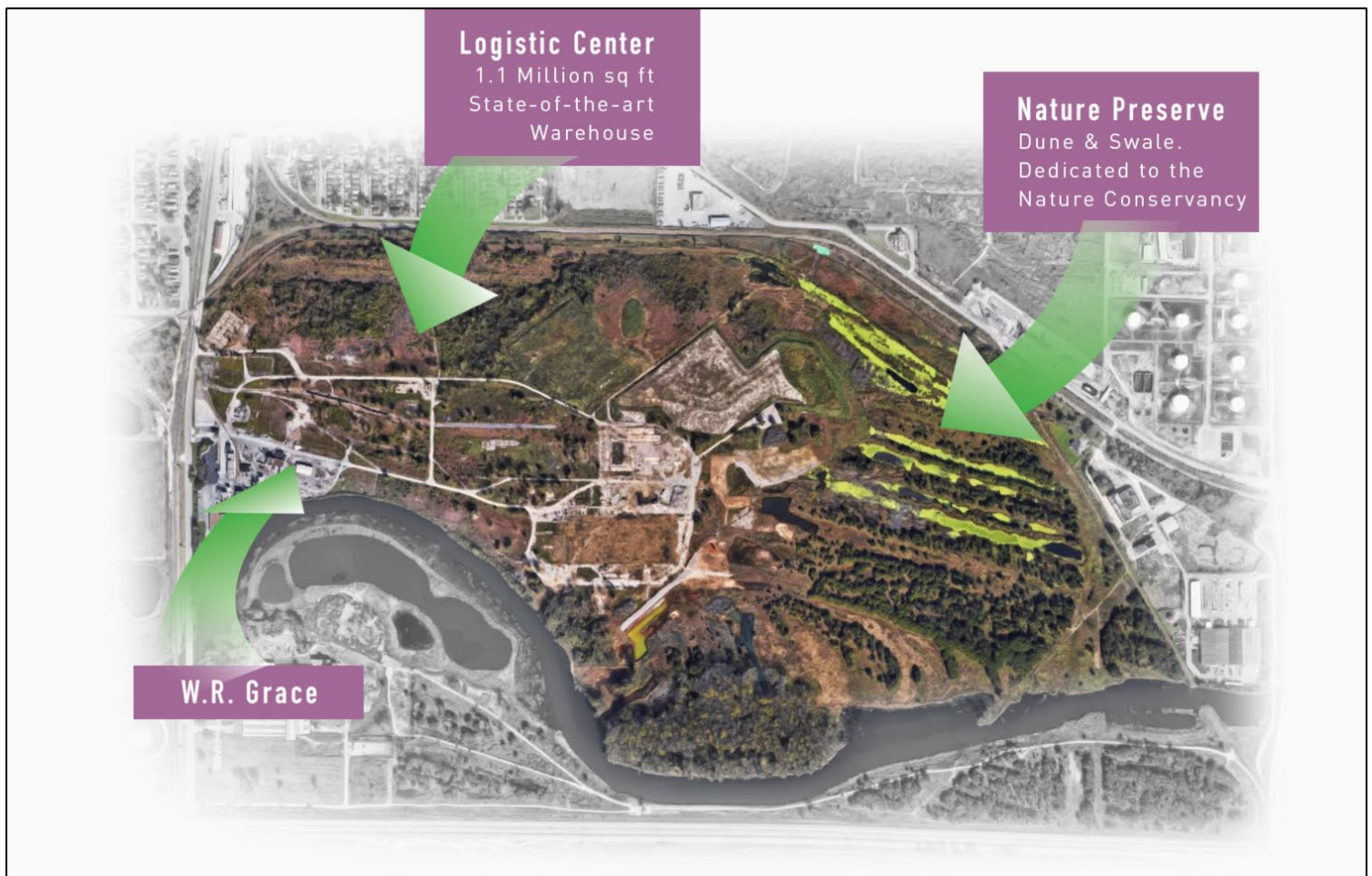


Figure 3. Former DuPont East Chicago Facility Proposed Area for Redevelopment

Contact Information

City of East Chicago

- 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
- City of East Chicago Lead Hotline:
219-391-LEAD / 219-391-5323
- East Chicago Water Department:
Lead Service Line Replacement
Winna Guzman, 219-391-8469

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 - 11:30 a.m.
1 - 3 p.m.

(Results will be returned 1 - 2 weeks later)

Indiana State Indoor Lead Based Paint

Justin Tyrrell
Manager of Lead Programs
1845 W. 18th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-638-4232
jtyrrell@incap.org

HealthLinc

YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

1313 W. Chicago Ave.
219-398-9685

EPA

Community Involvement Coordinators

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

Heriberto León
312-886-6163
leon.heriberto@epa.gov
"Para atención en español"

Remedial Project Managers (Technical Questions)

Zone 1	Zones 2 and 3
Tom Alcamo	Sarah Rolfes
312-886-7278	312-886-6551
alcamo.thomas@epa.gov	rolfes.sarah@epa.gov

OU2 (Groundwater Investigation)

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



EPA Web Pages

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

Zone 1 Web Viewer –

<https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/minimalist/index.html?appid=7ba38bad68ed43388fa7a344bfb9d24c>

Information Repository and Administrative Record

East Chicago Public Library

2401 E. Columbus Dr.
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.



**Please call the library
to confirm hours in
case they have
changed hours due to
COVID-19.*

See inside to learn more about:

- Background on the USS Lead Superfund Site
- Five-Year Review for the USS Lead Superfund Site and how you can participate
- Summary of Work in Zones 2 and 3
- Zone 1 Update
- Operable Unit 2 Update
- Former City Service Site
- Former DuPont East Chicago Facility

USS LEAD SUPERFUND SITE Update on Site Activities

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region 5
Community Involvement and
Outreach Section (RC-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

