

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Southside Chattanooga Lead Site Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee



Proposed Plan Fact

November 2018

Public Meeting is scheduled to
discuss the Proposed Plan

Thursday, November 15, 2018
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

South Chattanooga
Recreation Center
1151 West 40 Street
Chattanooga, TN 37409

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a plan to cleanup lead contamination at the Southside Chattanooga Lead Superfund Site (Site) in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This is an EPA funded cleanup. EPA will hold a public meeting to present the proposed plan and answer questions on Thursday, November 15, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Chattanooga. EPA is also soliciting public comments on the plan for 30-days ending on November 30, 2018.

Proposed Cleanup Plan

EPA, in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), developed and evaluated a range of options to clean up the contaminated soil at the Site. The options evaluated to treat the soil ranged from No Action to Excavation and Offsite Disposal.

The EPA preferred alternative is excavation and off-site disposal. Under this alternative, contaminated soil would be excavated to a maximum depth of two (2) feet. The excavated soil would be transported and disposed off-site to an EPA approved facility. Excavated soil would be sampled to determine if the soil would be disposed of as either hazardous waste or non-hazardous waste. Treatment of soil, if needed, would be conducted at and by the approved disposal facility. The excavated areas would be backfilled with clean material and graded to provide positive drainage. Impacted and disturbed areas would be restored.

Public Comment

EPA relies on public input to ensure community concerns are considered in selecting an effective remedy for each Superfund Site. The Proposed Plan is posted online and is also available for review at the information repository located at the South Chattanooga Library, 925 West 39 Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37409.

Written comments may be e-mailed to Joseph.Robenson@epa.gov or mailed (postmarked no later than November 30, 2018) to:

Robenson Joseph, U.S. EPA Region 4, Superfund Division -11th Floor, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30303.

After the EPA has received comments and questions during the public comment period, EPA will summarize the comments and provide responses in the Responsiveness Summary which will be part of the Record of Decision (ROD).

The ROD will select the final remedial action and provide the rationale of the EPA's selection.

Background

The Site is in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. The Site consists of residential and child high impact properties (common areas such as playgrounds, parks, daycare centers, etc.), where lead-bearing material from past foundry operations was used as fill and top soil. The Site includes eight residential neighborhoods: Alton Park, Cowart Place, East Lake, Highland Park, Jefferson Heights, Oak Grove, Richmond, and Southside Gardens.

We want your comments!

EPA relies on public input to ensure the concerns of the community are considered in selecting an effective remedy for each Superfund Site.

The public is encouraged to comment on the Proposed Plan documents during the comment period:

November 1– November 30, 2018

Previous Site Activities

In 2016, EPA, in cooperation with TDEC and the Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), began the Site Inspection (SI) to determine whether lead-contaminated foundry-related waste materials were isolated to the area of previous soil removals along Read Avenue and Mitchell Avenue or additional areas may be impacted. After obtaining permission from property owners, EPA collected soil samples in several neighborhoods near the former foundries. The collected soil samples were analyzed for lead, arsenic and other metals. The SI determined that elevated levels of lead in soil was not limited to the Read and Mitchell Avenue area. In August 2017, EPA began the Remedial Investigation (RI) and collected soil samples from 33 residential properties in Oak Grove, Highland Park, and East Lake.

EPA proposed the Site to the National Priorities List (NPL) on January 18, 2018. On September 13, 2018, the Site was added to the NPL. In May 2018, EPA collected soil samples from an additional 28 properties in Alton Park, Cowart Place, Jefferson Heights, and Southside Gardens. Between May 2011 and May 2018, soil samples were collected from nearly 300 properties at the Site. To date, 104 properties have been cleaned-up. Sampling activities to identify properties where cleanup will be required are ongoing.

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CONTACTS & MORE INFORMATION

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Information Repository

South Chattanooga Library
925 West 39 Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37409

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/former-chattanooga-foundries>

US EPA – Region 4
61 Forsyth Street SW – 9T25
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
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