

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

**BUCKHEAD SLAG SUPERFUND SITE
ATLANTA, FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4**

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Title Page

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Prepared by: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

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EPA OSC: Chuck Berry, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, Emergency Response and Removal Branch

ACTIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PUBLIC PROJECT

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Superfund Community Involvement Program is committed to promoting communication between citizens and the agency. EPA's community involvement activities at the Buckhead Slag Site are to:

- **Inform the public of the nature of the environmental issues associated with the site.**
- **Involve the public in the decision-making process that will affect them.**
- **Involve the public in the responses under consideration to remedy these issues.**
- **Inform the public of the progress being made to implement the remedy.**

***EPA REGION 4 WILL REVISE THIS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN AS COMMUNITY CONCERNS WARRANT OR AT LEAST EVERY THREE YEARS UNTIL RESPONSE ACTIVITIES AT THE SITE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.**

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Section 1.0

Overview of the Community Involvement Plan

One of the steps required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or simply, Superfund, for sites listed on the National Priorities List or for sites where removal actions will go beyond 120 days is to prepare a Community Involvement Plan (CIP).

EPA developed this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Buckhead Slag Superfund Site and EPA and to encourage community involvement in Site activities. EPA will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This CIP provides a background of the community (**Section 2.0**), presents EPA's community involvement program (**Section 3.0**), outlines the Superfund program (**Section 4.0**), addresses relationships between the community and EPA (**Section 5.0**) and provides a listing of resources available (Appendices). EPA drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and conversations, internet research and site files. EPA's Regional Office will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this Plan.

The CIP will be revised as community concern warrants or at minimum, every three years until the Site is removed from the NPL. The revision process includes conducting additional community interviews, updating mailing lists, updating the files at the designated at the information repository and updating the contacts and resources provided in the appendices of the CIP as necessary.

If you are interested in submitting comments or have questions or suggestions concerning the CIP, please contact:

Marjorie Thomas
Community Involvement Coordinator
(404) 562-9151
Thomas.Marjorie@epa.gov

Section 2.0

Community Background

This section describes the composition of the Buckhead area of Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia, the Peachtree Park neighborhood and the history of community involvement with the Site.

2.1 Community Profile

The community of Buckhead is known as an upscale commercial and residential district of Atlanta, Georgia. It is centered around the intersection of Peachtree Road and Piedmont Road, near Georgia State Route 400 and the Lenox Square shopping center, basically covering the interior of the “V” formed by Interstates 85 and 75. Buckhead is one of the top three largest business districts within the Atlanta city limits and features high-rise office buildings, hotels, shopping centers, art galleries, restaurants, and bars. Buckhead comprises most of the neighborhoods on the north side of Atlanta and is an area that provides much revenue to the City.

Buckhead is home to Piedmont Hospital and the Shepherd Center, both renowned medical facilities. It is also the location of several of Atlanta’s diplomatic missions.

Buckhead has several public schools in addition to elite private schools for primary and secondary education. Georgia State University’s Mack Robinson College of Business, as well as the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business are both located in Buckhead.

The City of Atlanta is broken into 242 distinct, City-recognized neighborhoods. Within what is colloquially called “Buckhead”, there are approximately 43 of these defined neighborhoods. That number is, however, the subject of some argument, as there is no single “Buckhead” neighborhood; several neighborhoods do incorporate it into their full name (e.g. Buckhead Village, North Buckhead, etc.), but when the City neighborhood system was set up, no one was allowed to lay claim to the “Buckhead” title.

The Buckhead Slag site is centered in the *Peachtree Park neighborhood, bounded by Piedmont Avenue on the west, the Norfolk Southern rail line to the south, GA-400 on the west, and Peachtree Road to the north. This historic Buckhead area was developed in the early 20th century for lower middle-class, working families and was expanded twice into the late 1950’s. The portion of the neighborhood where the site lies was originally part of the Garden Hills Heights development, but when the City created the current neighborhood system, it fell into Peachtree Park. The homes of Peachtree Park are modest cottage, bungalow, or Craftsman-style homes. The lots are deep and relatively narrow. Mature trees, wooded lots, and small streams are characteristic of the landscape. Streets in Peachtree Park are curved to follow rolling terrain and many of the streets are lined with sidewalks; Darlington Circle features granite stones serving as a “wall” between the front of the lots and the street, and no sidewalk.

Peachtree Park (which includes Peachtree Highlands, the oldest section of this district) was placed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its significance relating to

community planning and development for the early to mid-1900s that document Atlanta’s working-class residents, and the residential architecture that showcases how “popular” styles were applied to modest homes from the 1920s – 1950s.

2.2 History of Community Involvement

EPA Region 4 has established community involvement activities since the discovery of the Site, which include the following:

- In March 2023, EPA attended a meeting with the Peachtree Park Civic Association to answer questions/concerns raised by the community about the Site. EPA also circulated a fact sheet (see Attachment I) regarding access for sampling to help determine the extent of lead contamination.
- In April 2023, EPA obtained property access for properties in the vicinity of the Site to determine the nature/extent of contamination.
- A public notice announcing the time-critical removal action at Buckhead Slag and availability of the Administrative Record (AR) was published in the Atlanta Journal Constitution on November 12, 2023.
- EPA Ycommunicated with the owners of the two properties that make up the Buckhead Slag Superfund Site via email, phone, and through in-person visits once their properties were identified to have contamination.

2.3 Key Community Concerns

- One resident has raised medical concerns, concerns of radionuclides in the soil based on visible slag and dark green glass present throughout their property, but especially where they gardened, and concerns that the creek downstream of Site property may have contamination that could impact others downstream.
- A resident has raised concerns about protection of their tree and underground water meter, and concerns related to access during the removal process. This resident has also expressed concerns related to radionuclides and dioxins.
- A resident expressed concern about the length of time taken for the removal to be completed.
- Some residents are concerned about how the Site will affect property values.

2.4 Response to Community Concerns

EPA conducted radiation surveys at Site property, which showed radionuclides were within expected background levels. EPA has informed residents that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is EPA’s Federal partner that we refer community members to for assistance with specific health concerns. Further, in response to community stakeholders’ concerns, EPA’s Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) and On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) will address the community’s concerns in an effective and efficient manner. EPA will maintain

in the community via email updates, fact sheets, door-to-door visits and public meetings as necessary.

2.5 Summary of Communication Needs

Some stakeholders have indicated preferences for EPA outreach efforts to include door-to-door visits, phone calls, and electronic notifications (emails), while some stakeholders preferred not being contacted.

Section 3.0 EPA's Community Involvement Program

The overall goal of EPA's community involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the EPA and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the cleanup process. EPA will implement the community involvement activities described below. The following plan is based on the results of the community interviews and conversations described earlier; it addresses each issue that was identified as being important to the community.

3.1 The Plan

Issue 1: Maintaining the Most Current Site Information for the Public

Activity 1A: Establish a Liaison for the Community and the EPA

Objective: To provide a primary liaison between the community and EPA and to ensure prompt, accurate and consistent responses and information dissemination about the Site. In instances where EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) may be unable to provide adequate information (such as on technical issues), inquiries will be directed to the appropriate EPA contact.

Method: EPA Region 4 has designated Marjorie Thomas as the CIC to handle Site inquiries and serve as point of contact for community members. She works closely with Chuck Berry, EPA's OSC. CIC Marjorie Thomas can be contacted at (404) 562-9151 and by email at thomas.marjorie@epa.gov.

Timing: A CIC has been involved at the Site since July 2022.

Activity 1B: Prepare and Distribute Site Fact Sheets and Technical Summaries

Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about the Site.

Method: Fact sheets will be emailed to all parties on the email distribution list and delivered door-to-door to those who are not.

Timing: EPA will prepare and distribute fact sheets as needed.

Activity 1C: Provide a Toll-free “800” Number the Community to Contact EPA

Objective: To enable citizens to obtain the latest site information available when they want it, rather than having to wait for a meeting or a fact sheet mailing, and without incurring any cost.

Method: EPA will activate the 800 number and publish it in all Site fact sheets.

Timing: The line is currently operational. The number is (877) 718-3752.

Activity 1D: Develop a Mailing List for the Site.

Objective: To facilitate the distribution of Site-specific information to all parties who would like to be kept informed about the Site.

Method: EPA will create a mailing list that includes all residences adjacent to the Site. EPA will also solicit interested parties via fact sheets, newspaper articles and public meetings.

Timing: EPA has developed a Site distribution list that is updated as needed.

Activity 1E: Establish and Maintain the Designated Information Repositories

Objective: To provide a convenient location where citizens can read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about the Site and EPA activities.

Method: The repository is a digital collection of Site information containing the Administrative Record file, other Site-specific information, the CIP, and relevant community information.

Timing: In compliance with the Paper Reduction Act, EPA maintains electronic files of Site-related information. These digital documents are accessible at the public library so that patrons may use public computers if needed to access information regarding the Site. Documents are housed online at the Buckhead Slag Superfund Site webpage: <https://epa.gov/superfund/buckheadslagsite>.

The information repository is established at:
Buckhead Library 269 Buckhead Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30305

EPA periodically adds documents as necessary.

Activity 1F: Provide Site and Superfund Information on the Internet

Objective: To provide key resources for searching and listing both general and specific information pertaining to Superfund and hazardous waste issues.

Method: General information about EPA and the Superfund program can be found at the following website URL addresses:

- EPA Headquarters: www.epa.gov.
- EPA Region 4: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region4.html>.

Timing: EPA updates Site Status Summaries periodically.

Activity 1G: Establish and Maintain the Administrative Record.

Objective: To provide residents with an index of all documents referred by EPA in reaching decisions about cleanup, etc., at the Site.

Method: EPA announced availability of the Administrative Record and it will remain available during the planning and implementation of the Site's cleanup.

Timing: EPA announced the availability of the Administrative Record with the community on November 12, 2023; it can be found on the Site webpage:
<https://epa.gov/superfund/buckheadslagsite>.

Activity 1H: Develop the Community Involvement Plan

Objective: The Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is a living document, which means that EPA can revise it, at or before the standard three-year term. The plan provides a thorough discussion of the Site's history, cleanup progress, community concerns, community participation/events and community contacts. The purpose of the CIP is to serve as a document that represents the community and its interests, concerns, and priorities to EPA.

Method: EPA will develop a CIP. The final CIP will be available electronically on the Site webpage.

Timing: EPA developed the CIP in March 2024. It was revised in March 2025.

Issue 2: Provide Effective Opportunities for Community Involvement

Activity 2A: Schedule Public Meetings.

Objective: To update the community on the most recent Site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments.

Method: EPA will schedule, prepare for and attend all announced meetings. EPA will provide at least two weeks' notice of each scheduled meeting. The Site's OSC, CIC and other appropriate EPA staff will attend.

Timing: EPA may schedule additional public meetings to provide the community with regular updates regarding the progress of the Site's cleanup as needed. At present, the community has not desired a formal meeting since the March 2023 Peachtree Park Civic Association meeting.

Activity 2B: Revise the Community Involvement Plan.

Objective: To identify and address community needs, issues and concerns regarding the Site.

Method: The revised plan will update the information presented in the previous version of the document.

Timing: EPA will revise the Site's CIP as community concerns warrant or, at minimum, every three years until completion of all Site activities.

Activity 2C: Forming Citizen Groups and Community Organizations

There were no community organizations and/or environmental groups identified for this Site.

3.2 Time Frame Summary for Community Involvement Activities

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TIME FRAME</u>
Designate an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)	Established
	As needed

Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries

Provide a toll-free "800 number" for the community to contact EPA

**Currently in operation
(877) 718-3752**

Maintain a mailing/email list for the Site

Ongoing

Establish and maintain Information Repositories

See Site webpage for digital documents, update as needed

Establish and maintain the Administrative Record

Established

Conduct special events

As needed or required

Schedule and conduct public meetings

As needed or required

Make informal visits to community

As needed

Section 4.0

What Is Superfund?

Superfund is an environmental cleanup program enabled by a federal law enacted in 1980 known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA. In 1986, another law, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) reauthorized CERCLA to continue Superfund cleanup activities. The CERCLA law gives EPA the authority to require parties responsible to clean those sites up or to reimburse the government if EPA cleans up the site. EPA requires responsible parties to clean up hazardous waste sites through administrative orders, consent decrees, and other legal settlements. EPA is authorized to enforce the Superfund laws in all 50 states and in U.S. territories. Superfund site identification, monitoring, and response activities are coordinated with state, tribal, and territorial environmental protection or waste management agencies.

The Superfund program encourages active dialogue between communities affected by the release of hazardous substances and all of the agencies responsible for carrying out or overseeing cleanup actions. EPA follows a step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean up a polluted site and protect human health and the environment. EPA considers community involvement to be an important part of the Superfund program and opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the procedure. Figure 1 on the next page outlines the stages of the Superfund process and highlights opportunities for community involvement at each step of the process.

Visit these EPA websites for more information on the Superfund process.

Superfund: www.epa.gov/superfund/index.htm

Cleanup Process: www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/index.htm

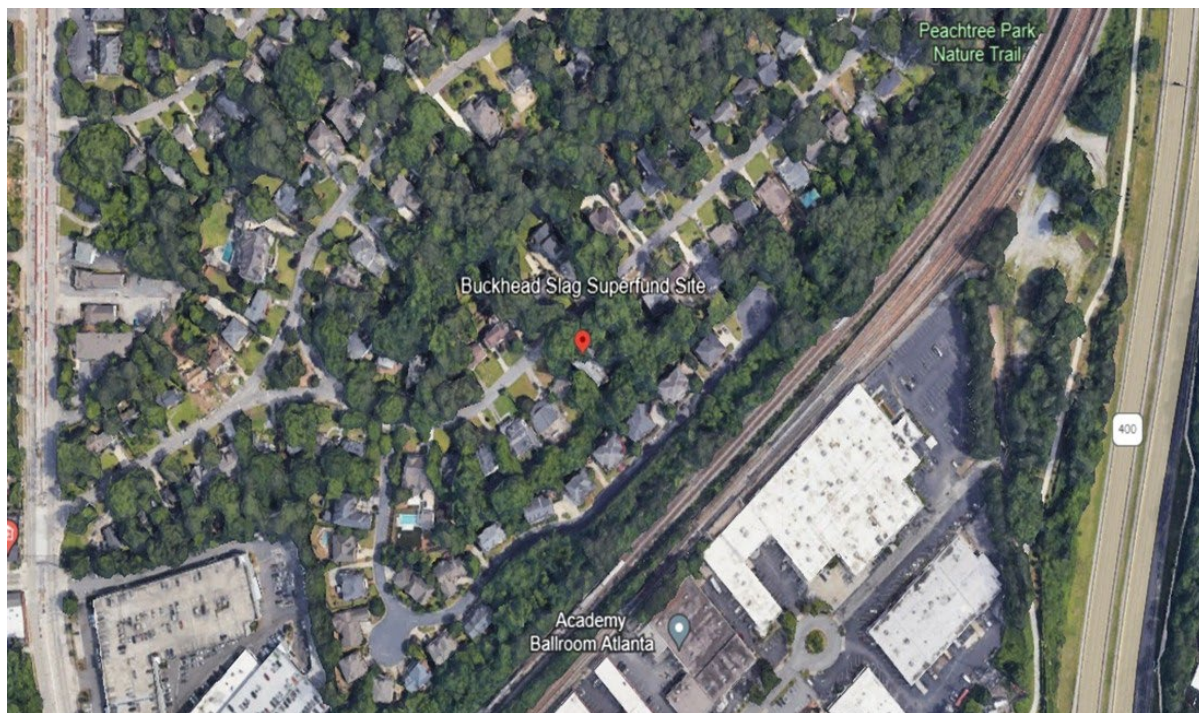
Community Involvement: www.epa.gov/superfund/community/index.htm

Section 5.0 Site Description

The Site is located in the Garden Hills Heights neighborhood in northeast Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. The Site coordinates are 33.832412, 84.364083.

The Buckhead Slag Site is an area of lead soil contamination. The lead soil contamination is limited to the back yards of two properties on Darlington Circle. The Site was initially thought to be possibly related to the nearby Westside Lead Site, as there is visible slag within the waste. Thus, the term “slag” has been used in previous Site descriptions. However, based on several pieces of evidence, including glass bottles present in the waste material, the material is more likely incinerator bottom ash of either residential or non-industrial origin. Incinerator ash is known to been used as a fill material in the early 1900s. Based on the steep topography and evidence of the material extending beneath the foundation of 679 Darlington Circle, the Site is consistent with the contamination source being lead-containing fill material that was placed on the sloped back yards to create terraces and/or expand the buildable areas of the lots, although without verified historical data, this is a supposition based on visual evidence.

5.1 Map



5.2 Site Inspections and Cleanup Activities

On June 9, 2022, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division referred the Site to EPA. The EPA determined in an Action Memorandum dated July 28, 2023, that a time-critical removal action was needed to remove lead-contaminated soil to address actual or potential releases of hazardous substances at the Site.

Between June 2022 and April 2023, the EPA conducted a removal site inspection. During the site inspection, the EPA and its contractors collected soil samples for potential lead contamination at multiple properties in the neighborhood. Based on analysis of the soil samples, two properties adjacent to one another had lead levels above the EPA's then-applicable Removal Management Level (RML) of 400 milligrams per kilogram in the backyards of the two adjacent properties. In January 2024, RMLs for lead were reduced to 200 mg/kg.

Response actions outlined in the July 2023 Action Memorandum included the following:

- Excavation of contaminated soil at the Site until the lead concentration in exposed soil as determined by the in-situ XRF screening is less than 400 mg/kg, or 12-24 inches of soil is excavated, or as needed.
- If excavation to 24 inches fails to meet the 200mg/kg goal, a visible geotextile will be placed over remaining contaminated soil to warn against further intrusion past the barrier and maintain slope stability.
- Backfill with clean soil.
- Stabilize slopes using engineering controls such as benching, terracing, retention wall construction, or soil stabilization as determined appropriate by the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC).
- If determined necessary by the OSC, construct or repair runoff control and water management devices or infrastructure to prevent flooding or other water impacts to property resulting from this removal action.
- Replace or repair any EPA-damaged concrete, piping, fencing, outbuildings, etc.
- Conduct in-situ screening (performed "in place") and/or collect samples for ex-situ analysis (analysis performed "off site") as necessary.
- Restore areas which are disturbed by the removal action to their pre-removal state to the extent practicable.
- Re-establish vegetation.
- Monitor and sample ambient dust levels generated by the response actions to ensure health and safety to nearby populations or property.
- Characterize and dispose of the excavated soils at an offsite nonhazardous disposal facility (Subtitle D landfill), as appropriate when soils are waste characterized. Any soils with characteristics requiring it to be classified as RCRA hazardous waste will be treated pursuant to RCRA requirements (40 CFR 268), as necessary, and disposed at an appropriate treatment/disposal facility in compliance with the CERCLA Off-Site Rule.

In March 2024, a supplemental Action Memorandum was signed that dropped the cleanup level to 200 mg/kg and provided additional funding for the expanded cleanup effort.

EPA continues to investigate the genesis of the contamination. If a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) is identified, appropriate action will be taken. The property owners have been identified, and do not appear to have contributed to the contamination.

Appendix A

EPA Regional Contacts

Chuck Berry

Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8278
berry.chuck@epa.gov
[mail to: booth.jason@epa.gov](mailto:booth.jason@epa.gov)

Marjorie Thomas

Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-9151
thomas.marjorie@epa.gov

Appendix B Local Officials

Atlanta City Mayor

Andre Dickens
adickens@atlantaga.gov

Atlanta City Council President

Doug Shipman
dshipman@atlantaga.gov
(404) 330-6052

City Council District 7 (Buckhead)

Howard Shook
hshook@atlantaga.gov
(404-330-6050

Appendix C

Federal and State Elected Officials

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Senate

Senator Jon Ossoff
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 33
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3521

Senator Raphael Warnock
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3643

U.S. House of Representatives

Congresswoman Alma Adams
222 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-1510

Congresswoman Nikema Williams
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 22-3801

State Legislators

Betsy Holland, House of Representatives, District 54
Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-0116

Jason Esteves, Georgia Senate, District 6
Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 463-1562

Appendix D Affiliated Agency Contacts

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Leann Bing
Environmental Health Scientist/Region 4 Representative
Office of Community Health and Hazard Assessment
KBing@cdc.gov
(770) 488-3002

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Amy Potter
Manager, Risk Assessment Program
Land Protection Branch
amy.potter@dnr.ga.gov
(470) 524-0565

Charles Mueller
Land Branch Chief
Land Protection Branch
(470) 524-0380

Georgia Department of Health and Human Services

contactpublichealth@dph.ga.gov
(404) 657-2700

Appendix E Media Contacts

Newspapers

Atlanta Journal Constitution
223 Perimeter Center Pkwy NE
Dunwoody, GA 30346
www.ajc.com
(404) 526-7003

Fulton Neighbor
136 Pryor St SW, Suite CB 14
Atlanta, GA 30303
circulation@fultonneighbor.com
(470) 990-4415

Television Stations

WSB-TV Channel 2 (ABC)

1601 W. Peachtree St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
<https://www.wsbtv.com>
(404) 897-7000

(404) 875-5555

WXIA – TV Channel 11 (NBC)

One Monroe Place NE
Atlanta, GA 30324
<https://www.11alive.com>
(404) 733-2203

WAGA FOX 5 Atlanta

1551 Briarcliff Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
<https://www.fox5atlanta.com>

WANF Channel 46 (CBS)

425 14th St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
(404) 325-4646

Radio Stations

WRAS FM 88.5

260 14th St NW; Atlanta, GA 30318
<https://www.gpb.org/radio/stations/wras>
(404) 685-2400

WUBL FM 94.9

1819 Peachtree Rd NW #700; Atlanta 30309
<https://www.thebull949.com>
(404) 741-0949

WSB-FM 98.5

1601 W Peachtree St NE; Atlanta, GA 30309
<https://www.b985.com>
(404) 741-0985

WSBB-FM 95.5

1601 Peachtree St NE; Atlanta, GA 30309
<https://www.wsbradio.com>
(404) 897-7500

KISS 104.1

1601 W Peachtree St NE; Atlanta, GA 30309
<https://www.kiss104fm.com>
(404) 897-7500

WSRV FM 97.1

1601 Peachtree St NE; Atlanta, GA 30309
<https://www.971theriver.com>
(404) 897-7500

Appendix F

Seven Cardinal Rules for Risk Communication

Seven Cardinal Rules of Risk Communication

The “Seven Cardinal Rules of Risk Communication” were developed by Vince Covello and Frederick W. Allen and published in an EPA pamphlet in 1988 (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OPA-87-020, April 1988). The rules, which are appropriate for all Superfund site communications follow:

1. Accept and involve the public as a legitimate partner.
2. Plan carefully and evaluate your efforts.
3. Listen to the public’s specific concerns.
4. Be honest, frank, and open.
5. Coordinate and collaborate with other credible sources.
6. Meet the needs of the media.
7. Speak clearly and with compassion.

Appendix G

List of Abbreviation and Acronyms

AR	Administrative Record
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
mg/kg	Milligrams per Kilogram
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RMLs	Removal Management Levels
SF	Superfund

Appendix H

Glossary

Administrative Record

A file maintained for the public that contains information used to make a decision about a site under CERCLA. The file is available for public review and is available on the Site's webpage.

Cleanup

Actions taken to deal with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health or the environment. Cleanup is often used broadly to describe various response actions. The term "cleanup" is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms "remediation," "removal action," "response action" or "corrective action."

Community

An interacting population of various types of individuals in a common location; a neighborhood or specific area where people live.

Community Involvement

The term used by EPA to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by Superfund sites. EPA community involvement is founded on the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a say in it. Its purpose is to provide people with the opportunity to become involved in the Agency's activities and to help shape the decisions that are made at Superfund sites.

Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)

EPA official whose lead responsibility is to involve and inform the public about the Superfund process and response actions in accordance with the interactive community involvement requirements set forth in the National Contingency Plan.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)

Commonly known as Superfund, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980. CERCLA is intended to protect human health and the environment by enabling the investigation and cleanup of abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the program, EPA either can pay for a site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work or take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or repay the federal government for the cleanup cost.

Contamination

Introduction into water, air and soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use. Also applies to surfaces of objects, buildings and various household use products.

Environment

The sum of all external conditions affecting the life, development and survival of an organism.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Federal agency whose mission is to protect human health and safeguard the environment.

Hazardous Substance

(1) Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive or chemically reactive. (2) Any substance designated by EPA to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.

Hazardous Waste

Byproducts that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity) or appears on special EPA lists.

Monitoring

Periodic or continuous surveillance or testing to determine the level of compliance with statutory requirements and/or pollutant levels in various media or in humans, plants and animals.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)

An individual, company or other entity (such as owners, operators, transporters or generators of hazardous waste) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, contamination at a Superfund site. Whenever possible, EPA requires a PRP, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up hazardous waste sites that it has contaminated.

Public

The community or people in general or a part or section of the community grouped because of a common interest or activity.

Risk Assessment

An evaluation of the likelihood of exposure and potential magnitude of future health or environmental effects that could occur if parties do not take any cleanup action at a site. Ecological risk assessment applies to animals, fish, vegetation and other environmental receptors. Human health risk assessment estimates the potential effects on people. Risk assessment results inform the identification of site cleanup requirements.

Stakeholder

Any organization, governmental entity or individual that has a stake in or may be affected by the Superfund program.

Superfund

The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List (NPL), investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority, and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions. Superfund is the common name for CERCLA and is often used as an adjective for hazardous waste sites and the investigation and cleanup process directed by EPA.

Treatment

(1) Any method, technique or process designed to remove solids and/or pollutants from solid waste, waste-streams, effluents, and air emissions. (2) Methods used to change the biological character or composition of any regulated medical waste to substantially reduce or eliminate its potential for causing disease.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Buckhead Slag Investigation



Atlanta, Georgia

March 2023

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is investigating possible lead contamination in soil along Darlington Circle in Atlanta's Buckhead neighborhood. The EPA is seeking permission to perform sampling at selected properties of interest. More information for residents and homeowners is provided below.

Permission to Sample

EPA is offering **FREE** soil lead testing for residents and property owners in the Buckhead Slag study area.

If you are the renter or owner, please sign the attached form to give EPA permission to sample your yard.

Site History

The EPA was contacted by a resident of the Darlington Circle neighborhood who observed possible metal foundry waste called "slag," which can contain high levels of lead, in their yard. Follow-up sampling by the EPA confirmed high levels of lead in the soil. The EPA's recommended residential level is 400 parts per million (ppm). The lead contamination appears to be from fill material containing slag that was put in place before the residence was constructed.

Soil Sampling for Selected Nearby Properties

The EPA is seeking permission from residents of selected nearby properties to better understand the extent of the contamination danger. Soil sampling is required to determine if there is a risk of lead exposure and will inform appropriate next steps to protect public health and the environment.

Prior to sampling, EPA requires a signed access authorization form from the property owners or tenants giving EPA and its contractors permission to sample soil on private property. EPA will use its discretion consistent with agency policy to sample residential properties **at no cost to homeowners and tenants**. Please fill out the attached form and contact Ronald Tolliver (contact info below) to schedule sampling.

The soil samples will be taken from outside the homes and will create small holes that are barely visible in the yard. Residents/property owners do not need to be present during sampling unless we need to access the yard through locked gates. The results will be kept confidential and provided directly to property owners.

What You Can Do

We understand you may have questions about the possible contamination and what it means for you and your family. Residents and property owners are encouraged to reach out to the EPA contacts listed below to learn more. To limit you and your family's exposure to lead, please visit the Georgia Department of Health's website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/environmental-health/healthy-homes-and-lead-poisoning-prevention>. This website lists simple steps you can take to reduce your lead exposure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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