
EPA Set to Sample Soil in Southeast Chicago Area

S.H. Bell Co.

Chicago, Illinois

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For more information

For questions, comments or for more information about the Southeast Chicago sampling project, you can contact these U.S. EPA Superfund Division team members:

For sampling access agreements:

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is starting to collect soil samples in Southeast Chicago to analyze them for manganese and other metals. The sampling will help U.S. EPA identify if manganese is present in soil at high enough concentrations that further action should be taken to reduce exposure.

U.S. EPA is contacting homeowners to request permission to sample their yards. Property owners who sign the voluntary access agreement give permission to the federal Agency to collect soil samples on their property. U.S. EPA will sample properties at no cost to owners and will restore the ground after the sampling is completed. U.S. EPA staff will contact owners to schedule the sampling and answer any questions. Residents do not need to be present for the sampling.

Experts from the federal Agency will evaluate the results to determine whether manganese in soil poses an unacceptable health risk to residents and whether any follow-up action is required. Property owners and tenants will receive a copy of the sampling results, which is confidential information.

Background

The city of Chicago recently performed soil sampling in right-of-way areas in Southeast Chicago, and in April 2018 asked that U.S. EPA sample residential soil for manganese. The federal Agency is performing targeted sampling of some residential yards near the S.H. Bell Co. facility within the area shown in the attached map. The area is between the Calumet River to the west, South Ewing Avenue to the east, 100th Street to the north and 104th Street to the south.



Taking a soil sample is a simple and routine process. This investigator is seen using a hand auger to dig a small hole in the soil that can be collected for laboratory analysis.



E 100th St

E 101st St

E 102nd St

E 103rd St

E 104th St

Calumet River
SH Bell Property Boundary

S Avenue N

S Avenue M

S Avenue L

Ewing-Ave

S Avenue J

S Avenue H

S Avenue G

Site Sampling Area Boundary

90

Chicago Skyway E

12

S Indianapolis Ave

