

USS Lead Superfund Site Community Involvement Activities (2006-Present)

2006

- Jan. Established local repository at East Chicago Public Library; established site web page
- Mar. Mailed fact sheet "EPA to Begin Testing for Lead Contamination in Yards" to site mailing list recipients
- Mar. 22-23 Held informal meetings to explain sampling process and obtain access agreements for sampling in Zone 1
- Jun. Provided information to East Chicago council members regarding Superfund process
- Dec. Mailed postcard to residents thanking them for letting EPA take samples from yards in Zone 1

2007

- Oct. Mailed EPA/IDEM fact sheet announcing availability session
- Nov. 8 Held Town Hall Meeting in Zone 1
- Dec. 5 Held RCRA/Superfund informational meeting in Zone 1

2008

- Sep. Proposed USS Lead site to the National Priority List (NPL)

2009

- Jun. Mailed postcard "EPA Begins Cleanup" to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3
- Sep. 3 Added USS Lead site to the NPL
- Summer Obtained additional access agreements for properties in Zone 3
- Nov. 24 Mailed postcard announcing December 7-8, 2009 information sessions to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3
- Nov. 30 Placed ad in *Gary Post Tribune* announcing December 7-8, 2009 information sessions for Zones 1-3
Placed Spanish ad in *La Raza* announcing December 7-8, 2009 information sessions for Zones 1-3
- Dec. 7-8 Held informational meetings to discuss sampling activities in Zones 1-3
- Dec. 9 Mailed fact sheet "EPA to Begin Testing for Lead Contamination" and "EPA a Comenzar Las Pruebas de Contaminacion de Plomo in Patios" (English and Spanish) to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3; fact sheet also announced the December 17 informational meeting
- Dec. 17 Held informational meeting to explain residential testing process and answer questions for Zones 1-3
- Dec. Collected samples at properties in Zones 2 and 3

2010

- Mar. 9 Attended meeting with the city of East Chicago department heads
- Apr. Mailed sampling results from December 2009 sampling event to property owners in Zones 2 and 3
- May 23 Placed ad in *Northwest Indiana Times* announcing community interviews (English and Spanish) for Zones 1-3
- Jun. 2 Placed second ad in *Northwest Indiana Times* announcing community interviews (English and Spanish) for Zones 1-3
- Jun. 8-10 Held community interviews with residents from Zones 1-3 to develop Community Involvement Plan (CIP); Spanish translator was on site to assist
- Jul. 24 Participated in Calumet Days and distributed lead-prevention information
- Aug. Collected additional samples and obtained additional access agreements for properties in Zones 2 and 3

2011	
Apr.	Published Community Involvement Plan
May	Mailed sampling results from August 2010 sampling event to property owners in Zones 2 and 3
Oct.	Hand delivered sampling results with color-coded pages explaining results and levels of contamination to residents in Zones 1-3; left "Sorry We Missed You" letters to residents that were not home
Dec.	Prepared presentation regarding status of USS Lead site
2012	
Jul. 6	Mailed fact sheet "EPA Proposed Cleanup Plan for Residential Area" and "La EPA Propone Plan de Limpieza para Area Residencial" that announced the public comment period and public meeting to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3
Jul. 11	Placed ads in <i>Gary Post Tribune</i> and <i>Que Viva</i> (Spanish) announcing public comment period and public meeting for Zones 1-3
Jul. 25	Held public meeting regarding proposed plan for Zones 1-3
Jul. 12-Aug. 11	Held public comment period for Zones 1-3
Aug. 26	Placed ads in <i>Gary Post Tribune</i> and <i>Que Viva</i> (Spanish) announcing extension of public comment period for Zones 1-3
Aug. 11-Sep. 10	Held extended public comment period for Zones 1-3
2013	
Aug.	Two local Walgreens distributed gardening and other information for Zones 1-3 Riley Park & MLK Center distributed gardening and other information for Zones 2 and 3
2014	
Oct. 2 & 24	Attended TaskForce meetings
Nov. 5	Mailed fact sheet "Agreement Helps Start Project to Clean Up Contaminated Soil" to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3; fact sheet also announced information session for Zones 1-3
Nov. 18-19	Held information sessions to discuss cleanup activities for Zones 1-3
Dec. 10	Mailed letters requesting access agreements and provided information about cleanup for Zone 3
2015	
Feb.-Sep.	Went door-to-door to obtain access agreements; left "missed you" flyers on doors where residents were not present in Zone 3
Jul.	Mailed packets to residents in Zone 3 that were not home or those that denied access (packets included access agreement, fact sheet, property values info, ATSDR fact sheet)
Sep.	Met with local health department regarding result letters to residents, and what action they can take
Oct.-Dec.	Provided on-site support in local neighborhood office
Oct.	Received list of owners in Zones 1-3 from East Chicago Water Department and Assessor's Office to find owner names and phone numbers to send packets to (packets included access agreement, fact sheet, property values info, ATSDR fact sheet)
Nov.	Mailed packets to residents in Zone 3 that were not home or those that denied access (packets included access agreement, fact sheet, property values info, ATSDR fact sheet) Called and left messages to obtain access agreements from residents in Zone 3 that were not home or had previously denied access Mailed letter and access agreements to five city of East Chicago councilmen asking for assistance in obtaining access agreements from property owners in Zones 1-3 Mailed letter and access agreements to nine local churches asking for assistance in getting access agreements for Zones 1-3
Dec.	Called and left messages to obtain access agreements from residents in Zone 3 that were not home or had previously denied access

2016

Mar-May	Went door-to-door to obtain access agreements; left “missed you” flyers on doors in Zone 3
Jun.	Met with the city of East Chicago officials and provided them with draft education brochures for their review and comment Established site hotline number for residents to call with questions and concerns: 219-801-2199
Jul. 5	Went door-to-door to the residences of the West Calumet Housing Complex (Zone 1) and left lead prevention flyers that provided ways to avoid exposure to contaminated dirt and mulch; flyers also contained ways to contact the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
Jul. 11	Established a site trailer at the corner of 149th Street and McCook Avenue, which was staffed by EPA outreach personnel to answer resident questions
Jul. 20	Went door-to-door to the residences of the West Calumet Housing Complex (Zone 1) and left fact sheet “EPA Takes Action to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Soil” that provided ways to avoid exposure to contaminated dirt and mulch; fact sheet also contained ways to contact the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Placed “Do not play in the dirt or mulch” yard signs throughout the neighborhood of the West Calumet Housing Complex (Zone 1) and left “Don’t Let Kids Play in Dirt” flyers and contact information for the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator with residents
Jul. 22	Placed additional “Do not play in the dirt or mulch” yard signs throughout the neighborhood of the West Calumet Housing Complex (Zone 1)
Jul. 25-27	Went door-to-door to residences in Zone 1 to obtain signed access agreements for indoor dust sampling
Aug.	Published Residents Guide to Temporary Relocation for residents in Zone 1 Distributed Temporary Relocation flyer to residents in Zone 1
Aug. 2-6	Canvassed homes in Zone 2 to obtain access for soil sampling
Aug. 3	Attended meeting with mayor and East Chicago Housing Authority
Aug. 4	Contacted 24 units to date regarding indoor cleaning and temporary relocation in Zone 1; 23 expressed interest
Aug. 8	Attended school district meeting and availability session with ATSDR and school district
Aug. 16	Attended meeting at First Baptist Church with East Chicago Ministers Alliance
Aug. 18	Attended West Calumet Housing Complex resident meeting
Aug. 26	Went door-to-door to residents in Zone 1 and left packets containing Drinking Water Safety: Information for East Chicago Residents and EPA’s Home Cleaning Process: What Residents Need to Know
Aug. 29	Hand delivered indoor sampling results letters to residents in Zone 1
Aug. 30	Held Multi-Agency Open House for Zones 1-3 (post card announcement)
Aug. 31	Hand delivered indoor sampling result letters to residents in Zone 1
Sep. 1	Delivered two CD’s with Administrative Record to local library repositories
Sep. 7	Participated in HUD Fun Day
Sep. 12	Mailed postcards to residents in Zones 2 and 3 announcing Open House
Sep. 14	Delivered postcards announcing Open House to ECCC president to distribute at Mexican Day Parade Conducted door-to-door canvassing in Zone 2 to obtain access agreements
Sep. 16	Conducted canvassing in Zone 1 to obtain access agreements from non-responsive residents
Sep. 20	Placed yard signs in yards in Zones 2 and 3 announcing Open House
Sep. 24	Held Open House for Zones 2 and 3 to provide information on sampling and cleanup of contaminated soil in yards Distributed factsheets “EPA To Begin Cleaning Up Lead-Contaminated Yards” at the Open House

2016(cont'd)	
Oct.	Distributed door hangers "EPA Needs to Meet with You" (Tap Water Sampling/Excavation) in Zones 2 and 3 Distributed door hangers "EPA Needs to Hear from You" (unit cleanup and interviews) in Zone 1 Mailed "Tap Water Sampling Instructions" to mailing list recipients in Zones 2 and 3 Distributed door hangers about tap water sampling and soil excavation to homes slated for cleanup in Zones 2 and 3 Distributed door hangers about interior cleaning to West Calumet Housing Complex units
Oct. 2	Mailed factsheets "EPA To Begin Cleaning Up Lead-Contaminated Yards" to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3
Oct. 1-21	Identified priority sites in Zones 2 and 3 and conducted door-to-door canvassing for tap water and dust sampling before excavation activities
Oct. 6	Met with advisors to local community group, ECCC (Superfund and Office of Regional Counsel)
Oct. 13 & 20	Identified priority sites in Zone 1; conducted door-to-door canvassing for indoor sampling and temporary relocation
Oct. 29	Attended ECCC meeting in East Chicago (ORC attorney and CIC) Held Community Resources Meeting focusing on Technical Advisor Grant (TAG) and Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) programs
Nov. 1-8	Conducted door-to-door canvassing of priority sites in Zones 2 and 3 for tap water and dust sampling before excavation activities Conducted door-to-door canvassing of residents in Zones 2 and 3 slated for soil cleanup regarding tap water and dust sampling
Nov. 10	Met with advisors to ECCC (ORC and Superfund)
Nov. 17	Met with advisors to ECCC (ORC attorney)
Nov. 30	Mailed postcards "USS Lead Site Open House Set for Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1-4 p.m." in both English and Spanish to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3
Dec.	Responded to ECCC advisor regarding questions and concerns
Dec. 8	Placed ad in <i>Gary Post Tribune</i> announcing the Dec. 10 Open House (English and Spanish)
Dec. 10	Multi-Agency Open House canceled due to possible lapse of EPA funding; was rescheduled to Jan. 28
Dec. 15	Mailed fact sheet "Excavation to End for Winter; Community Activities Continue" in English and Spanish to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3
2017	
Jan. 4	Mailed postcard to residents in Zones 1-3 announcing the Jan. 28 Open House
Jan. 25	Placed ad in <i>Gary Post-Tribune</i> in English and Spanish announcing the Jan. 28 Open House
Jan. 28	Held Multi-Agency Open House at the former Carrie Gosch School
Jan. 31	Mailed postcard "Superfund Workshop" to mailing list recipients in Zones 1-3
Feb. 18	Conducted "Superfund for Communities" workshop
Apr. 1	Attended ECCC meeting
Apr. 5	Gave NAACP members tour of Zones 1-3 Attended Community Listening Session
Apr. 10-21	Held Superfund Job Training Initiative Program
Apr. 19	Residents met with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt
Apr. 27	Held meeting with Region 5 Regional Administrator and East Chicago community groups Held Superfund Job Training Initiative Graduation Ceremony

2017 (cont.)	
May 31	Maintained an EPA presence at the former Carrie Gosch Elementary School so residents can easily stop in and speak to EPA employees Tracked all resident inquiries in a database to ensure responses are provided in a timely manner Continued to meet regularly with local, state and federal partners to keep officials apprised of EPA's work and data collection in the community Regularly updated the USS Lead Superfund website and added frequently asked questions
Jun. 12	Mailed postcard announcing monthly Saturday meetings to mailing list recipients in Zones 2 and 3
June	Scheduled monthly calls with community leaders to discuss and plan agenda topics for monthly Saturday meetings
Jun. 24	Held first monthly Saturday public meeting at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School Meeting Topic: Updates on past, present and future activities at the site
Jul. 6	Mailed postcard to residents announcing change in time for the second monthly meeting
Jul. 15	Held second monthly Saturday public meeting at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School Meeting Topic: Lead in Drinking Water Provided update on site activities to public meeting attendees
Jul. 26	Mailed postcards to specific list of residents in Zone 3 informing them their property will be cleaned up in 2018
Aug.	CICs hand delivered information packets to residents at Cardinal Terrace Apartments
Aug. 15	Placed ad in <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing Letter of Intent from ECCC to apply for \$50,000 TAG
Aug. 19	Held monthly Saturday public meeting at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School Meeting Topic: Updates on past, present and future activities at the site
Sep.	Notified ECCC to submit TAG application by EPA TAG coordinator
Sep. 16	Held monthly Saturday public meeting at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School Meeting Topic: Presentation by Land and Chemicals Division on DuPont Facility
Sep. 18	Mailed postcard to residents announcing change in date for October monthly meeting
Oct. 10	Mailed flyer to residents announcing door-to-door outreach efforts regarding groundwater survey
Oct. 14	Held monthly Saturday public meeting at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School Meeting Topic: Updates on past, present and future activities at the site
Oct 18, 19, 25	Conducted door-to-door outreach efforts regarding groundwater survey
Oct. 24 & 25	Director of Environmental Justice Matthew Tajada and EPA representatives met with community groups
Nov.	Cancelled and rescheduled Multi-Agency Open House at the request of community groups Developed USS Lead Superfund Site Information Resource List (English and Spanish) Developed PUR Filter Installation/Change Fact Sheet (English and Spanish) Mailed postcards (English and Spanish) to residents in Zones 2 and 3 notifying them of cancellation of Nov. 18 Multi-Agency Open House and rescheduled date of Open House for Jan. 20, 2018 Participated in ECCC's Lunch and Learn program Delivered postcards "EPA Needs to Meet with You" to homes where there was no response from residents for indoor dust sampling (English and Spanish)
Dec. 5	Mailed Resource List and PUR Water Filter Flyers to residents in Zones 2 and 3 (English and Spanish)
Dec. 11	Placed ad in the <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing Public Comment Opportunity on the Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) proposed document
Dec. 12	Mailed Notice of Public Comment Opportunity for the proposed document of ESD to residents in Zones 2 and 3 (English and Spanish)

2018	
Jan. 5	Mailed postcard to residents in Zones 2 and 3 announcing Jan. 20 public meeting (English and Spanish)
Jan. 20	Held Saturday public meeting at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School Meeting Topic: Explanation of Significant Difference, Unilateral Administrative Orders and Site Updates Delivered copies of the ESD and Unilateral Orders to Information Repositories
Jan. 26	Mailed flyer to residents in Zones 2 and 3 announcing Feb. 15 public meeting regarding the ESD proposed document (English and Spanish)
Jan. 31	Placed ad in the <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing the Feb. 15 ESD public meeting (English and Spanish)
Feb. 15	Held public meeting at East Chicago Public Library to discuss the ESD proposed document (Estimated Increased Cleanup Costs); court reporter was present to record comments
Mar. 16	Mailed flyer to residents in Zones 2 and 3 announcing the April 7 Construction Kickoff meeting (English and Spanish)
Mar. 28	Placed ad in the <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing the April 7 Construction Kickoff meeting (English and Spanish)
Apr. 7	Held public meeting and open house at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School Meeting Topic: Construction Update and Open House Held listening session at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School with EPA Region 5 Regional Administrator, IDEM Commissioner and Senior Advisor to Administrator Pruitt
Apr. 17	Conducted East Chicago Calumet Coalition Site Tour of Zone 1
May	Established community outreach office at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School; EPA staff available Monday through Friday; and hotline number is posted if staff not available
May 3	Mailed first postcard to residents announcing community interviews being held in June (English and Spanish)
May 8	Published ad in <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing the issuance of the USS Lead ESD
May 23	Mailed second postcard to residents to residents announcing June community interviews (English and Spanish)
May	Prepared Community Interview Process Fact Sheet (English and Spanish) Posted the Difference Between RCRLA and CERCLA Fact Sheet (English and Spanish) on site web page
May 31	Delivered packets containing English and Spanish versions of Community Interview Process factsheet and previous factsheets to local churches and ECCC's president for distribution
Jun. 11-15	Held community interviews with residents, local church pastors, local city official and other interested community members to update Community Involvement Plan (CIP); Spanish translator was on site to assist
Jul. 28	EPA had a booth and participated at Calumet Days
Aug. 3	Mailed postcard to residents in Zones 2 and 3 announcing the meeting regarding the ATSDR Health Study Update (English and Spanish)
Aug. 18	Held meeting at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School regarding ATSDR Health Study Update
Sep. 25	EPA awarded TAG to ECCC
Sep. 28	Mailed flyer to residents in Zones 2 and 3 announcing Super Hero Kids Blood Lead Testing Health Fair
Sep. 30	Published ad in <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing the Super Hero Kids Blood Lead Testing Health Fair
Oct. 3	Hand delivered flyers announcing Super Hero Kids Blood Lead Testing Health Fair to local churches and daycares
Oct. 4 & 10	Conducted door-to-door outreach in Zones 2 and 3 to encourage residents to attend the Super Hero Kids Blood Lead Testing Health Fair
Oct. 11	Held Super Hero Kids Blood Lead Testing event at Martin Luther King Community Center
Oct. 26	Mailed postcards announcing the "End of Construction Season" meeting scheduled for Nov. 17

2018 (cont.)	
Nov. 6	Mailed Proposed Plan for Zone 1 fact sheet to residents, which announced the Nov. 29 meeting and the public comment period
Nov. 7	Published ad in <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing the “End of Construction Season” meeting (in Spanish and English)
Nov. 11	Published ad in <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing the Proposed Plan for Zone 1 public meeting and public hearing and announcing the public comment period (in Spanish and English)
Nov. 12	Began 60-day public comment period for proposed plan for Zone 1 (Nov. 12 – Jan. 14, 2019)
Nov. 17	Held “End of Construction Season” meeting at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School
Nov. 27	Notified community that monitoring wells will be installed week of Nov. 26
Nov. 28	Mailed “End of Construction Season” fact sheet
Nov. 29	Conducted USS Lead site tour with Black Chambers of Commerce
Nov. 29	Held public meeting and public hearing at Robert A. Pastrick Library
Dec. 14	Mailed flyer announcing second Proposed Plan for Zone 1 meeting for Jan. 10, 2019 (in Spanish and English)
Dec. 31	Mailed postcard announcing cancellation of Jan. 10 meeting due to government shutdown (in Spanish and English)
2019	
Jan. 29	Submitted copies of the Community Involvement Plan and Nov. 29, 2018 public meeting transcripts to the information repositories Sent copies of the Community Involvement Plan to the leaders of the East Chicago Calumet Coalition, Calumet Lives Matter and Community Strategy Group
Feb. 1.	Mailed flyer announcing the rescheduled meeting for the Proposed Plan for Zone 1 to residents, which announced the rescheduled Feb. 13 meeting and the public comment period
Feb. 4	Published ad in <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing the second Proposed Plan for Zone 1 public meeting and public hearing and announcing the public comment period (in Spanish and English)
Feb. 11	Began second 30-day public comment period for Proposed Plan for Zone 1 (Feb 11 – Mar. 13)
Feb. 13	Held second public meeting and public hearing for the Proposed Plan for Zone 1 at the former Carrie Gosch Elementary School
Feb. 14	Mailed Proposed Plan Q&A fact sheet to residents
Mar. 5	Mailed copies of Nov. 29, 2018 and Feb. 13, 2019 public meeting transcripts to leaders of the East Chicago Calumet Coalition, Calumet Lives Matter and Community Strategy Group
Mar. 13	Mailed postcard announcing Construction Season Kick-Off Open House to be held April 6 at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School
Apr. 6	Held Construction Season Kick-Off Open House at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School
Apr. 12	Issue No. 1 of USS Newsletter published
Jun. 24	Office of Inspector General held meeting with Calumet Lives Matter/Community Strategy Group
Jun. 25	EPA Staff gave Office of Inspector General a tour of the site
Jun. 26	Office of Inspector General Listening Session/Public Meeting with residents
Jul. 3	Issue No. 2 of USS Lead Newsletter published
Sep. 26	Mailed postcard announcing October 17 Open House to be held at the former Carrier Gosch Elementary School; delivered 50 copies of flyer announcing October 17 Open House to local churches and community groups for distribution
Oct. 3	Issue No. 3 of USS Newsletter published and mailed to residents
Oct. 4	Mailed flyer in English and Spanish announcing October 17 Open House to be held at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School
Oct. 17	Held “End of Construction Season” Open House at former Carrie Gosch Elementary School

2020	
Mar. 25	EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed modified Zone 1 cleanup plan.
Apr. 14	Issue No. 4 of USS Lead Newsletter published and mailed to residents.
July	USS Lead Partial Delisting Activities
Jul. 8	At the start of the public comment period, EPA mailed detailed fact sheets to everyone within the Superfund site and on the mailing list for the USS Lead site explaining why EPA is proposing to delete the 671 properties from the NPL and explaining what deletion of these properties means. These fact sheets are also available in Spanish upon request.
Jul. 9	EPA sent individual letters to all 671 property owners, along with the fact sheet, to notify them that EPA was proposing to delete their property from the USS Lead site and explaining what that means.
	EPA posted an announcement of the public comment period on the USS Lead website (www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site) with detailed instructions on how to comment, along with links to the fact sheet (in English and Spanish) and the deletion docket containing site information supporting deletion.
	EPA issued a press release to announce the proposed deletion and the start of the public comment period. This release resulted in stories in the two local newspapers and some radio stations, along with a short spot on WGN-TV and NBC-Chicago.
Jul. 10	EPA placed an ad in the local newspaper, <i>The Northwest Times</i> , in English and Spanish, announcing the proposed deletion and the public comment period.
	EPA placed calls to the law clinics, congressional staff and the City of East Chicago to notify them of the start of the public comment period.
	EPA notified the East Chicago Calumet Coalition, Calumet Lives Matter, the Community Strategy Group Leaders and the District Councilman of the comment period and the delisting process.
	EPA emailed the fact sheet to the community leaders and stakeholders to notify them of the start of the public comment period.
	A special phone line was set up to accept oral comments for those who may not have internet access in their homes, since libraries and public internet spaces are closed.
	The public was informed they can submit comments through the USS Lead site webpage, by email or by phone in English or Spanish.
Sep. 30	EPA announced the partial delisting was final.
2021	
Jan. 3	Website updated to announce the first Five Year Review of the USS Lead site.
Jan. 3	"First Five-Year Review Underway" fact sheet (English and Spanish) posted on USS Lead website.
Jan. 4	"First Five-Year Review Underway" Fact sheet emailed to community groups, law clinics.
Jan. 5	Public notice ad published in <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i> announcing the ongoing Five-Year Review of the USS Lead Site.
Jan. 8	EPA issues press release on USS Lead Five-Year Review.