

Welcome to another edition of the USS Lead newsletter

This is the fourth edition of the 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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Zone 1 Cleanup Plan Signed



U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signs the amended 2012 cleanup plan for the former West Calumet Housing Complex in Zone 1.

On March 25, 2020, EPA Administrator Andrew R. Wheeler, signed a "record of decision," or cleanup plan, to clean up soil contaminated with lead and arsenic in the former West Calumet Housing Complex, Goodman Park and a utility corridor. This area is referred to as modified Zone 1 of the USS Lead Superfund site. The former Carrie Gosch Elementary School, formerly part of Zone 1, has been addressed by the parties considered responsible for the contamination and is not part of this cleanup plan.

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"Cleaning up and redeveloping Superfund sites across America is a priority of mine and the Trump Administration," **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler.** "We are committed to working with local officials to achieve their community redevelopment goals. Working with East Chicago to accommodate cleanup will provide for economic development and job creation for this community."



The amendment to the Record of Decision reflects EPA’s awareness of local efforts to redevelop Zone 1 for commercial use, although the current designation remains residential.

"Administrator Wheeler is delivering on EPA's promise to the people of East Chicago to accelerate the cleanup at this site," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Kurt Thiede. "Promoting redevelopment and community revitalization in East Chicago is a top priority for EPA. Considering local preferences for future land use is an important part of the Superfund cleanup program."

EPA’s chosen plan will clean up the property to residential levels.

- The plan calls for the removal of 2 feet of lead- and arsenic-contaminated soil, the placement of a barrier if contamination remains below 2 feet and replacement with clean soil.
- It will allow for potential residential redevelopment on the site of the former West Calumet Housing Complex. The plan also takes into consideration soil management of contaminated soils below 2 feet during residential development.

The plan provides long-term protection to people and the environment and is cost-effective.

- The cleanup will remove high levels of lead- and arsenic-contaminated soil.
- EPA will place controls on the property to ensure the barrier stays in place.
- Contaminated soil will be disposed at an off-site facility.
- As a result of comments received from the public, the plan now includes management of contaminated soil at depths greater than 2 feet during residential redevelopment after the cleanup is completed.
- EPA estimates that cleanup to residential reuse standards would cost approximately \$28.8 million and would take seven months.

The cleanup plan includes a contingency to address potential future land use changes from residential to commercial.

- The city of East Chicago has indicated a preference for commercial/industrial redevelopment of the property.
- EPA's amendment now includes a contingent cleanup plan to accommodate this potential change. If the property is re-zoned and a developer takes title to the property the amended Record of Decision requires cleanup of the property to industrial/commercial standards. This type of cleanup would cost an estimated \$14.1 million and take approximately five months.

Summary of Work in Zones 2 and 3

As of the end of the 2019 construction season, 95% of the properties requiring remediation in Zones 2 and 3 have been remediated. In Zone 2, there are 28 properties that remain to be cleaned. In Zone 3, all residences have been remediated and only 12 non-residential properties remain to be cleaned. EPA anticipates the remaining 40 properties that require cleanup, will be cleaned this summer, pending signed access agreements from the owners. EPA continues to seek access to conduct indoor sampling for lead and arsenic at homes that have had or need to have soil remediation completed in the yards. Interior sampling and cleaning, if necessary, will continue during the 2020 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	508	480	28
3	481	297	285	12
Totals	1,078	805	765	40

Operable Unit 2 Update

Operable Unit 2 is the designated name for the surface of the former USS Lead facility and the groundwater (underground water) beneath the entire USS Lead site, including the residential neighborhoods. EPA is overseeing the environmental investigation at OU2 being conducted by PRPs for the contamination 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, 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 Remedial Investigation report detailing these activities. This report is available on EPA’s website at www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site. EPA anticipates that additional sample collection and data evaluation will be required later this year and in 2021 before the groundwater, and soil and sediment at the former facility, are adequately characterized.

The potential for groundwater basement seepage to introduce site-related contaminants to residential and other structures on site is known as subsurface intrusion. The sump water and indoor dust concentrations collected to date have not shown site-related arsenic dust accumulation in basements that can be attributed to groundwater seepage, and shallow groundwater in Zones 2 and 3 generally has chemical concentrations below drinking water limits. However, EPA has observed localized elevated contaminant concentrations and additional samples may be needed to determine whether seepage-related exposure to site contaminants is a potential risk.

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:
219-391-8469

Visit EPA at the community information office (by appointment only):

Former Carrie Gosch Elementary School
455 E. 148th St.



The Hotline number (219-801-2199) will be discontinued on June 1, 2020. Please contact Janet Pope or Charles Rodriguez (Para atención en español) at the numbers above.

EPA

Community Involvement Coordinators

Janet Pope 312-353-0628 pope.janet@epa.gov	Charles Rodriguez 312-886-7472 rodriguez.charles@epa.gov <i>"Para atención en español"</i>
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Remedial Project Managers (Technical Questions)

Zone 1 Tom Alcamo 312-886-7278 alcamo.thomas@epa.gov	Zones 2 and 3 Sarah Rolfes 312-886-6551 rolfes.sarah@epa.gov
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OU2 (Groundwater Investigation)

Leslie Patterson 312-886-4904 patterson.leslie@epa.gov	Stephanie Linebaugh 312-353-2315 linbaugh.stephanie@epa.gov
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You may call EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431,
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays



EPA Web Pages

Superfund – 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

The More You Know!

City Program: Neighborhood Water Service Line Replacement

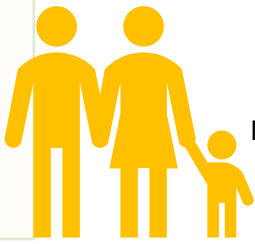
Have you had your lead water lines replaced?

The city of East Chicago is requesting all property owners in Zones 2 and 3 of the USS Lead Superfund site, who have not already done so, sign a consent form and schedule an appointment to have their lead water service lines replaced. This lead water line replacement is part of the city's Neighborhood Water Line Replacement Program. The goal of the program is to improve water quality for customers by replacing existing water service lines that contain lead. The replacement will be performed at NO COST to residents as the state of Indiana is assisting with the cost of the project. Calumet City Plumbing was awarded the contract to replace the service lines throughout these areas and has been performing this work since November 2018. As funding is limited, please sign up as soon as possible to participate in this program. Note that EPA must have cleaned or given clearance for your property prior to this work being performed.

Scheduling Instructions

- Review, sign and file your access agreement (included in this newsletter) with the East Chicago Water Department at 400 E. Chicago Ave., East Chicago, IN 46312.
- Contact Winna Guzman at the East Chicago Water Department at 219-391-8469 or email at wguzman@eastchicago.com to schedule your appointment to replace your water service line. A pre-inspection appointment will follow by Calumet City Plumbing, after you have initially scheduled your appointment.
- Appointments for the home survey pre-inspection will NOT be scheduled if an access agreement is not already on file with the East Chicago Water Department.
- The homeowner, or adult age 18 or older, must be on-site for the home survey and at the time of service line replacement.
- The work area must be cleared and accessible.
- Any cancellations or no-shows for home surveys or service line replacements will result in an address being "passed-over." Residents passed-over may be eligible for service line replacement at the end of the project, pending available funding.

For more information on this program please contact the East Chicago Water Department at 219-391-8469 or email at wguzman@eastchicago.com.



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 Department of Health
2 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis
317-233-9264

HealthLinc
YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
1313 W. Chicago Ave.
219-398-9685

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.*