



Share your opinions

EPA invites your comments on proposed partial delisting for the residential areas in Zones 2 and 3 from **July 8 to August 7, 2020**.

See **How to make comments** section on Page 2 for the ways to submit comments.

Contact information

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You may call the EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

Information repository

Site documents, including EPA's full proposal for partial delisting is available for review at the following locations:

East Chicago Public Library

2401 E. Columbus Drive

Robert A. Pastrick Branch

1008 W. Chicago Ave.
East Chicago

EPA Region 5 Office

77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago

**Due to COVID-19, the libraries and EPA office may not be open to the public.*

All documents are also available online at:
www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site

EPA Proposes Removing East Chicago Residential Properties from National List of Superfund Sites

U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery Superfund Site

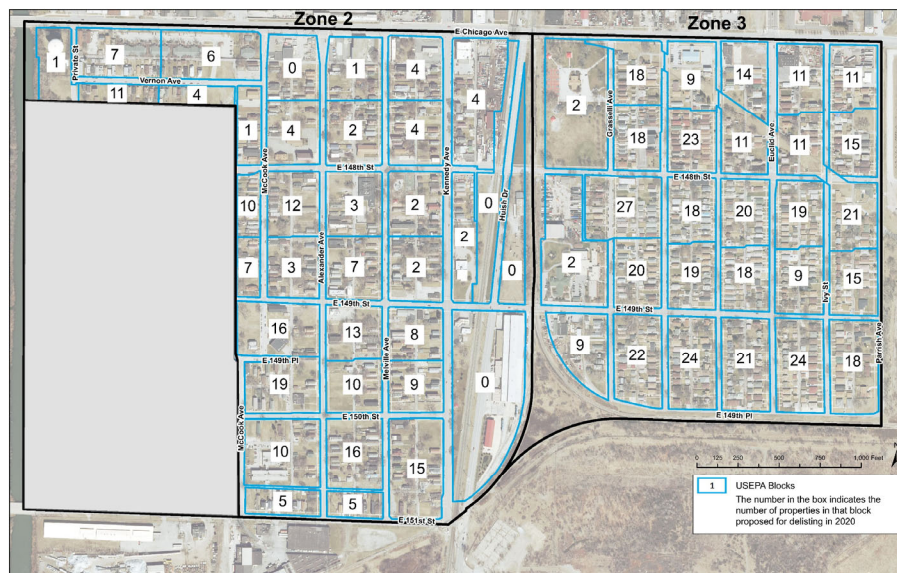
East Chicago, Indiana

July 2020

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to remove 671 residential properties in Zones 2 and 3 of the U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc. (USS Lead) Superfund site from the National Priorities List, or NPL. The NPL is a roster of contaminated areas that are eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. EPA's proposed action is a partial deletion action and means that all cleanup activities for soil at these 671 properties have been completed and meet EPA standards for protecting health and the environment. EPA has prepared this fact sheet to address common questions that the community may have concerning this proposal. EPA has informed affected property owners directly about this proposed action and comment period.

This proposed action only applies to Operable Unit (OU) 1 and does not apply to the groundwater (OU2). That investigation is still ongoing and updates are available on the USS Lead website (www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site) and also in the newsletter sent in April 2020. Cleanup of remaining properties in Zones 2 and 3 will continue during the 2020 construction season, pending signed access from property owners.

Partial deletion of these properties from the NPL does not create, alter, or revoke any individual's rights or obligations. Partial deletion of all or part of an OU from the NPL does not in any way alter the EPA's right to take enforcement actions, as appropriate. The NPL is designed primarily for informational purposes and to assist EPA management. Partial deletion of an OU from the NPL also does not preclude eligibility for future response actions, should future conditions warrant such actions. Once a property is removed from the Superfund site, it will be easier for owners to qualify to receive funding through the city of East Chicago's Residential Repair program as well as making it easier to redevelop vacant lots.



Map showing Zone 2 and Zone 3 of OU 1. The number in the box indicates the number of properties in that block proposed for delisting in 2020.

How to make comments

EPA is holding a public comment period to obtain the community's input on the proposed partial delisting. EPA's full proposal, with other important information about the site, is available for review at the information repositories (*see box on Page 1*). Public comments will be accepted through **August 7, 2020**. The partial deletion will be effective in September 2020, unless EPA receives comments opposing the partial deletion by **August 7, 2020**. If that happens, EPA will reconsider its proposal in light of those comments.

The full proposal and a link to other information about the site are also in the **July 8, 2020** issue of the *Federal Register* at www.federalregister.gov.

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-SFUND-2008-0577, by one of the following methods:

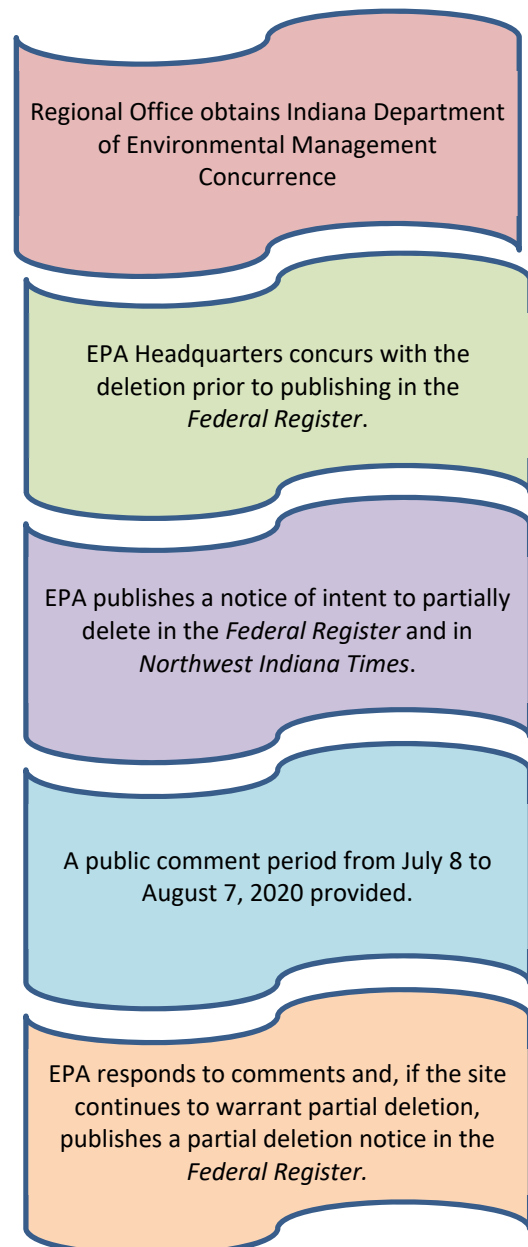
- **www.regulations.gov.** Follow on-line instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from Regulations.gov. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (i.e. on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.
- **Email.** Submit your comments via email to Karen Cibulskis, NPL Deletion Coordinator at cibulskis.karen@epa.gov.
- Written comments submitted by mail are temporarily suspended and no hand deliveries will be accepted. We encourage the public to submit comments via email or at www.regulations.gov.

- **Phone.** You may also leave an oral comment by calling 312-353-6284. Only comments regarding the proposed delisting will be considered.

If you have questions about the USS Lead site, contact Janet Pope, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 312-353-0628 or pope.janet@epa.gov. You may also call EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays.

Process for partial deletion

Since 1986, EPA has followed this procedure for delisting or partially delisting a site from the NPL.



What does partial delisting mean?

EPA deletes sites or parts of sites from the NPL when no further cleanup is required to protect human health or the environment. This important milestone indicates to communities that cleanup is complete and that sites are protective of human health and the environment. Partial deletion of an OU from the NPL also does not prevent a future response action from occurring, should future conditions warrant such actions.

Deleted portions of the site remain eligible for further Fund-financed cleanup actions should future conditions warrant such actions. Whenever a significant release occurs from a site or portion of a site deleted from the NPL, the site or portion may be restored to the NPL without application of the Hazardous Ranking system.

Why is EPA proposing this partial delisting?

EPA has recently taken actions to clean up the soil at each of the designated properties in Zone 2 and Zone 3 to meet the cleanup levels in the USS Lead November 2012 OU1 Record of Decision (ROD), as modified by the April 2018 Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). EPA has determined that the response actions taken are protective of public health and the environment and, therefore, taking additional measures to cleanup soil at these properties are not needed.

All response activities for the soil at the designated properties in Zone 2 and Zone 3 are complete and the soil at these properties poses no unacceptable risks to human health and the environment. Therefore, EPA and IDEM have determined that no further response is necessary for the soil at these designated properties.

All selected removal and remedial action objectives and associated cleanup goals for the soil at the designated properties in Zone 2 and Zone 3 are consistent with Agency policy and guidance. The proposed partial deletion of the designated properties in Zone 2 and Zone 3 meets the completion requirements as specified in OSWER Directive 9320.2-22, Close Out Procedures for National Priorities List Sites (www.epa.gov/superfund/close-out-procedures-national-priorities-list-superfund-sites).

Why aren't all properties in Zones 2 and 3 included in the partial delisting?

From 2008 to the present, EPA and the potentially responsible parties completed excavations and site restorations at over 95 percent of properties in Zones 2 and 3 needing cleanup.

Because some completion reports are not yet approved and some properties may require institutional controls, or ICs, because soil above the lead cleanup level remains at depth (below 24 inches), only the properties in Zone 2 and Zone 3 that have been cleaned up with no contamination at depth or sampled and cleared for residential use are proposed for deletion in this action. ICs are special restrictions often placed on environmental sites so the cleanup work or remaining contamination won't be disturbed.

The criteria for deletion are as follows:

Neighborhood Zone 2 - 222 properties

- Properties cleaned up by EPA's Removal Program in 2008-2011, no ICs needed and with approved completion reports – **5 properties**
- Properties that tested clean, no remedial action needed and sampling reports approved - **58 properties**
- Properties cleaned up during 2016-2019, no ICs needed and with approved completion reports – **159 properties**

Neighborhood Zone 3 – 449 properties

- Properties that tested clean, no cleanup needed and sampling reports approved - **178 properties**
- Properties cleaned up during 2016-2019, no ICs needed and with approved completion reports – **271 properties**

How can I determine if my property is included in the partial delisting?

If your property is among those included in the proposed partial delisting, you will have been notified by a letter from EPA.

2020 Construction Season Update

Contractors working on behalf of the Potentially Responsible Parties will begin construction for the 2020 season the week of July 6. Contractors will be working on the remaining 28 properties in Zone 2 and the remaining 12 properties in Zone 3. EPA anticipates that all properties requiring remediation will be cleaned by the end of this construction season, weather and access permitting. Contractors will also be implementing protocols to ensure compliance with the State of Indiana Public Health Protocols related to COVID-19. If you have any questions related to the construction work, please reach out to EPA directly.

Background

The USS Lead Superfund site is located in the city of East Chicago, Indiana. The site has been divided into two cleanup areas that EPA refers to as operable units, or OUs. OU1 is a 322-acre residential area bounded by East Chicago Avenue on the north, East 151st Street on the south, the Indiana Harbor Canal on the west and Parrish Avenue on the east. OU1 has been further subdivided in Zones 1, 2 and 3. OU2 includes the former USS Lead facility as well as the groundwater beneath the entire site.

Zone 1 includes the area encompassed by the former West Calumet Housing Complex, Goodman Park, the former Carrie Gosch School, and a utility corridor located in the western portion of OU1.


Zone 2 is the residential area of the Calumet neighborhood located between the former West Calumet Housing Complex on the west (Zone 1), the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway on the east, E. 151st Street to the south and E. Chicago Avenue to the north. There are 597 properties in Zone 2, of which 508 properties required cleanup.

Zone 3 is the residential area located between the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway line on the west, Parrish Avenue on the east, East 149th Place to the south and E. Chicago Avenue to the north. There are 481 properties in Zone 3, of which 297 properties required cleanup.

Contamination in OU1 is largely derived from historic operations at three nearby facilities: (1) the USS Lead facility; (2) a facility formerly located in Zone 1 and owned and operated by subsidiaries of the Anaconda Copper and Mining Co.; and (3) the E.I. Du Pont de Nemours facility located just southeast of OU1.

This partial deletion action only applies to 671 properties in Zones 2 and 3. It does not include Zone 1 or any portion of OU2.

La versión en español de esta hoja informativa está disponible en www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site.

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EPA Proposes Partial Deregulation of USS Lead Site from National Priorities List

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