

**Schroud Property Superfund Site
Frequently Asked Questions
January 2022**

Question about Superfund

1. What does it mean when a site is deemed a Superfund site?
A site becomes a Superfund site when it is listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites identified for long-term cleanup. Once a site is added to the NPL, it also becomes eligible for federal funding if no other potentially responsible people or entities are able to pay for the cleanup.

Questions about site background

2. How far does the site extend beyond the railroad tracks, or does it only go up to the railroad tracks?
The railroad tracks form the current site boundary along the west and southwest sides of the site. If site-related contamination is found beyond the railroad tracks, this boundary can be expanded to encompass those areas.
3. What are the big mounds on the site made of?
The large piles are made of slag material that was hauled to the site from Republic Steel and LTV Steel. The slag contains elevated levels of lead, manganese, chromium, and other metals.
4. Is slag still being dumped there?
No. Slag dumping is believed to have ended in the late 1980s or early 1990s.
5. Who has jurisdiction over Indian Creek?
The portion of Indian Creek immediately adjacent to the site is owned by Donald Schroud, per the Cook County Property Tax Portal. However, the Chicago Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over the Calumet River and any of its tributaries, which includes Indian Creek.
6. Once cleanup is complete, who will own the property and decide what it gets used for?
The Superfund process has no impact on the ownership of the property, which is currently held in a private trust. Cleanup actions will be determined in part by the reasonably anticipated future use of the property.

Questions about cleanup progress

7. What is the end goal for the Schroud Property site?
The end goal of the [Superfund cleanup process](#) is to address the threat posed by the site to humans and the environment and return it to productive reuse.
8. Is there an estimate of how long it will take for the site to be reviewed?
How long will the process take? Is there a timeline?
The Superfund process is designed to be thorough and complex. Each step in the process can take many years to complete. EPA publishes an up-to-date site cleanup schedule for the next three years on the Schroud website's [Cleanup Progress](#) link.
9. When will the community start seeing activity on the site?
How long will it take before anything is done on the property?
EPA anticipates beginning activity to secure the site, which may include additional barriers, fencing, and signage, in January 2022. Sampling planned as part of the [remedial investigation/feasibility study](#) is expected to begin later in 2022.
10. What is going to happen with Indian Creek running through the property?
Indian Creek will be investigated as part of the upcoming remedial investigation. Cleanup options for the creek, if warranted, will be evaluated as part of the feasibility study for the site.
11. Is air monitoring being done at the site?
Air monitoring is not currently being done; however, it will be a component of the upcoming remedial investigation work at the site.

Questions about health and environment

12. What does living near the site mean for me? How hazardous is the site?
Based on the limited sampling at the site during the site assessment, the main risks are to on-site trespassers coming into direct contact with contaminated soil, surface water, and air. EPA heavily discourages any current use of the site, which is private property and considered trespassing.
13. How bad is the contamination on the site?
Extremely high levels of several metals, including chromium, lead, and zinc, have been found in soil at the site. In particular, lead concentrations have been found at levels that exceed EPA's industrial removal management level of 800 parts per million. See more on [EPA's Regional Removal Management Levels](#)

(RMLs) Frequently Asked Questions.

14. In the interim, what can the community do to stay safe from the site?
The biggest thing the community can do is to avoid using the site and to discourage others from doing so. If you have been on-site, remove your shoes before entering your home, and make sure to wash your hands before eating.

15. Will statistics for cancers and respiratory issues for the area be evaluated?
Yes, these statistics will be evaluated as part of the Public Health Assessment (PHA), which is required to be prepared for the site. The PHA will determine the public health implications of exposures to environmental contamination at the site. See more on [EPA's web page on Human Health Risk Assessment](#).

16. Do I have to worry about my garden and outdoor furniture?
Based on the limited off-site sampling conducted during the assessments for both the [Watco Terminal Site](#) and Schroud Property, there does not appear to be off-site impacts from these sites in nearby residential areas.

17. Is Hyde Lake Wetlands still safe to go?
Based on the limited sampling conducted during the site assessment, elevated levels of metals such as lead, manganese, chromium, and arsenic have been found in the Hyde Lake Wetlands, particularly in the wetland area directly to the east of the site. While these levels do not present an immediate threat to trespassers and are much lower than the on-site levels, caution should be used when accessing these wetland areas.

18. Why do people fish in Wolf Lake but not the Calumet River?
There are reports of fishing activity at both of those locations, however both Wolf Lake and the Calumet River System are subject to Illinois Fish Advisories. A greater number of species and meal frequency restrictions are in place for fish caught in the Calumet River System than in Wolf Lake. More information can be found on the [Illinois Department of Public Health's current fish advisory map](#).

Questions about community involvement and communication

19. How long does EPA's community engagement process last?
The engagement process will continue as long as the [Superfund cleanup process](#) is ongoing.

20. What is the reach for sending communication? Many trespassers are not from the neighborhood.

EPA is exploring and developing ways to engage leaders from neighboring communities, as well as improving signage at the site, to communicate risks about trespassing.

21. Can meetings and communications be available in both English and Spanish?
Yes, EPA has the ability to provide outreach in several languages, including Spanish, based on the preference of the community.