



District Digest

First Edition, Spring 2024

Updates on Cleanup in Tri-State Mining District Watershed

Welcome!

The new **District Digest** will provide updates about cleanup activities in the historic lead and zinc Tri-State Mining District (TSMD). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to publish the digest twice a year to share site information, announcements, and ways to get involved in activities across EPA Regions 6 and 7 TSMD National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund sites located in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Sign up to receive the digest by email or a hard copy via mail (if by mail, please include a physical mailing address).

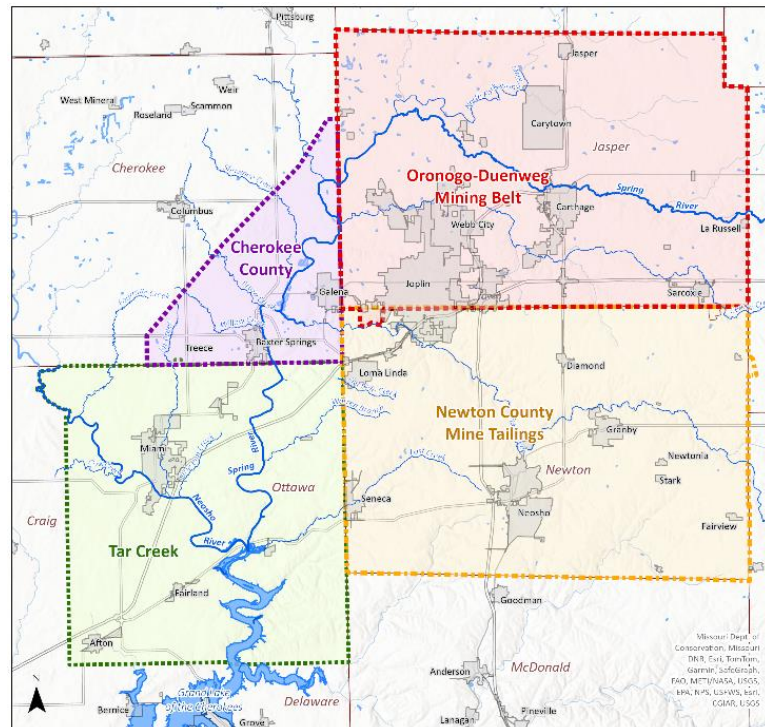
- Contact Elizabeth Kramer, EPA Region 7, at r7-tsmd@epa.gov or 913-551-7186
- Find it online: www.epa.gov/mo/missouri-cleanups or www.epa.gov/ks/kansas-cleanups

District Digest Highlights	
Superfund Overview.....	2
About Lead Hazards.....	3
Tri-State Mining District – Site Updates	
Cherokee County.....	4
Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt.....	6
Newton County Mine Tailings.....	8
Tar Creek.....	10
Ways to Get Involved and EPA Contacts.....	13

What is the Tri-State Mining District?

Spanning nearly 2,500 square miles across Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma, the historic TSMD was once one of the world’s largest zinc and lead mining areas. Mining produced over 400 million tons of crude ore from about 1850 to 1970. Lead (Pb) is the primary contaminant of concern at this site. (Pb is the chemical symbol for lead.) **Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed. It affects multiple body systems and is particularly harmful to children under 7 years old, as well as pregnant women and nursing mothers (see Page 3 for details).** Over the past four decades, EPA has cleaned up millions of cubic yards of mining waste and contaminated soil across the following Superfund sites:

- The **Cherokee County** NPL site in the southeast portion of **Cherokee County, Kansas**
- The **Newton County Mine Tailings** NPL site covering **Newton County, Missouri**
- The **Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt** NPL site covering **Jasper County, Missouri**
- The **Tar Creek** NPL site covering **Ottawa County, Oklahoma**



Tri-State Mining District National Priority List (NPL) Superfund Sites

Small labels
 Grand Lake of the Cherokees
 Neosho & Spring River tributaries
 Neosho & Spring Rivers
 Cities & towns
 County boundaries

Tri-State NPL Superfund Sites

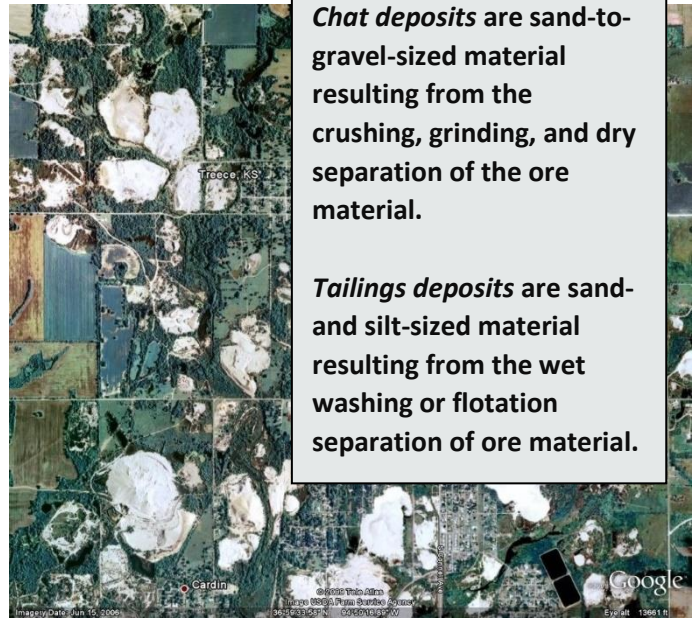
- Cherokee County
- Newton County Mine Tailings
- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt
- Tar Creek

EPA Region 7
 EPA Region 6

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Why Is EPA Involved?

Mining-related activities contaminated soil, sediments, surface water, and groundwater with high concentrations of metals such as lead, zinc, and cadmium. These substances pose significant risks to human health and the environment, prompting the need for state and federal involvement. Under EPA’s Superfund program, EPA has led short-term removal actions and longer-term remedial actions to clean up contamination in impacted communities across the area.



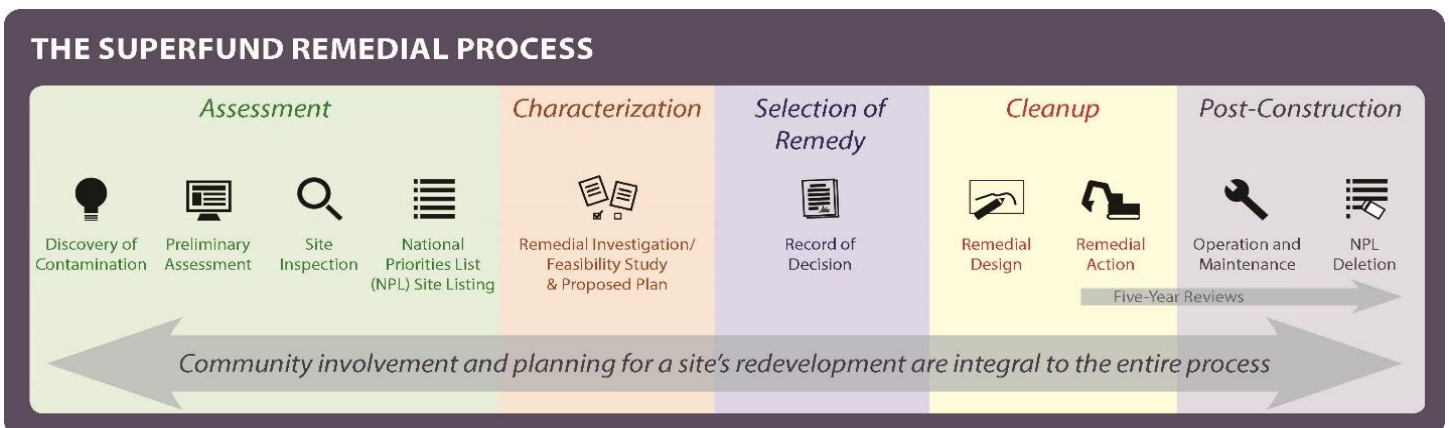
Over the last 200 years, people have come into contact with abandoned hazardous mining wastes. **Contaminated mining wastes (such as chat, tailings, and contaminated soils) were used across the area as:**

- Soil and fill in yards, driveways, parking areas, playgrounds, and in sandboxes.
- For snow and ice control on roads and as aggregate for road construction.
- Chat was used as ballast in railroads, aggregate in concrete and asphalt and construction fill.
- Due to the lime content, tailings were potentially used as agricultural soil amendments – for crops and other areas.
- Contaminated floodplain soils were used in residential areas as fill and topsoil across the district.
- Homes were built on mine waste and near old tailings ponds, which were attractive to buyers seeking waterfront properties.

What Is Superfund?

“Superfund” refers to hazardous waste sites and EPA’s cleanup process. It is the common name for the 1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This federal law authorizes EPA to clean up contaminated sites to protect human health and the environment. EPA seeks to involve communities in the Superfund process and support the return of Superfund sites to beneficial use.

Superfund enables EPA to clean up contaminated sites and requires that potentially responsible parties (PRPs) perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work. The NPL is the list of sites of national priority among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States and its territories. Learn more about EPA’s Superfund program and the NPL at: www.epa.gov/superfund.



Lead Overview

Why Is Lead Poisoning Prevention Important?

Lead exposure may cause lifelong negative health effects in children under age 7 and pregnant and nursing mothers. Exploration of the physical environment is a natural developmental process for young children, who often put their hands and other objects in their mouths. As a result, they may inadvertently ingest lead from dust or soil on their hands or other objects. The effects of greatest concern in children are impairment of their developing brains, nervous systems, and organs. Exposure to lead is also likely to cause cancer.

Protect Your Family from Lead Hazards in Historic Mining and Smelting Areas

You can take simple steps to reduce your exposure to lead in contaminated soils or dust and water.



Contact EPA about **free** testing and cleanup of lead contamination in yards.



Contact EPA about **free** drinking water well testing and alternate water for eligible wells.



Take shoes off at the door; clean children's feet and pets' paws/fur at the door.



Make sure children eat nutritious meals high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.



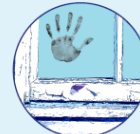
Damp (not dry) mop and dust surfaces regularly; keep toys and play areas clean.



Have children under 7 years old tested for lead poisoning each year, even if they seem healthy.



Wash hands, especially children's, after handling soil, playing outside, and before meals.



Be aware of other sources of lead, such as lead-based paint, and try to minimize your overall exposure.



Practice safe gardening and wash foods grown in contaminated soil.



For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/mo/protect-your-family-lead-hazards-historic-lead-mining-areas-fact-sheet-august-2022>
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | 11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, KS 66219 | 913-551-7003

Learn About Lead

To learn more information on how to **Protect Your Family From Lead Hazards in Historic Mining Areas**, visit: www.epa.gov/mo/protect-your-family-lead-hazards-historic-lead-mining-areas-fact-sheet-august-2022

To learn about lead, please check out EPA's lead website: www.epa.gov/lead and

Lead Awareness Training for Communities and Tribal Lead Curriculum:

www.epa.gov/lead/tribal-lead-curriculum

Lead Testing and Public Health Contacts

The only way to know if you or your child has elevated levels of lead in their blood is to have their blood tested. Talk to your pediatrician, general physician, or your local county or state health department:

⇒ **Newton County Health Department:** 417-451-3743, www.newtoncountyhealth.org and www.health.mo.gov/living/environment/lead

⇒ **Cherokee County Health Department:** 620-429-3087, www.cherokeecountyks.gov/main/departments/health-department and www.kdhe.ks.gov/1107/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention

⇒ **Jasper County Health Department:** 417-358-3111, www.jaspercountymmo.gov/health-department, www.jaspercountymmo.gov/environmental-services and www.joplinmo.org/157/Health-Department

⇒ **Ottawa County Health Department:** 918-540-2481, www.oklahoma.gov/health/locations/county-health-departments/ottawa-county-health-department.html and www.oklahoma.gov/health/services/children-family-health/screening-and-special-services/oklahoma-childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program.html

For Other Lead and Public Health Questions and Resources

CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Regional Representative:

Region 7: Lt. Commander **Cory Kokko** at the U.S. Public Health Service; 913-217-5981, or CKokko@cdc.gov

Learn more at CDC's Lead page: www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead and www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention

Indian Health Service: www.ihs.gov/oklahomacity/oehe/dehs

Northeastern Tribal Health System: www.nthsclinic.com and www.nthsclinic.com/ottawa-county-resources

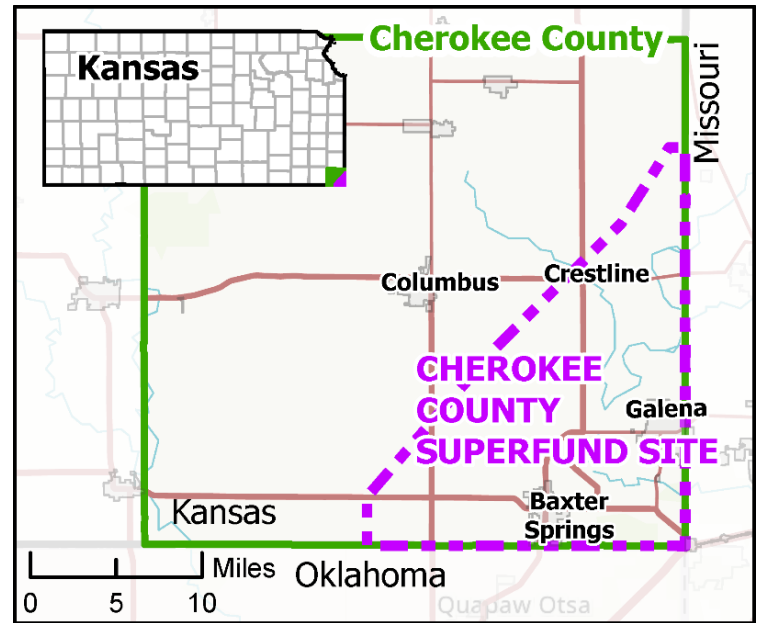
Cherokee County NPL Superfund Site

Site Overview

The Cherokee County Superfund Site covers about 115 square miles and is in Cherokee County, Kansas. EPA added the site to the NPL in 1983. Its cleanup addresses all media types (soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment) impacted by heavy metals related to historic mining, milling, and smelting activities. See map below for the site’s location. The site was broken up into nine project areas, called Operable Units (OUs), described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Project Areas	
Operable Unit (OU)	Status
OU-1 – Galena Alternate Water Supply	Complete
OU-2 – Spring River Basin	Remedial Investigation
OU-3 – Baxter Springs	Remedial Action
OU-4 – Treece	Remedial Action
OU-5 – Galena Groundwater/Surface Water	Operation and Maintenance
OU-6 – Badger, Lawton, Waco, Crestline	Remedial Action
OU-7 – Galena Residential Soils	Remedial Design*
OU-8 – Railroads	Remedial Action
OU-9 – Tar Creek Watershed	Remedial Investigation

*Notes: EPA has not yet selected remedies for OU-2 and OU9. Investigations are ongoing.
Upcoming Remedial Action is planned for in OU-7



Site Status

As of October 2023:

- Over 885 residential yards and high-access areas have been remediated.
- A total of 14.6 million tons of mining waste and soil have been cleaned up.
- Two rural water wells were constructed with 60 miles of pipeline to serve nearly 500 households.
- Nearly 2,800 acres are ready for reuse.
- The former Eagle-Picher Smelter area was remediated.

For More Information

Please visit EPA’s Site Profile page: www.epa.gov/superfund/cherokeecounty

See EPA’s Site Update Fact Sheet: www.epa.gov/ks/cherokee-county-national-priorities-list-npl-superfund-site-cherokee-county-kansas-fact-sheet-1

Site Reuse: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/403532.pdf> and
<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/100002588.pdf>

Pilot Project in the TSMD Watershed: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/07/30828925.pdf>

EPA Five-Year Review Findings

EPA conducts Five-Year Reviews (FYRs) of remedies at Superfund sites when waste remains on-site to make sure the remedies remain protective over time. EPA completed the most recent FYR for the Cherokee County Site in 2020. EPA found that many parts of the site remedy are working as intended. EPA's 2020 FYR Report discusses six of the site's nine OUs. The FYR evaluates only those OUs with a selected remedy and where at least part of remedy construction has started. It does not evaluate remedy protectiveness for OU-1 because the state oversees the public water system.



Figure 1: Ongoing cleanup at the Sunflower Pit. (U.S. EPA photo)

Millions of cubic yards of wastes have been removed from thousands of acres of land at OU-3, OU-4, and OU-6. The 2020 FYR Report identified a need to address parts of the site's residential cleanups. Specifically, EPA found that the lead action level of 800 parts per million (ppm) used for residential cleanups may not be protective. EPA selected the lead action level for the site in the late 1990s. It was based on EPA guidance in effect at that time and derived from modeling that used a blood lead level of 10 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) as the level of concern. More recent scientific studies show that blood lead levels below 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ may also cause negative health impacts.

To address this issue, EPA released a proposed Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for public comment in January 2023. EPA received input on updating the cleanup level for lead contamination in soils at residential properties across the site. EPA proposed lowering the cleanup level to a more protective threshold of 400 ppm after a review of residential yard sampling results. ***In July 2023, EPA released an ESD that lowered the cleanup level to 400 ppm for lead in residential soils.***

Key Cherokee County Superfund Site Contacts

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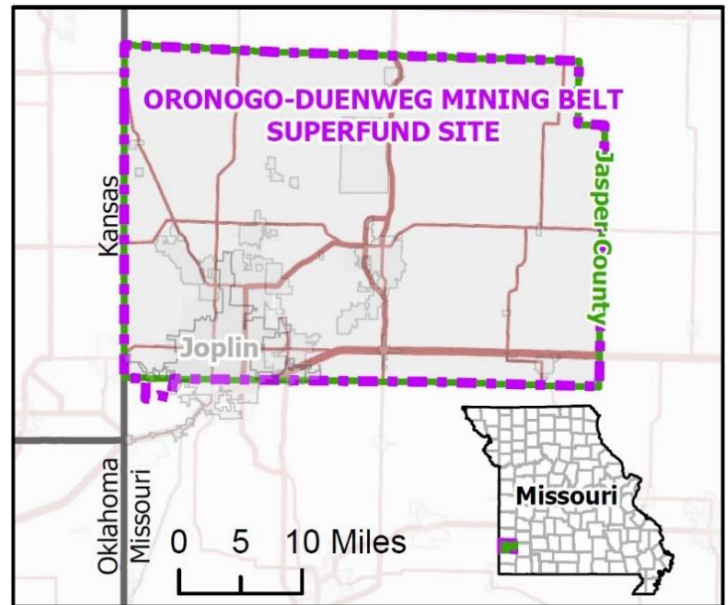
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Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt NPL Superfund Site

Site Overview

EPA added the Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt NPL Superfund Site to the NPL in 1990, due to the large volumes of mining and milling waste in Jasper County. About 150 million tons of waste contaminated with cadmium, lead, and zinc were scattered over 11,000 acres. Smelting operations also distributed airborne contaminants over a large area that includes about 2,500 residential yards. The map below shows the site’s location. The site has five OUs that address heavy-metal contamination from historical mining operations, described in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Project Areas	
Operable Unit (OU)	Status
OU-1 – Mill and Mine Waste	Remedial Action
OU-2 – Smelter Zone Residential Yards	Remedial Action*
OU-3 – Mine Waste Residential Yard Soils	Remedial Action*
OU-4 – Groundwater	Remedial Action
OU-5 – Spring River Basin	Remedial Investigation
<i>Notes: EPA has not yet selected the cleanup decision (remedy) for OU-5. Investigations are ongoing. *Upcoming Remedial Action is planned for in OU-2 and OU-3</i>	



Site Status

As of October 2023:

- 3,088 residential yards and high-access areas had been remediated.
- A total of 25 million tons of mining waste and soil have been cleaned up.
- A total of 100 households were supported with public water supply expansions.
- About 4,500 acres are ready for reuse.

For More Information

Please visit EPA’s Site Profile page: www.epa.gov/superfund/oronogoduenwegmining

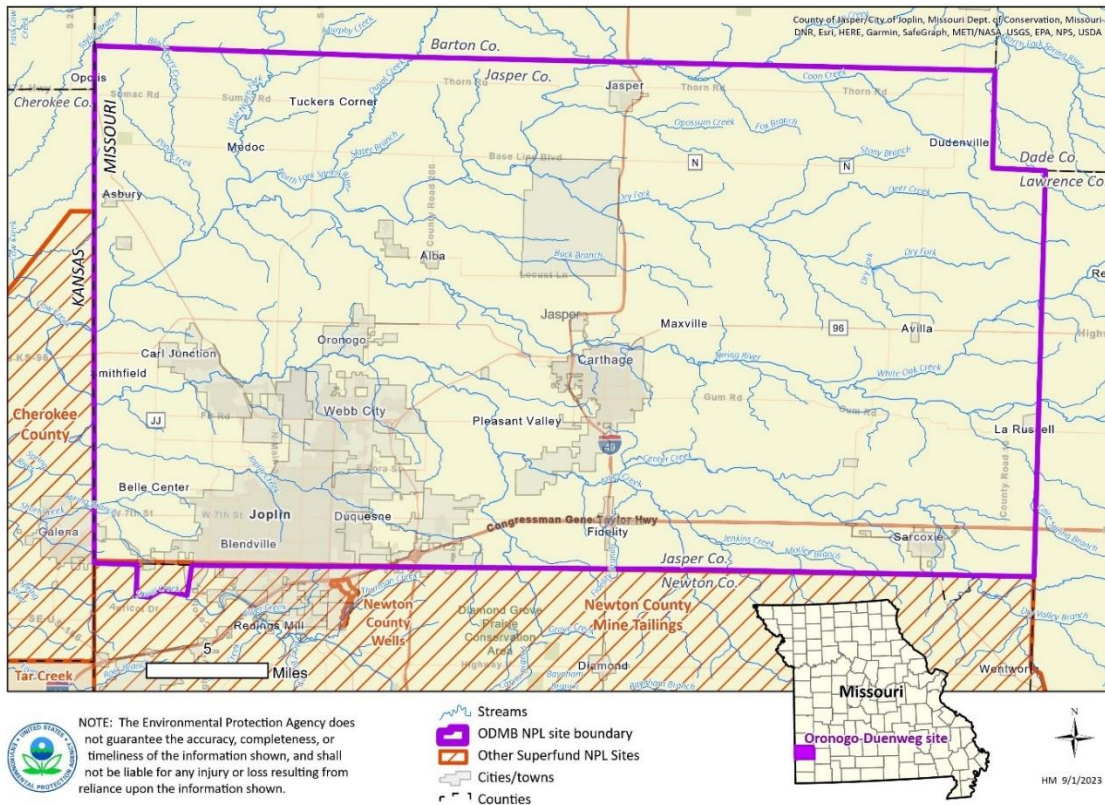
See EPA’s Site Update Fact Sheets: www.epa.gov/mo/oronogo-duenweg-mining-belt-national-priorities-list-npl-superfund-site-jasper-and-newton and www.epa.gov/mo/oronogo-duenweg-mining-belt-national-priorities-list-npl-superfund-site-jasper-county-missouri-7

Site Reuse: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/superfund-sites-reuse-missouri#oronogo>, <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/100003161.pdf>, <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/100003237.pdf> and <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/197403.pdf>

Site Boundary Expansion

The EPA Site Team held an open house and community meeting in Jasper County in April 2023 to discuss a proposed boundary expansion for the site. Over time, EPA identified areas in central and eastern Jasper County with soil and groundwater contaminated by past mining activities. While short-term cleanups (removal actions) have addressed, and continue to address, immediate risks in these areas, longer-term cleanup is also required to remove additional contamination that poses risk to people (especially children and nursing mothers), animals, and plants. **The boundary expansion was finalized in March 2024 and allows for Superfund program resources to be provided in other areas of Jasper County.** The expanded Superfund site boundary will address exposure risks from soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediments in all of Jasper County.

Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt (ODMB) Superfund Site Boundary (Jasper County wide)



Key Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt Superfund Site Contacts

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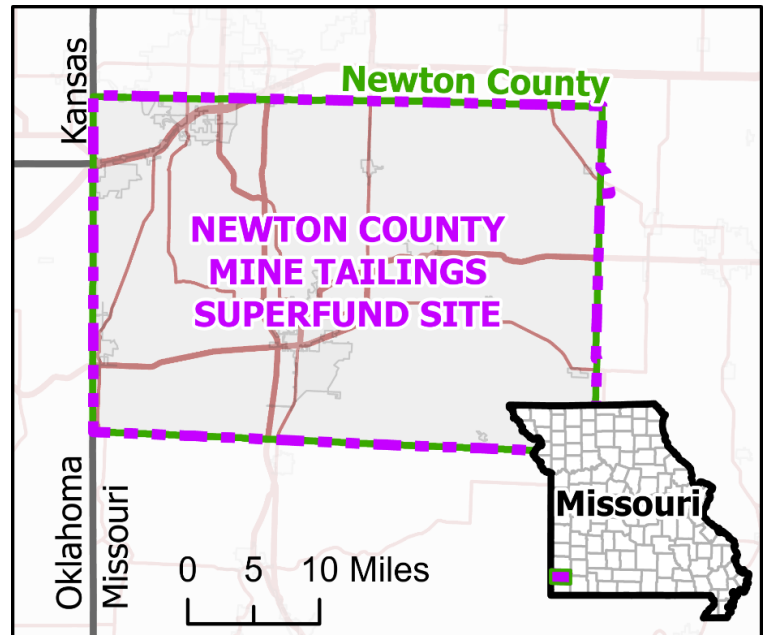
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Newton County Mine Tailings NPL Superfund Site

Site Overview

EPA added the site to the NPL in 2003, based on the large volumes of mining wastes scattered across Newton County. The lead and zinc mining operations in Newton County from the 1850s to 1970 resulted in contamination of surface soil, groundwater, surface water, and stream sediment. The map below shows the site’s location. The site covers about 300 square miles and has five mining subdistricts: Diamond, Granby, Spring City/Spurgeon, Stark City, and Wentworth. To manage the cleanup, EPA divided the site into four OUs, described in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Project Areas	
Operable Unit (OU)	Status
OU-1 – Diamond/Spring City/Granby	Complete
OU-2 – Remainder Newton County	Remedial Action
OU-3 – Spring River Watershed	Remedial Investigation
OU-4 – Groundwater	Remedial Investigation
<i>Notes: EPA has not yet selected the remedy for OU-3. Investigations are ongoing.</i>	



Site Status

As of October 2023:

- A total of 406 residential yards and high-access areas have been remediated.
- More than 1.2 million tons of mining waste and soil have been cleaned up.
- About 100 miles of public water supply lines and over 100 individual wells have been installed.
- Over 100 acres are ready for reuse.

For More Information

Please visit EPA’s Site Profile page: www.epa.gov/superfund/newtoncountymine
 See EPA’s Site Update Fact Sheet: www.epa.gov/mo/newton-county-mine-tailings-national-priorities-list-npl-superfund-site-newton-county-missouri-0
 Site Reuse: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/superfund-sites-reuse-missouri#newton> and <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/100003237.pdf>

Community Highlight

As part of Superfund cleanups, EPA works with local governments and property owners to remediate former mine waste areas in ways that support the anticipated future use of these areas. The community of Granby has worked proactively with EPA to identify recreation and residential reuse opportunities at two cleaned-up areas. Community leaders in Granby requested help visualizing what these areas could look like in the future.

To support community needs and property owner reuse plans, EPA’s Superfund Redevelopment Program (SRP) provided technical assistance to Granby to help community members with their visualization efforts.

In 2022 and 2023, SRP developed a digital model of the two sites, which includes the city’s public works yard and open space areas next to the municipal recycling center. Building on the model and final engineering designs, SRP prepared digital images for proposed recreation facilities and infill housing.

City of Granby Public Works Area

Reuse plans for the Public Works Area include new street connections, six new homes and a playground.

The image block contains two aerial photographs. The top-left photo shows the 'Existing Conditions (2023)', depicting a large, mostly empty dirt area with some sparse vegetation and existing infrastructure. The bottom-right photo shows the 'Proposed Neighborhood Housing Reuse Plan', which features a developed residential neighborhood with several houses, a large green lawn, and a blue pond. A caption 'Existing Conditions (2023)' is placed to the right of the top photo, and 'Proposed Neighborhood Housing Reuse Plan' is placed to the left of the bottom photo.

Key Newton County Mine Tailings Superfund Site Contacts

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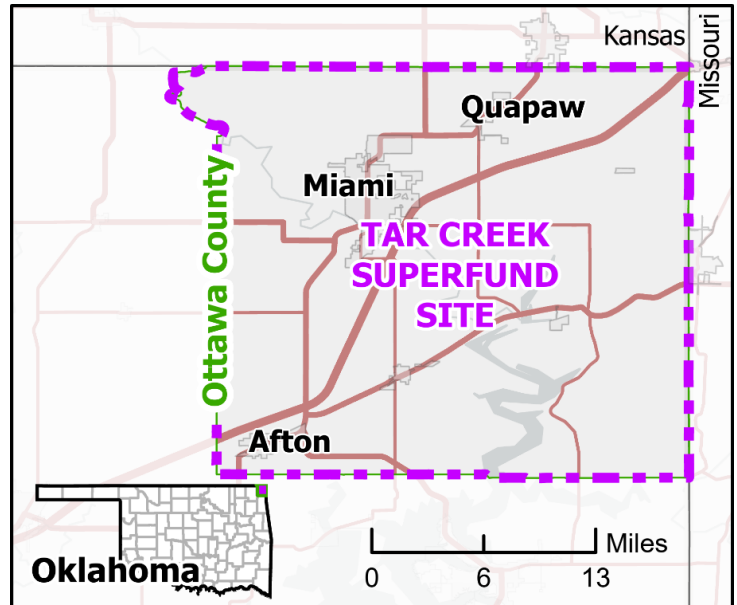
Tar Creek NPL Superfund Site

Site Overview

The site includes Ottawa County, Oklahoma, as well as Treece, Kansas. EPA added the site to the NPL in 1983. This area includes the most heavily mined part of the TSMD. Nearly a century of mining activities left an estimated 75 million cubic yards of milling waste (chat) contaminated with lead, cadmium, and zinc in large piles throughout Ottawa County. Mining waste is concentrated over a 40-square-mile area, while also widely distributed throughout the 485 square miles of the county that includes residential areas, as well as rivers and creeks. Nearly 350 chat piles and chat bases, as well as over 60 fine-tailings ponds, have been identified to date. EPA currently continues cleanup efforts under cooperative agreements with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Quapaw Nation. See map below for site location. The site is divided into five OUs, as described in Table 4 below.

Operable Unit (OU)	Status
OU1 – Surface Water/ Groundwater	Operation and Maintenance
OU2 – Residential and High-Access Areas	Remedial Action
OU3 – Eagle-Picher Offices - Removal Action	Cleanup Completed
OU4 – Chat Piles, Mine, Mill, and Smelter Wastes	Remedial Action
OU5 – Sediment and Surface Water	Remedial Investigation

Note: EPA has not yet selected a remedy for OU5. Investigations are ongoing.



Site Status

As of January 2024:

- Over 3,000 residential yards and high-access areas have been remediated.
- Nearly 10 million tons of mining waste and contaminated soil have been cleaned up.
- Nearly 115 chat piles and chat bases have been cleaned up.
- Over 15 fine tailings ponds have been remediated.
- Over 145 borings have been plugged or removed.
- 165 mine shafts have been capped.
- 85 abandoned ground water wells have been plugged.
- Approximately 5,100 acres are ready for reuse.

For More Information

Please visit EPA’s Site Profile page: www.epa.gov/superfund/tar-creek
 See Oklahoma DEQ Site Update Fact Sheets: www.deq.ok.gov/land-protection-division/cleanup-redevelopment/superfund/tar-creek-superfund-site/ and www.deq.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/land-division/Updated-Tar-Creek-Yard-Cleanup-Fact-Sheet-11-2018.pdf
 EPA’s 2019 Tar Creek Strategic Plan: semspub.epa.gov/work/06/100017221.pdf
 Site Reuse: www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/superfund-sites-reuse-oklahoma#tar

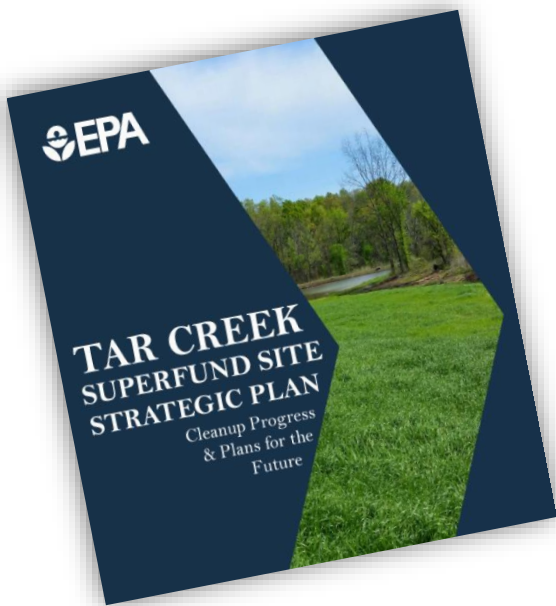
Reducing lead exposure, especially to children, is an important measure of the success of actions at the site. EPA, Oklahoma DEQ, Oklahoma State Health Department (OSHD), and Ottawa County Health Department (OCHD) are working together to continue monitoring possible exposures to lead.

The **OCHD Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** provides free blood lead testing for children 6 months through 6 years of age, and refers families of children with lead in blood above the current reference level to DEQ for free soil testing. Under OU2, EPA funds **Oklahoma DEQ's** soil testing and cleanup of residential yards and high-access areas, such as schools, day cares, and other public places.



Figure 2: A neighborhood in Picher, Oklahoma with large, nearby lead mining waste piles prior to relocation of Picher residents. (U.S. EPA photo)

EPA strongly encourages residents to take advantage of free blood lead testing and free soil testing to protect themselves from lead exposures. If you are unsure whether your yard has been cleaned up and/or would like to get on the list to have your yard or driveway sampled, please contact **Oklahoma DEQ's toll-free hotline number at 1-800-522-0206.**



EPA is currently investigating the surface water and sediment under OU5. **This investigation covers seven watersheds, 437 square miles, and 119 river miles. The TSMD watershed study area encompasses streams in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri, and thus requires coordination with EPA Region 7, three states, nine tribes, and numerous state and federal agencies.**

EPA Region 6 is updating the 2019 Tar Creek Superfund Site Strategic Plan, which aims to provide updates on the cleanup and remedial investigation activities at the site, and to outline how EPA will continue to work with its partners and stakeholders to improve progress in addressing mining waste and contamination. EPA, along with partners and stakeholders, will coordinate the Strategic Plan updates and continue to engage the Tar Creek community to accelerate cleanup and protect people from lead exposures. A Five-Year Review (FYR) for the site was last completed in 2020. A new FYR will be issued in 2025.

Key Tar Creek Superfund Site Contacts

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Announcements and Key Topics

For site-specific announcements, updates, events, and opportunities for public input, visit:

- Tar Creek Superfund Site: www.epa.gov/superfund/tar-creek
- Cherokee County Superfund Site: www.epa.gov/superfund/cherokeecounty
- Newton County Mine Tailings Superfund Site: www.epa.gov/superfund/newtoncountymine
- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt Superfund Site: www.epa.gov/superfund/oronogoduenwegmining

EPA Guidance:

In January 2024, EPA announced the lowering of the **screening level** for lead in soil at residential properties from 400 parts per million (ppm) to 200 ppm. EPA Region 7 plans to use the new screening levels during the regular Five-Year Review process to evaluate the protectiveness of current remedies and determine the need to revisit site-specific cleanup decisions. Updates will be available later in the year, and EPA will inform community members, partners, and stakeholders when they are available. **For more information, please view EPA's explainer document and official memorandum on the guidance at:** www.epa.gov/superfund/updated-soil-lead-guidance-cercla-sites-and-rcra-corrective-action-facilities.

EPA Residential Lead Handbook:

EPA released the newly updated **Superfund Residential Lead Sites Handbook**, available on EPA's Superfund website at: www.epa.gov/superfund/lead-superfund-sites-guidance#residentialsites. The updated handbook is an invaluable tool to support implementation of the January 2024 Updated Residential Soil Lead Guidance for CERCLA (Superfund) Sites and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action facilities. Updates to the handbook capture tools and best practices that have evolved since the first handbook in 2003.

Check out the EPA Region 7 Community Information Guide!

The online Community Information Guide provides communities, nonprofits, stakeholder groups, community-based organizations, academia, tribes, state and local governments, and other partners with the latest news and information on funding and technical assistance opportunities, meetings, conferences, events, webinars, and other activities related to human health and the environment (covering any EPA program/activity). Visit the page to see what's new: www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region-7-community-information-guide.

Accessibility And Language Translation Resources Available

EPA strives to host inclusive, accessible events and prepare materials that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request an accommodation, or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact kramer.elizabeth@epa.gov or r7-tmsd@epa.gov.

English: If you cannot speak, read, write, or understand the English language, please email kramer.elizabeth@epa.gov or r7-tmsd@epa.gov to request interpretation or translation services free of charge. If you are a person with disabilities and need reasonable modifications and/or auxiliary aids and services, please email kramer.elizabeth@epa.gov to request services free of charge.

Spanish: Si no puede hablar, leer, escribir o entender el inglés y/o tiene alguna discapacidad, envíe un correo electrónico a kramer.elizabeth@epa.gov o r7-tmsd@epa.gov para solicitar servicios de traducción o interpretación gratuitos. Si usted es una persona con una discapacidad que necesita modificaciones razonables y/o servicios y recursos auxiliares, envíe un correo electrónico a kramer.elizabeth@epa.gov para solicitar servicios gratuitos.



About EPA's Community Involvement Program

Key goals of EPA's Superfund Community Involvement program are to ensure that community members affected by Superfund actions:

- Are aware of EPA activities.
- Have opportunities to influence site cleanup and reuse decisions.
- Are aware that their concerns are considered in the site decision-making process.

Let's do our part to be lead smart!

EPA has been working in the TSMD to protect families from lead hazards for years. While EPA does the "heavy lifting" of physical cleanup, people can minimize their exposure to lead in the home, and while awaiting a lead test and/or cleanup. For instance, the TSMD's Pb Possum was featured in a prior Jasper County Children's Activity Book (<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/07/30202087.pdf>) to promote lead poisoning prevention for kids.

Opportunities to Get Involved!

- ⇒ **Sign up** for EPA's contact lists for site and/or watershed updates.
- ⇒ **Attend** EPA meetings and events.
- ⇒ **Invite** EPA to participate in or present events in your community.
- ⇒ **Contact** EPA to provide input on communication or technical assistance needs.
- ⇒ **Provide** ideas for lead health education for children and their caregivers to prevent lead exposure.

Contact EPA!

EPA Region 7 Community Involvement Coordinator

Elizabeth Kramer, 913-551-7186 or

kramer.elizabeth@epa.gov or r7-tmsd@epa.gov

EPA Region 6 Community Involvement Coordinator

Janetta Coats, 214-665-7308 or

coats.janetta@epa.gov

EPA welcomes community input and ideas on tips and future outreach materials to protect people from lead hazards – especially children under 7 years old, parents, and their caregivers. For mailing list changes, to send comments on this digest, contact the editors, or submit articles for consideration, contact Elizabeth Kramer, as noted above. Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

Our new Lead Safety Friends, Pb&J,
just wanted to say...

"Hey! We'll show you the way
to be lead-safe when you eat and play!"



Pb&J: Your lead safety friends!

We have three tips, from our lips:

1. What's best?

A yearly childhood lead test!

2. Be alert, lead can hurt!
Wash hands before meals
and after playing in dirt.

3. Leave shoes at the door
before you walk on your floor.

Thank you for making our day!

- Your friends, Pb&J!

(Signed Phoebe bullfrog & Joe armadillo)



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Spring 2024



Learn more about EPA Site Cleanups on the web at:

www.epa.gov/mo/missouri-cleanups

www.epa.gov/ks/kansas-cleanups



- Inside...*
- Superfund Overview
 - About Lead Hazards
 - Tri-State Mining District – Site Updates:
 - Cherokee County
 - Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt
 - Newton County Mine Tailings
 - Tar Creek
 - And Ways to Get Involved!