

What to Know About EPA's 2026 Record of Decision Amendment

On June 1, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a Proposed Plan for changes to the existing cleanup level for lead in residential soils and interior dust at the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit (BPSOU) of the Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area Superfund Site. After a 30-day public comment period and a formal public hearing, these changes were finalized in a document called a Record of Decision Amendment (RODA) in September 2026. EPA also developed a responsiveness summary in the 2026 RODA that responds to public comments submitted during the public comment period.

Existing BPSOU Boundary and 2026 RMAP Expansion Area

Existing BPSOU Boundary	2026 RMAP Expansion Area
4,265 acres	3,637 additional acres
4,700 households	7,100 additional households



1:42,000
0 1,500 3,000 Feet

▬ BPSOU Boundary
▬ 2026 RMAP Expansion Area

Protecting the Most Vulnerable

Cleanup decisions for residential land use are based on those most sensitive to the harmful effects of lead exposure (young children under 6 years old).

Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit, Butte, MT

Sept. 2026

What the 2026 RODA Changes in the BPSOU

1 Lower Cleanup Level for Lead in Residential Soils and interior dust

EPA has lowered the BPSOU-specific cleanup level for lead in residential soils and interior dust from 1,200 mg/kg (which is equivalent to parts per million) to 456 mg/kg.

2 2026 RMAP Expansion Area

EPA has drawn this area to incorporate densely populated residential neighborhoods impacted by historic mining operations in Butte. Properties within the 2026 RMAP Expansion Area (see map) now qualify for sampling and evaluation for contamination to determine if remedial action is necessary. Residential properties outside the BPSOU and 2026 RMAP Expansion Area that are located in Butte-Silver Bow County can continue to be sampled upon property owner request.

3 Update the Timeline for Cleanup

EPA expects that sampling, evaluation, and necessary remedial action will take a total of 15 years from 2026. Sampling, evaluation, and any necessary remedial action will prioritize the most vulnerable populations.

Would you like your residential property sampled?

Would you like your residential property sampled? The Residential Metals Abatement Program (RMAP) provides free environmental assessment services, including sampling of residential yards and interior dust for lead, arsenic, and mercury, as well as interior and exterior paint and pipes for lead, if necessary. Make an appointment by contacting the RMAP:

RMAP | City and County of Butte-Silver Bow | (406) 497-5040
www.co.silverbow.mt.us/467/22584/Residential-Metals-Abatement-Program

Would you like to have your blood tested?

Free blood-lead testing is offered for every resident in the city-county of Butte-Silver Bow through the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department. To make an appointment, please reach out to Kayla Harvey, R.N., Butte-Silver Bow's Environmental Health Nurse: 406-497-5003



Get the Details

- **Read the document.** The 2026 RODA is available online at www.epa.gov/butte.
- The responsiveness summary, where EPA responds to public comments, is also available in the 2026 RODA.
- **Reach out.** Contact Mackenzie Meter, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator: meter.mackenzie@epa.gov.

Tips for Reducing Lead Exposure



Families can take simple steps to reduce exposure to lead in soil. Removing shoes before entering your home, washing your hands, and using a damp cloth to wipe down high-touch surfaces are all effective strategies. For more information on reducing exposure to lead in soil, please scan the QR code.

What happens now?

Sampling, evaluation, and cleanups will continue. Residential properties where partial remediation has already been conducted will be reassessed to determine whether additional action may be required. For example, if a residential property previously only had one portion of the yard remediated, data collected at the time of the yard sampling will be reviewed to determine if there are other portions of the yard where action should be taken.

Residential properties that were previously sampled under the RMAP but did not qualify for any remediation at the 1,200 mg/kg action level will be reassessed to determine if action is now required. Previous sampling data will be used to reassess properties that qualify, to the extent that data is available.

EPA's National Lead Directive Prompts BPSOU Cleanup Changes

In October 2025, EPA released a new Lead Directive for residential soil cleanups at Superfund sites. This Lead Directive updated EPA's 1994 Lead Guidance, established a standardized screening level of 200 mg/kg soil-lead, and lowered the target blood-lead level from 10 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) to 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. This translates to a goal of 5% or less of a population of children having a blood-lead level of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or more. The laws that govern Superfund and other cleanup programs require us to reduce the amount of lead in soil to a level that is considered protective. Screening levels and site-specific risk assessments help us decide the most appropriate combination of actions to reduce the risk from lead contamination, including what the protective level of lead in soil is for a specific site. The EPA will

continue to work with the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) to prioritize the sampling of those residences where there is a resident with an elevated blood lead level.

The changes in this 2026 RODA only modify the component of the BPSOU Selected Remedy that addresses contaminated residential soils and interior dust, consistent with the new blood lead level target established in EPA's 2025 Lead Directive, to ensure protection of human health and the environment within the BPSOU. The 2025 Lead Directive also recognizes that additional layers of protection, such as institutional controls and informational devices, enhance the effectiveness of response actions.



**Learn more about the
Silver Bow Creek/Butte
Area Superfund Site**

