

EPA Emergency Response Program

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What is the EPA Role in Eureka?

- Provide support to NDEP
- EPA has access to funding and resources
- EPA Superfund Programs
 - Emergency Response
 - Imminent and Substantial Threat
 - \$2 million ceiling
 - Remedial Program
 - Longer term cleanup

WHY IS SOIL SAMPLING NECESSARY IF BLOOD LEAD TESTING WAS OK?

- Initial blood lead results were encouraging
- Were a small number of detections exceeding state and federal standards
- Only a small number of children were tested
- Are encouraging all children under 6 years old be tested for lead

WHY IS SOIL SAMPLING NECESSARY IF BLOOD LEAD TESTING WAS OK?

- Blood lead testing does not give us information about Arsenic exposure
- No reliable way to correlate arsenic levels in the human body to expected health effects
- EPA primarily relies on evaluating risk associated with exposure to contaminated soil or water

WHY IS SOIL SAMPLING NECESSARY IF BLOOD LEAD TESTING WAS OK?

- EPA and most States primarily rely on soil and groundwater contaminant levels to make cleanup decisions
- Blood lead data is still important
 - Helps to identify possible sites
 - Used to determine if individuals need to seek medical attention
 - Used to help prioritize properties needing cleanup
 - Used to evaluate effectiveness of cleanup over time

WHAT WAS THE SOURCE OF LEAD AND ARSENIC

- Eureka was a historic center for lead smelting
 - At least 7 smelters and 3 mill sites in town
- Smelter and mill sites may be contaminated
- Stacks and floods may have contaminated other areas

ARE THE LEAD AND ARSENIC LEVELS IN EUREKA HIGH?

- Only have 38 samples (3 slag, 35 soil)
- Slag piles have high levels of lead and arsenic
 - Lead 19,000-44,000 ppm
 - Arsenic 5,000-13,000 ppm
- Soil samples also have elevated levels
- Cleanup levels

LEAD LEVELS IN SOIL

- 12 of the 35 samples below 400 ppm
- 6 of the 35 samples between 400 ppm and 1,000 ppm, and
- 17 of the 35 samples above 1,000 ppm

ARSENIC LEVELS IN SOIL

- 8 of the 35 samples below 60 ppm
- 23 of the 35 samples between 60 ppm and 1,000 ppm
- 4 of the 35 samples above 1,000 ppm

LEAD AND ARSENIC LEVELS

CONTAMINANT	SLAG	SOIL	TYPICAL CLEANUP GOAL (RESIDENTIAL)
LEAD	UP TO 44,000 PPM	UP TO 12,241 PPM	400 PPM 23/35 > 400
ARSENIC	UP TO 13,000 PPM	UP TO 2,835 PPM	60 PPM 27/35 >60

HOW IS THE SOIL SAMPLING GOING SO FAR?

Jeff Collins – NDEP to talk about soil
sampling

Teams are comprised of
EPA/NDEP personnel
Contractors
USCG

Expect two week duration

CAN I STILL SIGN UP FOR SAMPLING AND WILL THERE BE FUTURE SAMPLING?

- Yes
- Probably

What happens after sampling?

- ◉ You will receive sampling results –
January
- ◉ Longer term - difficult to answer precisely, since we do not know extent of problem
- ◉ Jeff Collins to talk about this
- ◉ Will provide more information when we come back in January

WOULD I BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANUP OF MY PROPERTY?

- EPA does not hold residential property owners liable for the cost of cleanup
 - If owner did nothing to cause the contamination on their property
 - If owner is not a successor to the company that caused the contamination
 - Further information regarding liability for residential property owners is available on the EPA website

WOULD I BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANUP OF MY PROPERTY?

- For commercial and municipal property owners the policy is similar to that for residential property
 - If owner did nothing to cause the contamination on their property or is not related to the company that caused the contamination, EPA is not likely to seek costs
 - EPA is interested in companies and their successors who may have caused the contamination
 - Further information regarding liability for commercial/municipal property owners is available on the EPA website

WHO WOULD PAY FOR CLEANUP?

- Until we have a better understanding of the extent of contamination, hard to answer
- EPA has funding to cleanup contaminated sites
- Funding may be available from other sources – State, private industry
- May be responsible parties who should share in the cost

HOW WILL THIS IMPACT MY PROPERTY VALUE?

- Again, hard to answer until we have a better understanding of contamination
- In other communities, have seen initial negative impact on property values
- Have also seen that properties that have been sampled or cleaned up increase in value

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE TO HAVE MY PROPERTY SAMPLED?

- ◉ Your decision
- ◉ State law or banks may require disclosure
- ◉ May miss opportunity to have property cleaned up

Other lead smelter sites Western U.S.

- Washington

- Asarco

- Utah

- Eureka Mills, Jacobs Smelter, Midvale Slag, Murray Smelter, Sharon Steel

- Colorado

- California Gulch, Colorado Smelter, Smelertown, Smuggler Mountain

- Montana

- ACM Smelter, Anaconda Smelter, Flatcreek

Final Thoughts

- ◉ We understand that people have concerns
- ◉ Lead vs. Arsenic
- ◉ Need input from the community

How to Stay Informed

➤ NDEP and EPA have websites at

- www.ndep.nv.gov/eurekasmelter
- www.epaosc.org/eurekasmelter

➤ Call us

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