



Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) Superfund Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

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External Lead-Based Paint Assessment and Abatement Initiative

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with federal, state, and local partners, recently completed an innovative program to safeguard residents in northeast Denver from the potential health hazards of lead-contaminated soil.

For six years, EPA investigated and cleaned up residential soils at the VB/I-70 Superfund Site (VB/I-70) in the neighborhoods of Cole, Clayton, Swansea, Elyria, southwest Globeville, and a small section of Curtis Park. EPA removed and replaced 761 yards that had elevated levels of lead.

EPA recognized that these yards could become re-contaminated, however, from external lead-based paint peeling off the sides of homes. As a result, EPA tested external paint on houses where yards had been cleaned up. If the paint contained high levels of lead and was peeling or chipping enough to re-contaminate the soil, EPA repaired the paint.

This effort was called an external lead-based paint assessment and abatement. This initiative was one of the first of its kind in the nation at a Superfund site.

What was the External Lead-Based Paint Assessment?

EPA performed an external lead-based paint assessment at the 231 properties where EPA removed and replaced soil due to lead contamination. *EPA did not assess external lead-based paint at those properties which had arsenic contaminated yards.*

EPA then assessed the house, garage, out-buildings and fences on those properties for evi-

dence of chipping lead-based paint. EPA calculated the potential for that peeling paint to re-contaminate the newly replaced soil.

What was the External Lead-Based Paint Abatement?

Results from the assessment showed that there more than 100 properties where paint containing lead might re-contaminate the yard. Those properties qualified for an external lead-based paint abatement. The abatement was a free EPA action that reduced or eliminated the areas of peeling paint on homes or other structures that could, in time, re-contaminate the soil.

EPA's contractors scraped discrete areas of peeling and chipping lead-based paint, which EPA had determined could re-contaminate the soil. Then EPA applied a lead barrier compound, much like a paint primer. Finally, EPA repainted the area on the outside of the houses or other structures with paint of similar color to the existing colors.

It is important to note that EPA performed an external lead-based paint abatement only on partial sections of some properties.

This means that homeowners of all properties painted before 1978 should continue to maintain the paint on the outside of their homes and prevent it from peeling. In this way, homeowners can reduce the potential of being exposed to lead-based paint in their soil. Exposure to too much lead is a known health hazard.



BEFORE



AFTER

