



Region 7

Iowa
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Fact Sheet

July 2004

Proposed Plan Released to the Public Omaha Lead Superfund Site, Omaha, Nebraska

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a Proposed Plan to the public. This plan defines cleanup alternatives, as well as EPA's preferred alternative in addressing lead contamination in residential yards in east Omaha. The intent of the plan is to solicit public review and comment on stated alternatives and encourages continued public participation in the remedy selection process.

BACKGROUND

The Omaha Lead site includes surface soils present at residential properties, child care facilities, schools, and other residential-type properties in Eastern Omaha which is located in Douglas County, Nebraska. The total area of the Omaha Lead site is approximately 8,840 acres, where an estimated 65,615 residents are located. The site boundaries run from Ames Avenue on the north to "L Street on the south and 45th Street on the west to the Missouri River on the east. These boundaries are used as guidelines only and may change as site sampling continues.

In 1998, the Omaha City Council solicited assistance from EPA in addressing problems with lead contamination in the Omaha area, prompted by an excessive number of children with elevated blood lead levels.

Lead emissions from industrial sources in Omaha resulted in

widespread contamination of residential properties in eastern Omaha.

PROPOSED PLAN ALTERNATIVES

- Alternative 1: No Action
- Alternative 2: Excavation with Health Education and Institutional Controls
- Alternative 3: Excavation and Phosphate Stabilization with Health Education and Institutional Controls
- Alternative 4: Interim Remedy -- Excavation with Treatability Study, Health Education, and Institutional Controls

EPA'S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

EPA's preferred alternative is an interim remedy that involves excavation and soil replacement at 5,600 residential properties exceeding 800 parts per million (ppm) lead, and excavation and soil replacement for soils exceeding 400 ppm at high child impact areas and properties with children having elevated blood lead levels.

This soil replacement will be conducted over the next several years while a treatability study is conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of phosphate stabilization to reduce the toxicity of lead contamination at the site. The interim remedy also includes health education, interior house cleaning, removing loose and flaking exterior lead-based paint, and institutional controls to safeguard future

residential development. EPA will also participate in the development and implementation of a comprehensive remedy with other interested parties that addresses all identified sources of lead exposure at the Omaha Lead Site.

Additional details are included in the Proposed Plan, which can be found at any of these repositories:

Omaha Public Library
W. Dale Clark Main Library
215 South 15th Street
Omaha, Nebraska
(402) 444-4800

South Omaha Library
2202 M. Street
Omaha, Nebraska
(402) 444-4850

Washington Branch Library
2816 Ames Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska
(402) 444-4849

EPA Region 7 Records Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas
1 (800) 223-0425

Repository information will be available for citizens to review on CD ROM, as well as in hard copy form.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

EPA has established a public comment period which begins on **July 16, 2004** and ends on **August 16, 2004**. You may submit comments in writing, electronically, or during one of EPA's Public Meetings.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

EPA will hold two Public Meetings to present the Proposed Plan and discuss cleanup alternatives. The public is encouraged to attend one of these meetings to provide comment and ask questions about site progress.

The meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2004 at the following locations:

- **Omaha South High School Cafeteria**
4519 South 24th Street
Omaha, Nebraska
(4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- **Teachers Administrative Center Building**
3215 Cuming Street
Omaha, Nebraska
(7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

Written or electronic comments should be sent to:

Debbie Kring
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA - Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
kring.debbie@epa.gov
Toll-free @ 1-800-223-0425

EPA encourages public participation and will not make any final decisions on a cleanup alternative until thoroughly reviewing and evaluating all comments made by the public.