



Environmental Fact Sheet
Bunker Hill Superfund Site.....May 2008

Local Studies to Help Plan Metals Cleanup

This summer, you may notice sampling crews and equipment around Kellogg, Osburn, and Page. They will be gathering data for an environmental cleanup.

Why Are Studies Needed? Cleanup of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site has come a long way. Even so, there is still metals contamination in many non-residential areas, much of it under ground. Contaminants include metals like lead and arsenic, which can cause health problems and harm the environment.

We do not have the full picture on the levels of contamination or how far and deep it goes. To figure out the best way to control the metals in the land, surface waters, and groundwater, EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and DEQ (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality) need to do more research.

The agencies want to know which underground areas are contributing to the contamination problems in the surface water and groundwater. These locations are called “source areas.” Once they are identified, the agencies need details about them so that cleanup can be designed and carried out.

For each source area, EPA and DEQ need a better understanding of:

- What contaminants are there? In what amounts?
- Where exactly do they sit? How deep down are they?
- How are the contaminants released?
- How does the groundwater flow through this area?
- How does surface water interact with this area?

Where Will Crews Work? The work will occur in some areas of eastern Kellogg, Bunker Creek, Page Pond, and Osburn Flats. These areas are known to be “source areas.” There are likely to be other source areas in the Coeur d’Alene River Basin.

When Will Field Work Take Place? Field work will be done in two stages. Stage 1 will happen from mid-June through July. EPA will use a truck-mounted Geoprobe® to collect soil cores and install temporary monitoring wells to study groundwater movement. Stage 2 may include putting in monitoring wells, analyzing the soil cores, and studying flow losses from Bunker Creek.

Truck-mounted Geoprobe® and the sampling team in action.



Close-up of the Geoprobe® sampling tool.



For More Information

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