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Fact Sheet

November 2005

Herculaneum Lead Smelter Site - Herculaneum, Missouri

QUARTERLY UPDATES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is initiating a quarterly newsletter directed to the Herculaneum community to keep you informed about progress at the Herculaneum Lead Smelter Site. This newsletter will include information about the work conducted by the EPA, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS). The Herculaneum Community Advisory Group (CAG) will also use the newsletter to provide community members with information about their activities.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MESSAGE

The following section was submitted by the CAG Core Team.

The Core Team of the Community Advisory Group is committed to the improvement of the City of Herculaneum. We want to continue to work with and support all elements of the City of Herculaneum—mainly the residents and property owners in their efforts to improve the City. We are creating a component of the Herculaneum Master Plan. We are enthusiastic about Herculaneum's future, and we believe that the City's progress depends on a number of factors. One of these is an informed citizenry.

Community Advisory Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Herculaneum Lead Smelter Community Advisory Group will be held:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Herculaneum High School
Cafeteria
Herculaneum, Missouri

We will continue to provide you with factual information about the facts relevant to your health and the efforts to reduce and maintain reduced levels of lead contamination in our City. In order to remain informed, please come to our next meeting at 7 p.m. on November 15, 2005, at Herculaneum High School's cafeteria.

In addition to the progress that the City is making, there continue to be some troubling indicators about our physical environment. Doe Run has failed to keep its emissions in compliance with the standard for ambient air quality for the first two quarters of 2005. In addition, tests by EPA indicate that recontamination is continuing to occur within eight-tenths of a mile of the Doe Run facility. The lead levels of the road dust along the haul routes, including Main Street, continue to be elevated.

We are committed to the improvement of our City, and we want to continue our efforts by working with the agencies and other elements of our City. This includes our commitment to keeping our residents and property owners informed.

The CAG Core Team

Tim Meyers 636-475-3230
Greg Bieber 636-475-3441
Catherine Malugen 636-475-3665
Larry O'Leary 636-475-3310

YARD SOIL PROGRESS

EPA continued oversight of Doe Run's replacement of contaminated yard soils during calendar year 2005. To date, 407 yards have been replaced and 113 home interiors have been cleaned.

QUARTERLY MONITORING

Monitoring for lead recontamination in surface soils is being conducted by EPA every three months. The data indicate that lead levels are trending upward in areas within eight-tenths of a mile from the smelter. Data and statistics collected by EPA are available on EPA website:

http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/superfund/major_superfund_site_reports.html

SLAG PILE UPDATE

From March 23 through April 22, 2005, the public was invited to provide comments on an Engineering Evaluation/ Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Report for the Herculaneum Slag Storage Area. EPA and MDNR reviewed all comments submitted by the public and sent revised comments on the Wetland Mitigation Plan to Doe Run on May 3, 2005.

On October 5, 2005, EPA approved the Action Memorandum to initiate the approved response action for the slag pile. A large berm will be constructed around a portion of the pile to prevent off-site migration. The berm will also serve as a shield from flood waters. Copies of the approved EE/CA, all comments and related responses are available at the Herculaneum City Hall and the Windsor Branch of the Jefferson County Library.

NEW JOACHIM BRIDGE

Progress continues on the design for the new south bridge over Joachim Creek. Doe Run had asked EPA and MDNR to approve the use of lead smelter slag as a fill material for the new bridge and road base. The agencies approved this use of slag material but specified several environmental safeguards to secure the material and prevent potential exposure.

LEAD SPECIATION STUDY

In September 2004, EPA requested that the Laboratory for Environmental and

Geological Studies at the University of Colorado conduct a study to characterize soils and household dust collected from selected Herculaneum residences. EPA has approved the final report of this study. The study concludes that most of the lead found in samples is derived from smelter activity. A copy of the speciation report is available for viewing with other site documents at the Herculaneum City Hall.

BIOAVAILABILITY STUDY

EPA has also approved an EPA-financed University of Missouri School of Veterinary Medicine bioavailability study. The bioavailability study was conducted to determine how easily the lead from soils and dust collected from selected Herculaneum residences is absorbed in the bodies of your children.

Some forms of lead are more easily absorbed and present a greater danger of lead poisoning in children. Juvenile swine were used in the study because these animals are considered a good model for gastrointestinal absorption in children. The study confirmed that the bioavailability of lead found in house dust was below EPA default values and above EPA default values in yard soils and that both posed a significant threat to public health if cleanup actions were not undertaken for those homes and yards above the action levels. A copy of the bioavailability study is available for viewing with other site documents at the Herculaneum City Hall.

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY VIOLATIONS

During the first and second quarters of 2005, air emissions from the Doe Run Herculaneum smelter exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for lead. Doe Run has received a Notice of Violation from the State's Air Pollution Control Program (APCP) related to these violations.

VOLUNTARY PROPERTY PURCHASE PROGRAM

As of September 13, 2005, 126 property purchases have been closed and 141 purchase offers have been accepted by Herculaneum residents.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA encourages the community to review the Administrative Record file, which is available at the following locations:

Herculaneum City Hall
1 Parkwood Court
Herculaneum, Missouri

EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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http://www.epa.gov/Region7/news_events/factsheets/fs_herculaneum_lead_smelter_herculaneum_mo1105.htm