



Region 7

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Fact Sheet

March 2004

Annapolis Lead Mine Site Proposed to the National Priorities List Iron County, Missouri

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the Annapolis Lead Mine Site to its National Priorities List or NPL on March 8, 2004. The NPL is a list of hazardous waste sites in the country. These sites are eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup action under the Superfund program. EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources are investigating the site under the Superfund program.

The public is encouraged to comment on this listing. The public comment period ends on May 7, 2004.

BACKGROUND

The site is the location of a former lead mine. The mine site reportedly operated from 1919 to 1940. Quantities of ore were dug up, crushed, concentrated and stored on site before being shipped off site for smelting. The crushed and concentrated wastes, called tailings, were left on top of the ground in a small ravine. It is estimated that thousands of tons of tailings were left on 10 acres of the site. Dominant features at the site include a 10-acre tailings pile and building foundations that are remnants of the former mining operations.

In May 1997, EPA performed activities at the site related to children with elevated levels of lead in their blood. Additional

removal activities are planned which include stabilizing the tailings pile that currently exists on the site. During this removal, areas suspected or documented to have elevated lead levels will be sampled and all areas with an average concentration greater than 1,000 parts per million (ppm) will be excavated. All excavated soil will be consolidated into the on site tailings pile. The tailings pile will then be graded and compacted and a protective cover will be installed over the tailings pile.

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

EPA is conducting the site investigations under the Superfund program. Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 in response to growing concerns over human health and environmental risks posed by hazardous waste sites. Superfund locates, investigates and cleans up hazardous waste sites.

After a hazardous waste site is discovered, cleanup can fall under two programs: Removal or Remedial. Removal cleanups are conducted at sites that pose threats to people or the environment in the near future. Remedial cleanups address sites that require extensive cleanup.

Under the Superfund program, a site may qualify for placement on the NPL. The NPL is intended primarily to guide EPA in determining which sites warrant further

investigation. For a site to be included on the NPL it has to score sufficiently on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The HRS evaluates exposure pathways and the potential risk to human health and the environment.

Those sites that score high enough on the HRS are eligible for the NPL. A site that is listed on the NPL is qualified to be financed by Superfund's Trust Fund. If a responsible party is not identified, a site cannot undergo a remedial cleanup unless it is listed on the NPL.

NPL PROPOSAL

The site is being proposed to the NPL because of the presence of heavy metals, particularly lead, found throughout the site. Soil contamination poses a threat to human health due to the lack of vegetation on exposed contaminated soil, the presence of residents near the site, no restriction to site access, and use of the site for recreation. In addition, heavy metals have been found in surface water located downstream from the site. These metals pose a threat to recreational fisheries and wetlands in the area. Sutton Branch Creek and Big Creek are located 0.75 miles downstream of the site. Sam A. Baker State Park is also located approximately 15 miles downstream.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet, the site or the public comment period, please contact:

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