

**WASHINGTON COUNTY LEAD
DISTRICT - OLD MINES
MISSOURI
EPA ID# MON000705027**

**EPA Region 7
City: Old Mines, Latty, Bliss, Cruise Mill,
Fertile, Cannon Mines, Racola,
Bellefontaine, Mud Town
County: Washington
Other Names:**

12/22/2008



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Old Mines Site encompasses an area greater than 90 square miles in the northeastern portion of Washington County, Missouri. It primarily includes residential areas within and around the communities of Old Mines, Bellefontaine, Fertile, and other smaller communities, and is a portion of the larger Washington County Lead Mining District. The Old Mines Site is mostly residential, although a number of commercial businesses are present. Soil and/or groundwater contamination by arsenic, barium, cadmium, and lead at the Old Mines Site is most likely the result of lead and barite mining, milling, and smelting. Continuous lead mining began in Washington County in 1721 at the surface and near-surface (ten feet or less below ground surface (bgs)) in an area north of Potosi. Galena, the main lead ore, was mined in both the red clay residuum, which generally ranged from a few feet to over 30 feet thick, and the underlying dolomite bedrock. Barite (barium sulfate), another local mineral, became valuable after the Civil War and barite mining began to boom in the area in 1926. Remnants of mining activities throughout the area include strip mines, mineshafts, mine dumps, tailing areas, tailings ponds, and associated dams. There are several large tailings impoundments, associated dams, and leachate ponds with elevated levels of lead present at the site.

Site Responsibility:

The site is currently being addressed through federal action.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 09/19/2007

Final Date: 03/19/2008

Deleted Date:

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS



Extensive lead contamination in surface soil, at levels exceeding health-based screening levels, has been identified at 290 residential properties at the site. Occasional elevated levels of barite, arsenic, and cadmium have also been identified at the site. In addition to surface soil contamination, 124 private drinking water wells have been identified with lead levels exceeding the federal drinking water standard of 15 micrograms per liter.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: Removal Assessment activities are ongoing and consist of sampling private properties for lead-contaminated surface soil and drinking water wells. Through Time-Critical Removal Actions, surface soil has been replaced at 54 residences, and bottled drinking water has been provided to 102 residences whose private drinking well water is contaminated with lead above federal drinking water standards.

Site Studies: The initiation of a Remedial Investigation (RI) occurred in January 2008. The RI will include the characterization of numerous tailings ponds and streams, determine the extent of groundwater contamination, and complete the characterization of residential surface soil. Interior dust sampling has been performed to acquire data need to complete a Human Health Risk Assessment.

Site Facts: An Action Memorandum was signed on December 23, 2005, for Time Critical Removal actions to be taken to replace residential surface soil contaminated with high lead levels and to provide bottled drinking water to residents with lead-contaminated, private drinking water wells.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



962 residential properties have been sampled for surface soil metals contamination.
878 private drinking water wells have been sampled for metals contamination.
Lead-contaminated surface soil has been replaced at 54 residential properties.
Bottled water is being provided to 102 residences.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

EPA has facilitated several public meetings to inform citizens of site contamination and removal actions. EPA, with the participation of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, has hosted meetings to inform the local community about the Washington County Lead District - Old Mines Site on the following dates: May 17, 2005; October 17, 2005; June 7, 2006; and October 24, 2006. Fact sheets were mailed to invite the local community to site meetings and to inform them about site activities as follows: May 2005; October 2005; May 2006; October 2006 and September 2007. Overall, the public has been very supportive of EPA actions taken at the site.

SITE REPOSITORY



Washington County Library
235 East High Street
Potosi, MO

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-7166

REGIONAL CONTACTS

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|---|---------------------------------|
| SITE MANAGER: | Bruce Morrison/SUPR/R7/USEPA/US |
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| PHONE NUMBER: | (913) 551-7755 |
| COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR: | Dianna Whitaker |
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| STATE CONTACT: | Valerie Wilder |
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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

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|--------------------------------|--------------|
| STATE: | MO |
| | A78K |
| CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: | 8th District |
| EPA ORGANIZATION: | SFD-SPEB |

MODIFICATIONS

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Created by: | Bruce Morrison/SUPR/R7/USEPA/US | Created Date: | 02/14/2008 09:09 AM |
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