

**WASHINGTON COUNTY LEAD  
DISTRICT - RICHWOODS  
MISSOURI  
EPA ID# MON000705032**

**EPA Region 7  
City: Richwoods,  
County: Washington  
Other Names:**

12/22/2008



## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Richwoods Site encompasses an area of approximately 45 square miles in the northeastern portion of Washington County, Missouri. It primarily includes residential areas within and around the community of Richwoods and is a portion of the larger Washington County Lead Mining District. 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. Most of the barite was mined from the residuum. 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.

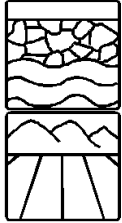
### **NPL LISTING HISTORY**

**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 65 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, 49 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

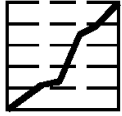
**Initial Actions:** Removal Assessment activities are ongoing and consist of sampling private properties for lead-contaminated surface soil and drinking water wells. Through Time-Critical Removal Actions, surface soil has been replaced at 17 residences and 1 school, and bottled drinking water has been provided to 46 residences.

**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. Residential interior dust samples have been collected to support the 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.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



346 residential properties sampled for lead contamination.

Lead-contaminated soil replaced at 17 residential properties and 1 school.

Providing bottled water to 46 residences identified with contaminated drinking water wells.

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## 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, hosted meetings to inform the local community about the Washington County Lead District - Richwoods Site on the following dates: November 30, 2005; June 8, 2006; and October 25, 2006. Fact sheets were mailed to invite the local community to site meetings and to inform them about site activities as follows: November 2005; May 2006; October 2006 and September 2007. Overall, the public has been very supportive of EPA actions taken at the site.

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## SITE REPOSITORY



Richwoods R-VII Elementary School  
10788 State Highway A  
Richwoods, Missouri

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

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

**SITE MANAGER:**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

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**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**COORDINATOR:**

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**STATE CONTACT:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

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## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**STATE:**

MO

A78N

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**

8th District

**EPA ORGANIZATION:**

SFD-SPEB

## MODIFICATIONS

**Created by:**

Bruce  
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