



## WELCOME! You are invited to a U.S. EPA Availability Session

### Availability Session

The public is invited to attend an availability session to talk to U.S. EPA representatives about ongoing and upcoming work at the Circle Smelting Superfund Site.

Date: **Thurs., April 15, 1999**

Time: **2:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Location: **Polling Building  
111 E. Beckemeyer St.  
Beckemeyer, IL**

*The availability session is an opportunity for individuals to meet with U.S. EPA representatives who will answer individual questions about the site. Citizens can attend at their convenience between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.*

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

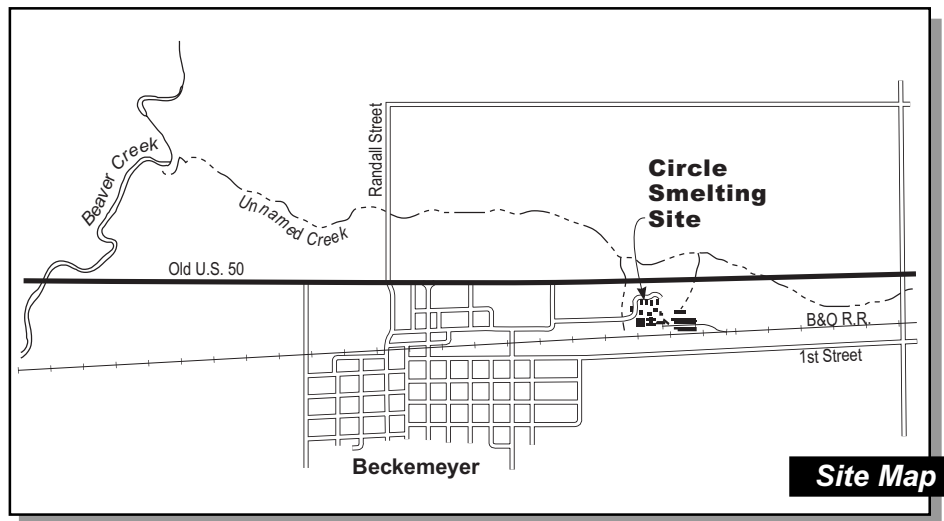
Office of Public Affairs  
Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois, Indiana,  
Michigan, Minnesota,  
Ohio, Wisconsin

## Cleanup Work has Begun at the Circle Smelting Superfund Site

Beckemeyer, Illinois

April 1999



### Introduction

The U.S. EPA and Asarco have started cleanup work at the Circle Smelting Superfund Site in Beckemeyer, Illinois. The activities will address two areas:

- The former smelter property, and
- Areas in the Village of Beckemeyer where cinders which can have a high lead concentration were deposited.

To date, the cleanup work has focused on consolidating waste materials and cleaning and demolishing unusable buildings at the site. Shortly, technicians from Hydrometrics, Inc. representing Asarco will begin collecting soil samples from public areas and residential yards in Beckemeyer to identify areas of cinders from the smelter.

The April 15<sup>th</sup> availability sessions will provide an opportunity for the residents of Beckemeyer to ask questions about the cleanup and residential sampling work and for U.S. EPA to describe the work in detail.

### Site Description and History

The Circle Smelting Superfund Site is located on a 28-acre parcel of land situated along Old Illinois State Highway 50 in the northeast corner of the Village of Beckemeyer, Clinton County, Illinois. The site was originally constructed as a primary zinc smelter about 1904 and was later converted into a secondary zinc smelter around 1920. The site also includes areas in the Village of Beckemeyer, where cinders from the smelter were deposited.

The smelter property was previously operated by Circle Smelting Corporation. Federated Metals Corporation, a division of Asarco is a past owner and operator of the property. The property is presently owned by Asarco.

During the smelter's operation, waste materials, such as slag, cinders and debris which can have high lead concentrations, were disposed throughout the site. Cinders from the smelter were also used in certain areas within the Village of Beckemeyer as a surface material for walking paths, driveways, and alleys.

Asarco has entered into an agreement with U.S. EPA to clean up the site and the residential areas. Under the agreement, Asarco is required to investigate the nature and extent of the cinders from the former smelter and to remove materials that exceed U.S. EPA's cleanup standards. The former smelter property will be cleaned up for commercial use.

## **Description of Ongoing and Upcoming Work**

### ***Smelter Property Cleanup***

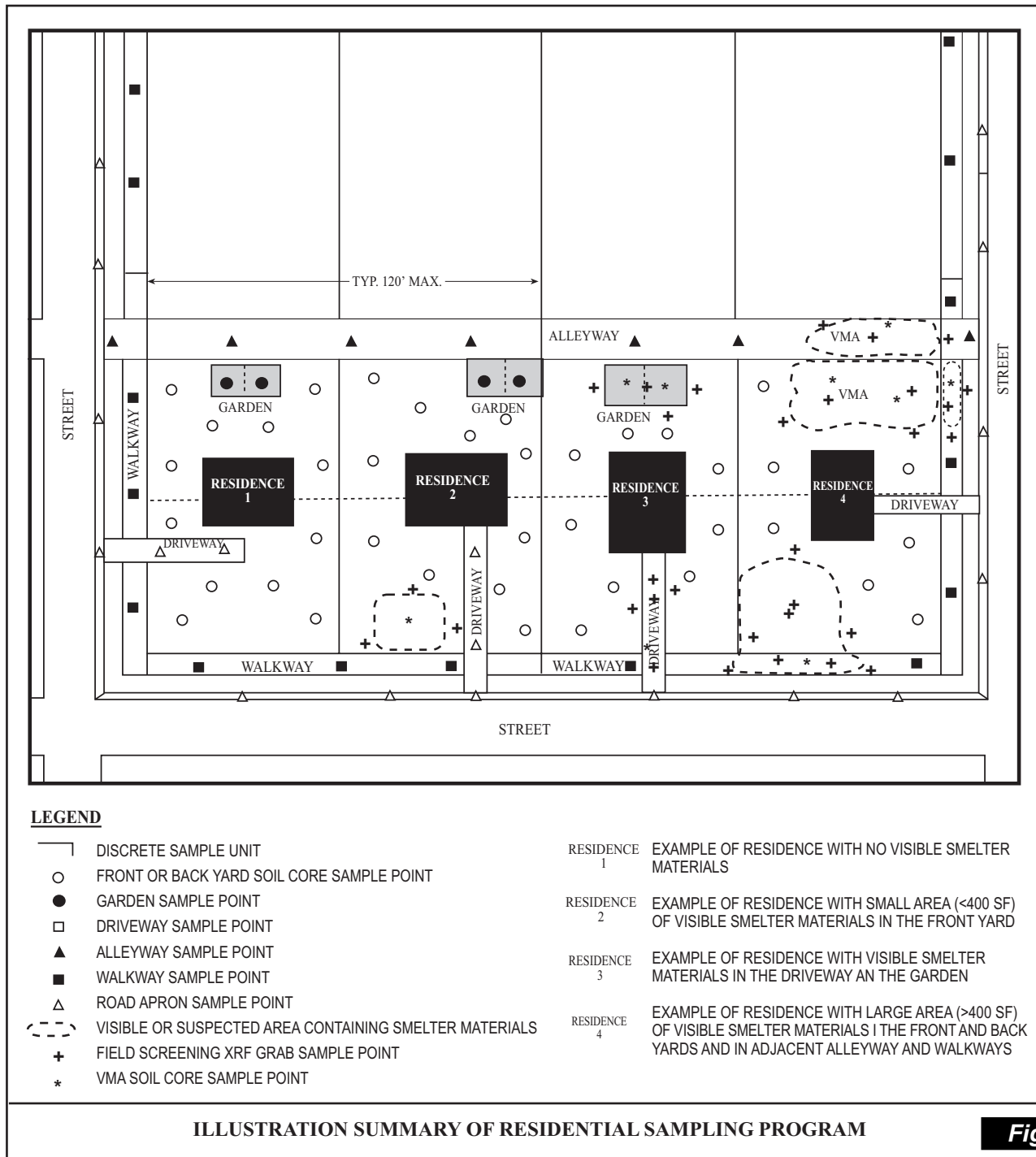
Cleanup of the site began in Fall 1998. The focus of the work has been to clean a work area and several buildings in the central portion of the property so that these areas can be put into productive use while the remaining cleanup activities progress. The current cleanup activities will continue through the summer months. Future cleanup work at the site will include demolishing the remaining buildings, consolidating materials in a capped repository to be located on the eastern portion of the property, and paving the site.

### ***Residential Sampling***

Sampling of Beckemeyer residential areas will begin in early April 1999. The sampling activities will be used to identify areas where smelter cinders with high lead concentrations are present so they may be removed (see Figure 1). Currently, 386 of the approximately 450 residential property owners have signed access agreements with Asarco to allow sampling of their yards. Sampling will also be conducted around the outside perimeter of the smelter property and in nearby drainage areas. The sampling program is expected to last through Spring 2000.

Results of the sampling program will be used to identify areas where cinders with high lead concentrations are present so that these materials may be removed and placed in the repository. Each property owner will be provided with the results for their property and will have an opportunity to discuss these results with U.S. EPA and Asarco.

If soil removal is necessary, based on sample results, affected property owners will have input into and an opportunity to review the removal plan for their property. Owner approval will be required before any removals are initiated on a property. The goal of the removal program will be to achieve U.S. EPA's cleanup standards for residential areas while minimizing the amount of material which must be removed and minimizing disruptions to the residents. All excavated areas will be replaced with clean soil and will be restored to their original condition or better. It is currently anticipated that the residential removal work will start during the second half of 2000.



**Figure 1**

### For Additional Information

An information repository for the Circle Smelting Site is located at the Beckemeyer Village Hall, 191 East First Street, Beckemeyer. The information repository contains technical reports related to the Circle Smelting Site and information about the Superfund program. To obtain additional information about the Circle Smelting Site, please contact:

Gordon Blum, P-19J  
 Community Involvement  
 Coordinator  
 (312) 353-8501  
[blum.gordon@epa.gov](mailto:blum.gordon@epa.gov)

Mike Collins, SR-6J  
 Superfund Remedial Project  
 Manager  
 (312) 886-6436  
[collins.michael@epa.gov](mailto:collins.michael@epa.gov)

U.S. EPA Region 5  
 77 West Jackson Boulevard  
 Chicago, IL 60604  
 Toll-free (800) 621-8431  
[www.epa.gov/region5](http://www.epa.gov/region5)

## Mailing List Additions

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, you are not on the mailing list for the Circle Smelting Superfund Site. To add your name, or to make a correction, please fill out this form and mail it to:

Gordon Blum  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

*Once you are on the mailing list, you will automatically receive information from U.S. EPA regarding the Circle Smelting Superfund Site.*



Official Business, Penalty for

Private Use \$300

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

**FIRST CLASS**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

***Circle Smelting Superfund Site***

*This fact sheet is printed on paper made of recycled fibers.*