



Region 7

Iowa
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Update Number 6

September 2003

Herculaneum Lead Smelter Site Herculaneum, Missouri

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has produced this Update to keep you abreast of site activities, cleanup progress and address your concerns. Our goal is to provide an overview of the site, the problems found, the actions we have taken to address your concerns, as well as future plans.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Exposure Investigation for Arsenic and Cadmium Summer 2003

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) collected the last round of urine and vegetable samples for the Arsenic and Cadmium Exposure Investigation (EI) in Herculaneum in August. This EI will measure cadmium and arsenic levels in urine of residents and determine the cadmium, arsenic, and lead concentrations in locally grown vegetables.

Samples will be analyzed and individual confidential results will be sent to each participant. Also, a report summarizing the review of the data is planned for release in early 2004. The results of this exposure investigation cannot be used to predict the future occurrence of disease.

What's New?

- ✓ **We Have A New Look**
Our goal is to continue to provide you with site updates and milestones, but in an easier to read format. Let us know what you think.
- ✓ **Updating Mailing List**
Please call EPA's toll-free number, 1-800-223-0425, if you want to be added or removed from the Herculaneum Lead Smelter mailing list.
- ✓ **Herculaneum Community Advisory Group Update**
The Herculaneum Community Advisory Group's second Update is enclosed with this issue.

However, the results will enable the health agencies to determine if public health actions are needed to reduce exposure and may assist in determining a focus for future studies.

If you have any questions, please call Lori Harris-Franklin (DHSS) toll free at 1-866-628-9891 or Dr. Ketna Mistry (ATSDR) at toll-free 1-888-422-8737.

MS and ALS Prevalence Study: Please Let Us Know

As part of a study looking at the occurrences of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease) in Herculaneum and all of Jefferson County, information is being collected from Herculaneum residents.

Dr. Turabelidze's staff (DHSS, Office of Epidemiology) are in the process of reviewing patient records at several hospitals in the St. Louis and Jefferson County areas. This initial review includes verifying the diagnosis of MS/ALS, checking addresses to assure the patient has been a resident of Jefferson County and reviewing the time/length of residency.

This study, which began in June 2003, is expected to take three years to complete. If you or someone you know in your community was diagnosed with MS or ALS and has lived in Herculaneum at anytime in the past five years, please call Dennis Diehl at the Jefferson County Health Department (636) 789-3372 or Dr. George Turabelidze at DHSS, Office of Epidemiology, 1-573-751-6128.

2002 Herculaneum Blood Lead Screening Results Health Consultation

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), in cooperation with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), released a health consultation containing the results of blood lead testing conducted in Herculaneum, Missouri in 2002. This document includes a summary of the data, the Department's conclusions based on its review of the data, and a statement of recommendations.

Highlights of this document were previously discussed during Herculaneum CAG meetings, in the spring 2003 Herculaneum Update 5 newsletter, and in an April 2003 news release. If you would like a copy of the health consultation, contact the DHSS, Section for Environmental Public Health at 1-573-751-6160 or toll-free 1-866-628-9891. It is also available on our web site at

www.dhss.state.mo.us/PreventionAndWellness/EnviroHealth.html

Upcoming Events

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is in the process of planning the following upcoming events in Herculaneum. More information about these events will be distributed in the near future.

- **Blood Lead Testing Event** – The DHSS along with the Jefferson County Health Department will be conducting a community-wide blood lead testing event for Herculaneum residents in early October 2003. Children through adults are welcome.
- **Census** – Due to the changes in Herculaneum, the DHSS felt it was time to conduct another census to update our residential information. The census will be performed on residential households east of Hwy.

61/67 in November 2003. This information will help us conduct more accurate statistical analyses on data and provide more up-to-date contact information for sending information out to the community.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Cleanup Progress

Yard soil replacements have continued through the summer due to delays caused by wet spring weather. High quality replacement soil has been approved by the County Agricultural Extension Office and is being used for backfill at all residential excavation sites.

Yards will be reseeded and fertilized as needed this fall. A total of 198 residential properties have had surface soils replaced since October 2001. Participation in the yard soil replacement program is the right thing to do to protect yourself, your family, and your community. Free cleaning of the inside of your home is also being offered, and is recommended as an action to reduce the risk of exposure to lead.

No Yard Recontamination

EPA's random monitoring for lead levels in recently replaced yard soils is showing no recontamination. EPA will continue to collect samples every three months to check for lead recontamination.

Materials Transportation and Handling

Doe Run agreed to improvements in transporting concentrate. Planned improvements include:

- washing all concentrate trucks prior to leaving the smelter facility
- unloading concentrate trucks directly into railcars, and
- modified street cleaning procedures in the town and within the facility.

Continued Compliance with Ambient Air Standard

Air monitoring results confirmed that the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for lead (1.5 micrograms per cubic meter of air averaged over a calendar quarter) was met during the second quarter of the year. The area has now met the lead standard for 12 consecutive months.

HERCULANEUM LEAD SMELTER SITE CONTACT LIST

If you have questions, please contact:

Health Information

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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Site Information/Monitoring Programs

EPA Region 7

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Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Site Information

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

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1-573-751-8629
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Jefferson County Health Department

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Herculaneum Lead Smelter Site Community Advisory Group

636-475-3310

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Herculaneum Community Revitalization Initiative

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