

### **First Quarter 2007**

EPA Region III is evaluating the recommendations submitted by the Technical Review Workgroup regarding the Risk Assessment Report. EPA Regional Office will announce its conclusion and decision on the risk assessment in 2007. Following the announcement, EPA will schedule a public meeting to present and discuss the results of the risk assessment and the ensuing residential cleanups.

### **Second Quarter 2007**

Recently, EPA and Exide met on June 12, 2007 to discuss the remaining technical issues with the risk assessment and the residential soil cleanup level. At the meeting, EPA asked Exide to provide additional calculations related to the risk assessment. Exide delivered part of this information to EPA on June 18, but additional information is needed and is expected the following week. As a result, the decision on the final soil level will be delayed several weeks. EPA expects that the cleanup levels and a workplan for the residential remediation will be developed by the fourth quarter of 2007.

### **Third Quarter 2007**

On August 2, 2007, EPA issued a final decision that established a residential soil lead cleanup level of 650 parts per million (ppm) for the study area surrounding the Exide Technologies smelter. Based on the site-specific risk assessment, EPA has determined that the 650 ppm cleanup level will ensure long term protection of the residents and the environment in Laureldale Borough and Muhlenberg Township.

Residential properties that contain an average soil lead level greater than 650 ppm will require soil cleanup. Residential properties with an average soil lead level of 650 ppm and less do not pose a health risk and will not require cleanup.

Exide is currently preparing a workplan that will lay out the steps to accomplish the residential cleanups. Under the terms of the Consent Order between EPA and Exide, this workplan will be submitted for EPA review in late September.

Later this fall, EPA will schedule a public meeting to present the basis of the risk assessment, the soil cleanup level and the residential cleanups. This is an opportunity for the public to comment and pose questions and concerns that they may have. EPA encourages the community to attend the public meeting. EPA will publish an announcement in the Reading Eagle as well as send an invitation to the residents with the specifics of the time and location of the meeting. EPA anticipates that the residential cleanups will begin in spring 2008.

### **Fourth Quarter 2007**

On October 11, 2007, EPA held a public meeting at the Muhlenberg Middle School, Reading, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the meeting is to present the next steps for completing the investigation and cleanup of the residential properties within the [Exide Study Area](#). The meeting was an opportunity for the public to comment and pose questions to the EPA. The meeting was attended by approximately 100 people, including representatives of EPA, local government, and citizens. EPA presented the results of the site-specific risk assessments and how the results are applied to the residential properties. Several handouts pertaining to the Exide Investigation were distributed at the public meeting. These handouts are available online and can be viewed by clicking the following links:

[Fact Sheet on the Exide Cleanup, Reading PA](#)  
[Summary of the Exide Residential Cleanup Work Plan](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The purpose of the site-specific risk assessment is to evaluate lead exposure risks from various sources, such as tap water, air, lead paint, soil, dust, and food to determine a protective soil lead concentration for the residents of Laureldale Borough and Muhlenberg Township. The risk assessment targets residences with children seven years old and younger, who are considered most susceptible to lead exposures. Based on the risk assessment, EPA determines that 650 parts per million (ppm) as a protective soil lead level that will ensure long term protection of the residents and the environment in Laureldale Borough and Muhlenberg Township.

Properties that contain an average soil lead concentration of 650 ppm and less will receive a letter from EPA that states that the soil lead levels on their property do not pose a health risk. Therefore, these properties will not require soil cleanup.

Residential properties with an average soil lead concentration greater than 650 ppm will require soil cleanup. EPA will notify the owners of these properties. The residential cleanup will begin in spring 2008 and may take up to 3 years to complete. The schedule of the cleanups will be priority based. Properties where children seven years old and younger reside are scheduled to be cleaned up first. The cleanup of the remaining residential properties will be prioritized based on occupancy. The cleanup contractors for Exide and the homeowners will be consulted prior to any work being done on their property.

During the public meeting, many residents expressed their concerns regarding the odor from the Exide facility. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) currently is working with Exide to ameliorate the odor. Residents who have questions or complaints regarding odor from the Exide facility should contact Julia Olafson of PADEP at (610) 9160100 or at [jolafson@state.pa.us](mailto:jolafson@state.pa.us).

In November 2007, Exide initiated additional soil sampling. The sampling targets residences that were not sampled in the earlier rounds of soil sampling and expanded

areas to confirm the Study Area. Exide anticipates that the majority of the sampling will be completed by the end of 2007. Properties that could not be sampled before the ground freezes will be sampled in spring 2008.

Exide is currently working on the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments for Bernhart Park. The Risk Assessments will evaluate the exposure risks at the park and will determine how the park will be cleaned up to be protective of human health and the environment. EPA anticipates that the Risk Assessments will be completed early 2008 with the expectation that the park will be cleaned up concurrently with the first remediation phase of the residential properties in 2008.