



EPA Selects Cleanup Plan for Neighborhood Site

South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination Site

Minneapolis, Minnesota

October 2008

Open houses scheduled

EPA will hold open-house-style sessions at three different locations in October to give residents an opportunity to talk to EPA representatives one-on-one. You may stop by during the hours listed below and ask questions about the final cleanup plan or about the site in general. No appointment is needed. The meeting dates and locations are:

Tuesday, Oct. 21

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
YWCA
2121 E. Lake St.

Wednesday, Oct. 22

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Powderhorn Park
3400 15th Ave. S.

Thursday, Oct. 23

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Matthews Recreation Center
2318 29th Ave. S.

Informational meeting

EPA will also hold an informational meeting to discuss the final cleanup plan and answer questions you may have. The meeting will be:

Tuesday, Oct. 21

6:30 – 8 p.m.
YWCA
2121 E. Lake St.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has selected a \$17.9 million cleanup plan for the South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination Superfund site. The selected plan was EPA's recommended option.

EPA believes this cleanup plan provides the best option to protect public health and the environment in terms of effectiveness, implementation and cost. Details of the plan are posted on Region 5's Web site: www.epa.gov/region5/sites/cmcheartland/index.htm. The plan is also available for review at the four information repositories listed on the last page.

The plan calls for removing shallow soil with arsenic levels higher than 25 milligrams of arsenic per kilogram of soil, or 25 mg/kg. Once the shallow soil has been removed, EPA will take soil samples to show that only low amounts of arsenic remain. If soil one foot deep still contains arsenic higher than 95 mg/kg, workers will dig deeper. Once all contaminated soil is removed, EPA will fill in the yards with clean soil and restore the ground to its original condition, to the extent practical.

This cleanup plan builds on work EPA has already done. By the end of this year, EPA will have cleaned up almost 200 properties where the level of arsenic was greater than 95 mg/kg, a level that presented short-term health risks. EPA dug up one foot of soil at those properties. Now the Agency will re-visit those properties if the post-cleanup sample results showed levels above 95 mg/kg one foot below the surface. That will make the previous cleanup consistent with the new plan, and will address long-term health risks from arsenic contamination.

The project will begin this fall as EPA begins contacting owners of about 500 targeted properties for permission to do the cleanup. EPA hopes to begin the actual work in the summer of 2009. The entire project will take two to four years to complete.

Responsiveness summary

EPA received 30 comments on its proposed plan from residents, a local official and a company responsible for the contamination. EPA's responses to all comments can be found in the full cleanup plan on Region 5's Web site.

Many comments focused on the cleanup time frame and the target levels. Residents said they believe the cleanup will take too long. Some suggested EPA add more crews to get the work done faster. EPA pointed out that the time frames are estimated and that the Agency has worked as quickly as possible to clean up the site. The site was brought to EPA's attention in 2004 and soil removals began that year and continued through 2008.

Many who commented expressed concern that EPA should have used 16 mg/kg as the cleanup level instead of 25 mg/kg. Several people said the higher level is not protective enough and that there is concern for the health of area children. Some residents said they believed using 16 mg/kg as the cleanup level would be more protective of everyone's health.

After considering all public comments, EPA reaffirmed that the cleanup levels of 25 mg/kg for the shallow soil and 95 mg/kg for the deep soil are the most appropriate for the site. This provides the best balance of tradeoffs between the alternatives and is considered to be the most cost-effective. While the calculated risk for 16 mg/kg is lower than that for 25 mg/kg, the relatively small additional long-term risk reduction is not justified in relation to the much higher cost and the additional short-term risks related to additional excavation.

Health risks to people and the environment

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element found in soil in this area. People can face health risks, however, through contact with contaminated soil that has

elevated levels of arsenic. The most direct way you can be exposed is by getting dirt on your hands and then touching your mouth or accidentally swallowing contaminated soil. Another way to be exposed is to eat a lot of unwashed garden vegetables grown in highly contaminated soil.

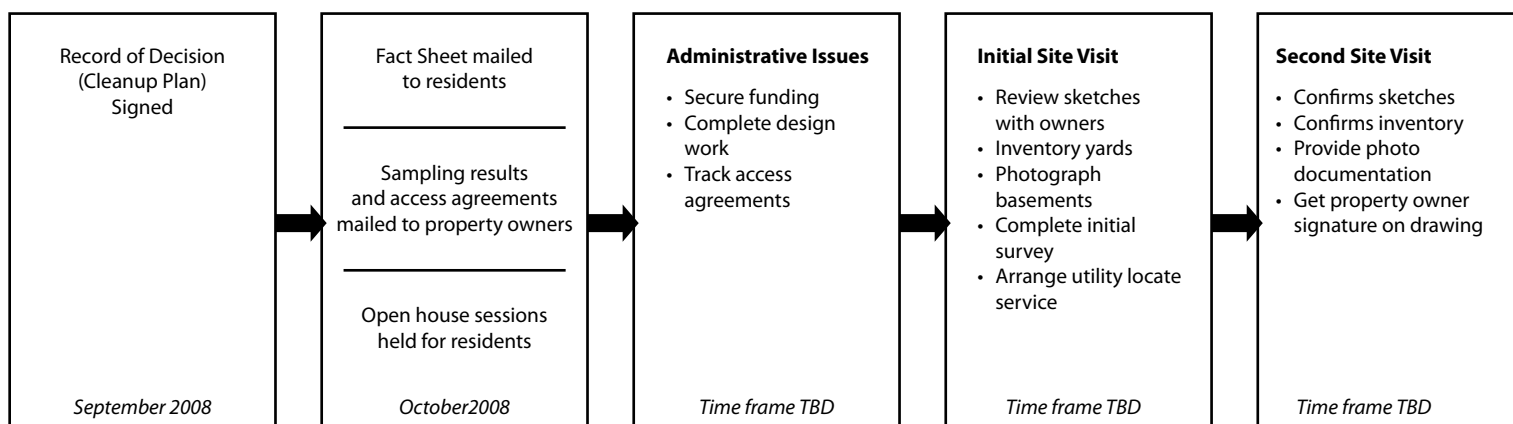
There is a very small risk of exposure from simply touching the soil and even lower risk from breathing dust particles in outdoor air. The cleanup options considered risks to plants and animals in the area. The low risks posed to them will be addressed by removing the potential that humans, plants and animals will have direct contact with the highly contaminated soil.

EPA generally considers you to be safe if the risk of getting cancer from toxic contamination is between one in 10,000 and one in 1 million. EPA's risk assessment for this site found normal or "background" arsenic levels in the area to be about 16 mg/kg. This level of arsenic has a maximum cancer risk of six in 100,000. The risk assessment found elevated cancer risk from long-term exposure of residents to soil with arsenic greater than 25 mg/kg. This level of arsenic has a maximum cancer risk of 1 in 10,000.

About the South Minneapolis site

The South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination site study area is about 1,480 acres including residential, commercial, industrial and municipal properties. The area is largely residential, with much of the housing built from the early 1900s through 1930s. The site has been investigated for residential arsenic contamination, some of which

Site activity timeline



may have drifted through the air from the former CMC Heartland Lite Yard property located in the neighborhood.

Between 1938 and 1963, arsenic-based pesticides and herbicides were blended and distributed at the CMC Heartland property by Reade Manufacturing. From 1963 to 1968, another company manufactured, shipped and stored herbicides from the CMC Heartland plant property. In January 1968, a storage tank containing liquid sodium arsenate ruptured and released around 3,000 gallons. The plant operator covered the spilled material with six inches of sand to try to limit its impact.

Arsenic contamination was discovered in 1994 by Minnesota Department of Transportation during reconstruction of the Hiawatha Avenue corridor adjacent to the CMC Heartland plant site. By 1996 the plant site was covered with crushed asphalt and clean dirt to keep dust from blowing off-site. Soil cleanup work was done in 2004 and 2005 at the plant site to remove highly contaminated soil and to minimize human exposure to contaminated shallow soil. Since then, the plant site has been redeveloped. There is a light industrial building there now.

In 2004, the state asked for EPA's assistance to manage contamination in the surrounding residential areas. Since 2004, EPA has dug up soil at almost 200 properties where arsenic was greater than 95 mg/kg. Short-term cleanup work is done by EPA's removal program, while longer-lasting projects are done under the remedial program. Removal type cleanup work is done as soon as possible. Remedial

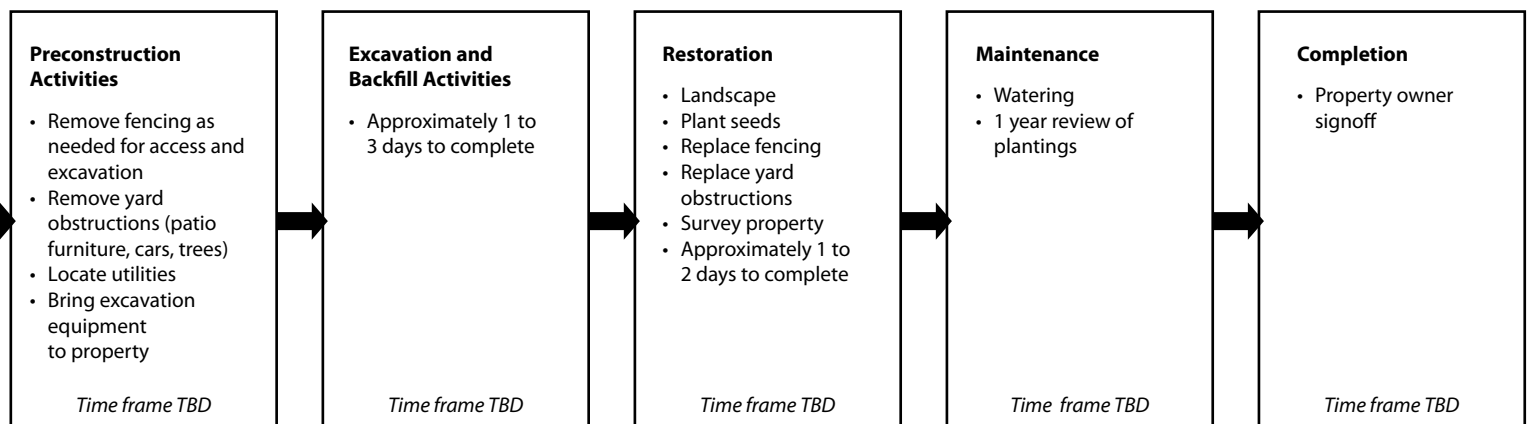
projects go through a much more involved planning and cleanup process to provide a permanent fix to the contamination at the location. During the remedial investigation phase, EPA found approximately 500 properties where arsenic levels are higher than 25 mg/kg.

Next steps

During October, EPA will hold a series of open-house-style sessions in different locations throughout the site area. Please see the box on the first page for locations and times. The public is invited to stop by and talk with EPA and representatives of state agencies about any questions or concerns they may have about the site. No formal presentations will be given and no appointment is necessary.

EPA will send letters to owners of the properties identified for cleanup. These letters will provide the sampling results and will include an access agreement that owners must sign and return to EPA so the Agency can perform the cleanup work at that property. EPA and state personnel will also arrange individual meetings with property owners to discuss the cleanup plans for each property.

During this time, EPA will continue to work with the state and EPA Headquarters to get the necessary money for the cleanup work. EPA is also working with contractors on the planning documents needed to do the work.



For more information

If you have questions or need special accommodations for the meeting contact:

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Community Involvement Coordinator

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For questions on the cleanup contact:

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Call Region 5 toll-free:

800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

A copy of the cleanup plan and responsiveness summary, which has EPA's responses to the comments received and other documents about the site, can be viewed at the following locations:

Green Institute
2801 21st Ave. S.
Suite 100
Minneapolis

City of Minneapolis
Police Department
Attn: Carla Nielson
1201-B E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis

Minneapolis Central
Library
300 Nicollet Mall
2nd Floor
Minneapolis

Minneapolis Public
Library
East Lake Branch
2727 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis

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