

### **First Quarter 2002**

Exide completed additional soil sampling in the expanded areas. A [revised study area](#) was delineated from the additional soil results. Properties that were recently sampled in the expanded areas should receive their results by the end of May 2002. Thus far, EPA has identified seventy-one (71) properties that require soil cleanups. Nineteen (19) of the seventy-one (71) properties were cleaned up in Fall 2000. The remaining fifty-two (52) properties will be cleaned up this summer. The property owners have been notified of the soil cleanup. Exide is expected to begin the soil cleanup by mid-June. The soil cleanup is expected to be completed by October 2002. In addition, EPA has identified a total of two hundred fourteen (214) properties that have an average soil lead concentration equal to or less than the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Statewide Health Standard of 500 mg/kg. These properties will not require soil cleanup. The remaining properties, which are approximately 300 properties, have soil lead concentrations greater than 500 mg/kg but less than 1200 mg/kg. These levels do not present an immediate problem. However, these properties will be retained and reevaluated for the second phase study to be completed by next year.

EPA is currently working with Exide and the City of Reading to finalize the workplan to cleanup Bernhart Park. Our goal is to begin soil cleanup in spring 2002 with the anticipation of reopening park in the summer of 2002.

### **Second Quarter 2002**

Given Exide's present financial difficulties, the company filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, which entails reorganization of the company. By-in-large, the bankruptcy will not impede the progress of the soil investigation and cleanups. Exide is committed to the cleanup of the fifty-two (52) residential properties this summer. Exide will begin the residential soil cleanup in June. The soil cleanup is expected to be completed by October 2002. As presented in the previous public meeting in Nov. 2001, Exide will initiate the second phase study to determine the site-specific cleanup level this summer. This work is proceeding accordingly. EPA plans to schedule a public meeting later this summer to present the progress of the residential cleanups and the second phase study. The residents and interested parties will be informed of the public meeting in advance.

Because of the bankruptcy and the limited funds available, the cleanup of Bernhart Park may be delayed. EPA is working with Exide and the City of Reading to establish a feasible time frame for the cleanup of the park.

### **Third Quarter 2002**

Since the last public meeting, one additional property was added to the list of properties to be cleaned up. This makes the total of 53 occupied residential properties with elevated soil lead concentrations of 1200 parts per million (ppm) or greater that will require soil

cleanup. These soil lead levels pose a significant health risk, particularly to children seven years old and younger. Exide began the soil cleanups of the properties in June 2002. The cleanups consist of an initial landscape survey of the properties, with an approximate 6 to 12 inches of excavation, depending on the magnitude of contamination. Confirmatory soil samples are collected and analyzed after excavation to ensure that the cleanups meet regulatory requirements. The properties are then backfilled with clean soil and restored to their original conditions. The cleanups of the 53 properties are expected to be completed by the end of October 2002.

On August 8, 2002 EPA held a public meeting at the Muhlenberg Middle School, Reading, Pennsylvania, to present the progress of the Exide investigation and remediation. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 people, including representatives of EPA, PADEP, local government, and citizens. EPA and Exide presented the progress of the investigation, residential cleanups and upcoming activities. The outline of the public meeting is summarized in the [August 8, 2002 Public Meeting Handouts](#).

Exide is currently collecting additional data as part of the Step 2 Investigation. The Step 2 Investigation consists of additional environmental sampling (e.g., tap water, house dust, lead-based paint screening), a blood lead study and a site-specific risk assessment. The investigation targets residences with children seven years old and younger. The Step 2 Investigation will determine the site-specific soil cleanup levels that will be protective of human health and the environment. Exide will complete the Step 2 Investigation by spring 2003. The results of the investigation will determine the site-specific soil cleanup levels that will be apply to the remaining properties. Properties with soil lead concentrations greater than the site-specific soil cleanup levels will require cleanup. Properties with soil lead concentrations less than the site-specific soil cleanup levels will not require soil cleanup.

#### **Fourth Quarter 2002**

Exide completed the cleanups of the 53 residential properties on November 24, 2002. Furthermore, Exide conducted soil sampling for approximately 20 additional properties within the Study Area. The property owners should receive their results by March of next year.

The Step 2 Investigation is ongoing. Exide completed the supplementary data collection and is reviewing the data from the environmental sampling and the blood lead study. The final study, which is the site-specific risk assessment, should be completed by spring/summer 2003. The results of the risk assessment will determine the site-specific soil cleanup levels that will be applied to the remaining properties. Properties with soil lead concentrations greater than the site-specific soil cleanup levels will require cleanup. Properties with soil lead concentrations less than the site-specific soil cleanup levels will not require soil cleanup.