

First Quarter 2003

As reported in the previous quarter, the Step 2 Investigation is ongoing. We anticipate that the site-specific risk assessment will be completed this year. The results of the risk assessment will determine the site-specific soil cleanup levels that will be applied to the remaining properties.

The results of the blood lead study indicated that 34 out of 36 children tested exhibited blood lead levels between 0.5 ug/dL and 7 ug/dL. Only two children exhibited blood lead levels above the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) standard of 10 ug/dL. One child had a blood lead level of 14 ug/dL and the other had a blood lead level of 17 ug/dL. EPA determined that one of the children did not live in the area, and was only an occasional visitor. Since the permanent resident at the same property did not exhibit elevated blood lead levels, EPA concluded that the visiting child was being exposed to lead elsewhere. The parents were advised to follow-up with their family physician. The second child with elevated blood lead levels had recently moved into the area. The parents informed the investigators that the child has had a history of elevated blood lead associated with lead paint exposures at their former home. This child's blood lead level has decreased since the family moved into the area.

The blood lead study concluded that the overall blood lead levels for children in the area are safely below the CDC standard. In fact, the average blood lead levels in the Exide study area were nearly identical to the national average of 2.0 ug/dL.

Properties that were sampled for soil lead concentrations during the fall and winter of 2002 will receive their results this quarter. Properties with soil lead concentration below the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Statewide Health Standard of 500 parts per million (mg/kg) will receive a letter from EPA stating that their properties do not require soil cleanup and are not subject to further evaluation. All the other remaining properties will be retained and reevaluated as part of the Step 2 Investigation.

Second Quarter 2003

The Step 2 Investigation is ongoing. Additional data analysis is required to determine the site-specific soil cleanup levels that will be applied to the remaining properties. EPA anticipates that the site-specific risk assessment will be completed this summer. EPA expects to schedule a public meeting later this year to present the findings of the site-specific risk assessment.

Third Quarter 2003

Exide and EPA are progressing with the site-specific risk assessment. There have been several delays with the analysis of the data. EPA anticipates that the risk assessment will be completed by the end of the year.

Fourth Quarter 2003

Exide submitted the Site-Specific Risk Assessment Report, which is the final submission to the Step 2 Investigation. The national EPA Technical Review Workgroup for Lead (TRW) is currently reviewing the Report. The final approval of the Risk Assessment Report will determine the site-specific soil lead cleanup levels for the study area. A public meeting will be held in the new year to present the results of the risk assessment. EPA anticipates that the next round of residential cleanups will take place during the next construction period, which normally begins in April or May 2004, weather permitting.