



EPA to begin testing for lead contamination in yards

ASARCO

Taylor Springs, Illinois

March 2006

Informational meeting

EPA and Illinois EPA will hold an informational meeting to explain the residential testing process and answer your questions. Please plan to attend one of two sessions:

Tuesday, April 4

3 – 4:30 p.m.

or

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

**Taylor Springs Community Center
613 E. Main St.**

EPA and Illinois EPA will be also available to answer questions at

Tuesday, April 4

7 - 8 pm

**Taylor Spring Village Board
626 E. Main St.**

If you need special accommodations to attend one of these meetings, contact Joe Munoz at least one week before the meeting at (312) 886-7935.

Want to learn more?

A repository has been established at the Taylor Springs Village Hall, 626 E. Main St.

This repository contains documents from Illinois EPA's previous efforts in the community and will be updated to include documents generated by EPA.

Soil at some Taylor Springs homes could be contaminated with lead from the former ASARCO plant. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 plans to find out this spring by taking samples from residential yards. Those samples will be tested for lead contamination. Based on the results, EPA will determine if any cleanup is needed and the best way to get it done.

There will be two public meetings Tuesday, April 4 to explain this process to area residents (see box, left), and Agency officials will be at the April 4 meeting of the Taylor Springs Board.

EPA will need your permission to take soil samples from your yard. An agreement form is included with this fact sheet for your convenience. Please complete the form, sign it and return it to EPA. EPA representatives will also be going door-to-door during the week of April 3, seeking permission from property owners.

EPA technicians will take samples from both the front and back yards to find out if there is any danger to you from lead in the soil. These tests are done at no cost to you, and all the work is done outside your home.

At the same time, Agency representatives will ask you some questions about your property. They will also ask if you know whether any materials from the former ASARCO plant might have been used as fill in your neighborhood. This will help EPA better identify areas that may need to be cleaned up, and exactly what it will take to keep you and your neighbors safe.

What is lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring heavy metal. It is commonly found at low levels in soil. Low levels of lead can be found in the air, water, food and dust in cities because of the widespread use of lead in man-made products. The federal government regulates the amount of lead in the air, water and soil.

How can I be exposed and what are the health effects related to lead exposure?

Lead is a highly toxic metal that can cause a range of health effects from behavioral problems and learning disabilities to seizures and death.

Children 6 years old and under are most at risk because their bodies are growing quickly. Children often have higher levels of exposure because they play in dirt and may put dirty hands in their mouths or, in some cases, eat dirt. Also children who lack proper nutrition may absorb more lead and suffer more harmful effects.

What should I do to reduce exposure to lead?

You should take steps to protect children from lead-contaminated soil. Pregnant women should seek prenatal care to protect their developing infants. To prevent swallowing of contaminated soil, you can limit your children's exposure to dirt in the following ways:

- cover areas of exposed dirt with grass, flowers, mulch or concrete
- wash down very dusty areas with a hose.
- discourage children from playing in the dirt, gravel or ground covers (like sidewalks and driveways)
- supervise young children to prevent them from eating dirt
- wash children's hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bed time
- clean or remove your shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil
- make sure children eat nutritious, low-fat meals high in iron and calcium, such as spinach and dairy products. Children with good diets absorb less lead.

To prevent ingestion of lead contaminated dust, you should:

- place a door mat at the door
- vacuum carpets and drapes
- dust with an oiled cloth
- mop floors often
- wipe your feet before entering your home
- keep windows closed as much as possible to reduce dirt in the home
- replace furnace filters often

ASARCO Inc. site background

The ASARCO site is located in the village of Taylor Springs. The site occupies nearly 673 acres, of which 303 acres are wooded and 189 acres are used for agriculture. The former plant is on the remaining 181 acres. From 1911 through 1924 the site was occupied by American Zinc Smelting. ASARCO purchased the site in 1971.

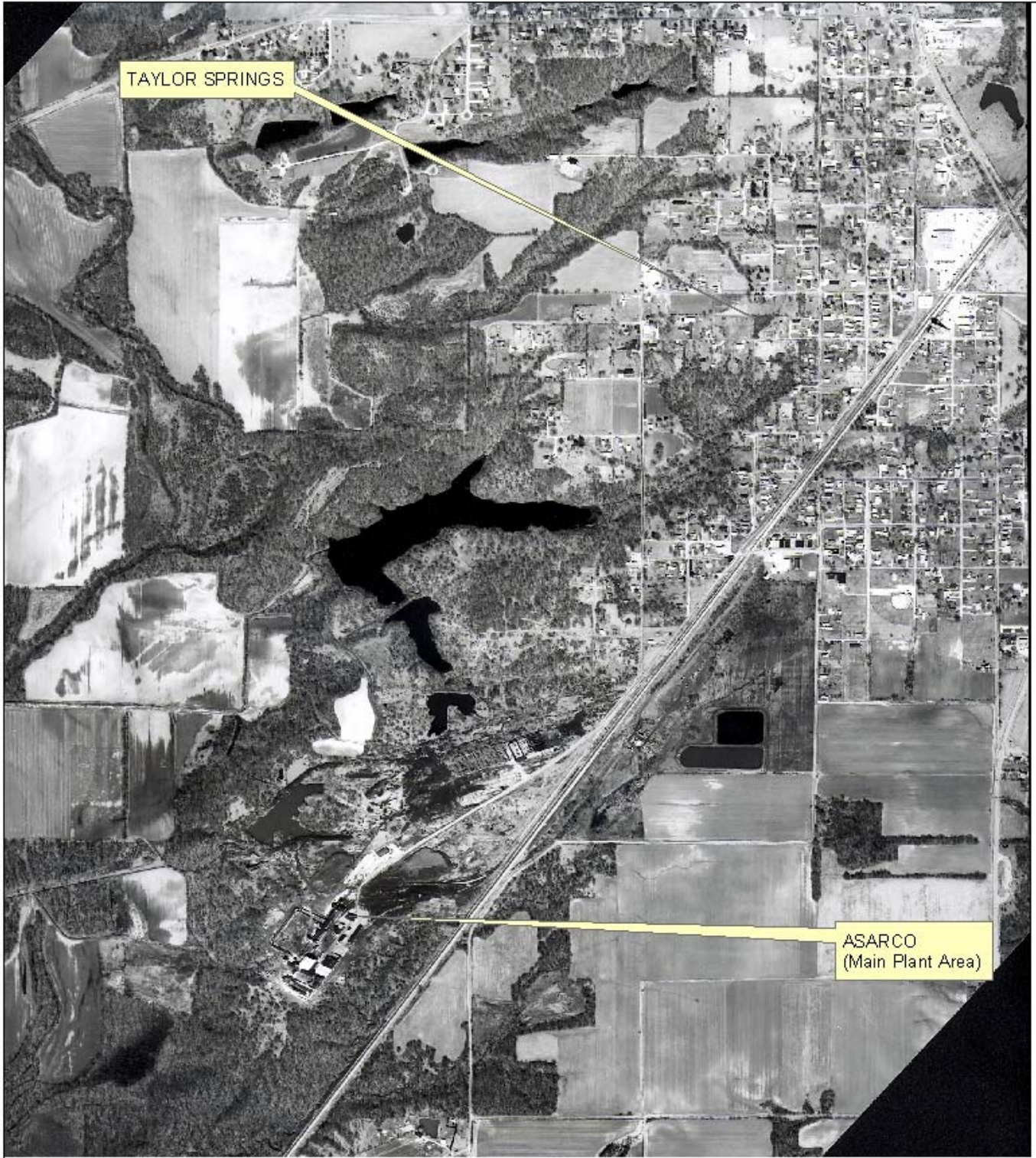
The plant used scrap materials that were smelted, producing copper, aluminum, lead and a frothy, reddish-brown waste from commonly known as slag and cinders.

Through time much of this clinker material was placed on residential yards and driveways as fill.

Through a site assessment and soil testing, the contaminated soil outside of the plant was first identified by Illinois EPA in 2001. Illinois EPA has asked EPA to sample residential yards to further understand the extent of the contamination and initiate removal of the lead contamination in the yards.

For more information on lead:

Call the National Lead Information Center 800-424-LEAD (5323) to learn more about how to protect children from lead poisoning and for other information on lead hazards, or visit: www.epa.gov/lead or www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hblead.htm



TAYLOR SPRINGS

ASARCO
(Main Plant Area)

ASARCO AREA MAP
3/06



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

**CONSENT FOR ACCESS TO PROPERTY
 FOR SAMPLING AND TO TAKE RESPONSE ACTION**

Name: _____ Daytime Phone Number: _____
 (Print)

Cell phone _____ Evening Phone Number: _____

Owner Tenant

Address(es) of Property(ies): _____

I give my consent for employees and authorized representatives of United States Environmental Protection Agency to enter and have access to my property specifically to take soil samples. This includes:

- (1) excavation of soil from my property;
- (2) backfilling the excavated area(s) with clean soil and/or backfill;
- (3) restoring any grass or other vegetation or structures to their pre-excavation state.

These activities are necessary to implement the cleanup of contamination in the soil.

This written permission is given voluntarily with knowledge of my right to refuse and without threats or promises of any kind. I understand that EPA or authorized representatives of EPA will contact me before the removal of soil begins, to discuss steps involved in the excavation and removal program and all measures EPA will take to restore my yard. I also understand that if there is any damage to structures, such as sidewalks, that is caused by the work conducted by EPA or authorized representatives of EPA, then EPA or authorized representatives of EPA shall repair such damage.

I grant access to my property

I do not grant access to my property

 Signature

 Signature

 Date

 Date

These EPA and Illinois EPA representatives are available to discuss the yard sampling with you:

Craig Thomas

U.S. EPA
On Scene Coordinator
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 866-5907
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 65907
thomas.craig@epa.gov

Joe Munoz

U.S. EPA
Community Involvement Coordinator
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7935
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 67935
munoz.joe@epa.gov

Michelle D. Tebrugge

Illinois EPA
Community Relations Coordinator
1021 N. Grand Ave. E. (MC#5)
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
(217) 524-4825
michelle.tebrugge@epa.state.il.us

Cathy Copley

Illinois Department of Public Health
Environmental Toxicologist
22 Kettle River Drive
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
(618) 656-6680
ccopley@idph.state.il.us

Mark Wagner

Illinois EPA
Project Manager, Office of Site Evaluation
1021 N. Grand Ave. E. (MC#24)
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
(217) 524-1662
mark.wagner@epa.state.il.us



Region 5
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

First Class
US Postage paid
Chicago, IL
G35

POSTAL CUSTOMER
Taylor Springs, IN 62089

ASARCO SITE:
EPA to begin testing for lead in yards