



EPA To Host Open House for Former Smelter Site

Hegeler Zinc Superfund Site

Hegeler, Illinois

October 2010

You're invited

EPA will hold two open-house style sessions on Thursday, Oct. 28, to give residents an opportunity to talk one-on-one with EPA, state and local representatives. You may stop by during the hours listed below to ask questions or give comments about the Hegeler Zinc cleanup and the sampling efforts. An appointment is not necessary.

Thursday, Oct. 28

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Westville High School
918 N. State St.

An EPA civil investigator will also be present at the availability sessions to listen to tips or leads from residents as EPA searches for potentially responsible parties to help pay cleanup costs.

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Region 5 toll-free: 800-621-8431,
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

Hegeler Zinc website

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/hegelerzinc/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will conduct soil sampling this fall on Hegeler and Tilton residential properties near the former Hegeler Zinc smelter site. EPA will be testing soil for contaminants such as lead and arsenic. Sampling will be done at no cost to property owners. The results will be used as part of EPA's ongoing investigation of the Hegeler Zinc site. Residents can meet with officials about the sampling project and the Hegeler Zinc cleanup process on **Thursday, Oct. 28**. People can also voice their concerns and share their knowledge about the former plant site with an EPA civil investigator who will attend the open house.

Previous sampling results

In previous rounds of residential sampling (2007 and 2009), soil samples were analyzed for arsenic, lead and other metals. Letters were sent to all property owners who participated in these sampling projects explaining the process and the results. According to EPA health guidelines, residential yards should contain no more than 400 parts lead per million parts soil (part per million abbreviated ppm). A part per million is a tiny amount, similar to 1 second in 12 days. In previous investigations, a few properties showed lead concentrations slightly above the 400-ppm level. But health officials believe the risks to residents living near the site are low enough that no immediate action is required based on available soil data.

Progress at the OUs

EPA divides complex cleanup sites into smaller parcels called operable units or OUs. The Hegeler Zinc site contains three OUs. OU1 covers the former Hegeler Zinc property and includes areas of soil, surface water, sediment (mud), and ground water contamination. Ground water is an environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water. OU2 includes the affected areas of surface water and sediment outside the EPA-constructed fence. This includes Grape Creek and an unnamed tributary. OU3 includes the residential areas generally east of the former Hegeler Zinc property.

Earlier this year EPA contractors collected surface and subsurface soil, sediment, surface- and ground-water samples at OU1. Additional on-site work included installation of 17 ground water monitoring wells (10 were installed during previous investigations). This fall the 27 monitoring wells will be sampled and tested for metals to help determine the direction of the water flow and the nature and extent of the ground water contamination. In OU2, one of the potentially responsible parties, KIK Custom Products, collected sediment and water samples in 2009. The samples collected were analyzed, and KIK is working on a health risk assessment for wildlife.

Millennium bankruptcy update

U.S. Department of Justice, representing EPA and other government agencies, lodged a bankruptcy settlement with Lyondell Chemical, parent
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company of Millennium Holdings, which is another potentially responsible party for some of the contamination at the Hegeler Zinc site. If the Bankruptcy Court orders payment under the settlement, the Hegeler site would receive additional money to further the cleanup efforts. Information on the proposed settlement is available on the U.S. Department of Justice website: <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nys/pressreleases/March10/lyondellsettlementagreementpr.pdf>.

Technical assistance grants

The technical assistance grant program provides up to \$50,000 to community groups to hire technical advisers so citizens can better understand and interpret Superfund-related technical information. Groups must represent the community, hire reputable advisers to review and interpret technical information in lay terms, and use the grant money to inform everyone rather than only group members. A grant may be available for interested stakeholders at the Hegeler Zinc site. To learn more, contact Virginia Narsete (*contact information in P. 1 box*).

Background of Hegeler Zinc

This 100-acre site was a zinc smelting facility from 1906 until around 1954. The smelter produced large slag piles containing hazardous metals such as lead, arsenic and zinc. In 2005 the Hegeler Zinc site was added to the National Priorities List or NPL, a roster of the nation's most hazardous waste sites that are eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program.

Next steps

The next step in the Superfund cleanup process after a remedial investigation is a "feasibility study" or FS. This study will look at ways the site can be cleaned up effectively and will propose and evaluate cleanup options.

More contacts

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HEGELER ZINC SUPERFUND SITE: EPA Hosts Open House

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FIRST CLASS

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