



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

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# EPA Study Concludes Cleanup Is Needed

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**Hegeler Zinc**  
Hegeler, Illinois

June 2007

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## Public meeting

EPA representatives will be available to respond to your questions and comments regarding the study and sampling results at a public meeting:

**Tuesday, June 12**

**7-9 p.m.**

Westville Public Library  
233 S. State St.

## For more information

Questions about the Hegeler Zinc site should be directed to:

### **Yolanda Bouchee**

EPA Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590  
800-621-8431  
weekdays, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
bouchee.yolanda@epa.gov

### **Timothy Drexler**

EPA Remedial Project Manager  
Office of Superfund (SR-6J)  
EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590  
800-621-8431  
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drexler.timothy@epa.gov

## Information repository

Site-related documents and files may be viewed at the following locations:

Danville Public Library  
319 N. Vermilion St.

Westville Public Library  
233 S. State St.

## Web site

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/hegelerzinc](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/hegelerzinc)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently completed an in-depth study of the Hegeler Zinc Superfund site in Vermilion County and concluded the property should be cleaned up to protect people and the environment from pollution. Under EPA's Superfund program, sites are extensively studied to determine what kind and how much contamination is present. This kind of study is called a remedial investigation. It not only identifies pollutants but also determines how dangerous they are and how much people and wildlife are exposed to them.

This remedial investigation concluded soil and sediment (mud) contamination on the site is bad enough that it should be cleaned up to reduce health risks. Residents living near the location are facing no immediate health threat. Therefore, the planned cleanup — while important — is not classified as an emergency situation.

The Superfund process can take years to complete, but EPA will continue to monitor residential areas near the site to make sure residents are not threatened by the former smelter.

## Hegeler history

The 100-acre site west of Hegeler in east central Illinois operated as a zinc smelter from 1906 until 1955. The facility produced zinc products as well as sulfuric acid for industrial uses. Large amounts of slag waste was produced in the furnaces and stored on-site. The slag contained lead, arsenic and zinc.

EPA and state partner Illinois EPA collected samples and tested soil, mud and underground water supplies (ground water). They also installed a chain link fence around the property to deter trespassers.

In 2005 the site became part of the National Priorities List, which made it eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. During the remedial investigation, EPA collected soil samples from nearly 300 locations on- and off-site including 16 residences and 20 roadways. Sediment samples were taken from 46 locations. Samples were also taken from underground monitoring wells and surface water at 40 spots.

## Next steps

The next step in the Superfund cleanup process after a remedial investigation is what is called a feasibility study. This study will look at ways the site can be cleaned up effectively, and will propose and evaluate cleanup plans. The feasibility study is expected to be completed by late spring of next year.

EPA's recommended alternative and the other options will be explained in a document called a proposed plan. The public will get a chance to comment on the proposed plan at a public hearing and during a comment period.

EPA will then select a cleanup plan in another document called a record of decision.

## **HEGELER ZINC SITE: Study Concludes Cleanup Is Needed**

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**FIRST CLASS**

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**No Immediate Health Threat  
To the Public Is Found**

**Next Step Is  
Looking at Cleanup Options**