



EPA to Conduct Sampling in Neihart

as part of environmental activities at Carpenter-Snow Creek Mining District Site

September 2002

On September 9, 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin environmental sampling activities at the Carpenter-Snow Creek (CSC) Mining District Site. The sampling is focused primarily on the town of Neihart. This mailing explains why and how EPA is collecting samples, how you can help, and who to contact with questions.

Why Collect the Samples?

The CSC Site was added to EPA's National Priorities List of Superfund Sites in September 2001. The Site contains 96 abandoned mines, 26 of which were documented by the Montana Department of Environmental Protection (DEQ) to be sources of contamination.

The town of Neihart is located within the CSC Site, but was not included in previous DEQ investigations. EPA's September 2002 sampling should provide the data necessary to answer three questions:

1. Has Neihart been impacted by mining activity?
2. Is there a potential threat to human health?
3. Is additional sampling needed to define the nature and extent of contamination?

How Are Soil Samples Collected?

About half of the residential soil samples will be *shallow* soil samples and will be collected from the 0- to 2-inch interval. The remaining samples will be *deep* samples and will be taken from the 12- to 18-inch interval at the same locations.

The samples will be collected using hand tools (a trowel or shovel). After collection, they will be placed in labeled containers for shipment to the laboratory.



About a quart of soil will be taken from each location, and any sod will be removed prior to sampling and replaced. Sample locations should be virtually unnoticeable after the work is completed.

Number and Type of Samples

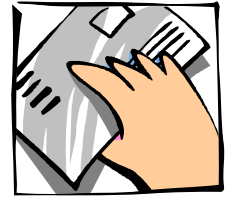
EPA will collect an estimated total of 35 soil samples from residential yards in Neihart. The samples will be analyzed for 23 metals.

EPA will also collect 10 surface water and sediment samples from Belt Creek and will collect groundwater samples from 2 residential wells and from the Florence mine adit. These samples will be analyzed for metals, nutrients, and other water quality parameters.

**** Please call us if you have a water well and would let us take a water sample! ****

EPA Needs Your Help!

The selection of the exact location of each sample point will be made on site, based on the conditions we find during our visit. **We are asking for access from all property owners before we arrive.** This enables us to pick sample locations based on the importance of the data point, and ensures that we will not have to forgo an important location because no one is home when we visit.



Sampling of your property is strictly voluntary and will not be done without your permission. If you would like to participate in the sampling, please fill out the enclosed access form and mail it back to us.

If you mail your access form after September 5th, PLEASE call and let us know we have your permission to sample (see box). Otherwise, we may be in the field when your signed access form arrives!

If we do not hear from you, we will make an additional attempt to collect an access agreement after we arrive on site.

You do not need to be present for the sampling. If you have given us signed or verbal access, and we collect samples from your property, we will leave a card telling you how many of each type of sample were collected. The sample results will be sent to you by mail after they have been reviewed.

If you gave us access, but we chose not to include your property in this sampling event (based on site conditions) we will leave a card with that information.

For More Info....

If you need more info about the sampling, or if you would like to let us know that we have your permission to sample your property, please call one of the following site contacts:

Rosemary Rowe

EPA Remedial Project Mgr
(406) 457-5020

Bob Rennick

CDM Project Mgr
(406) 495-1414 x306

Rosemary or Bob will be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you might have regarding the sampling or other site activities.



Public Meeting

EPA will hold a public meeting in Neihart after the results of the sampling are received and we have reviewed them. The meeting will probably be in January 2003.

We will send notices to property owners and will place an announcement about the meeting date, time, and location in the *Great Falls Tribune* and the *Belt Eagle*.