

U.S. EPA's Update

February 24, 2022

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Reducing Lead Exposure & Disparities in U.S. Communities

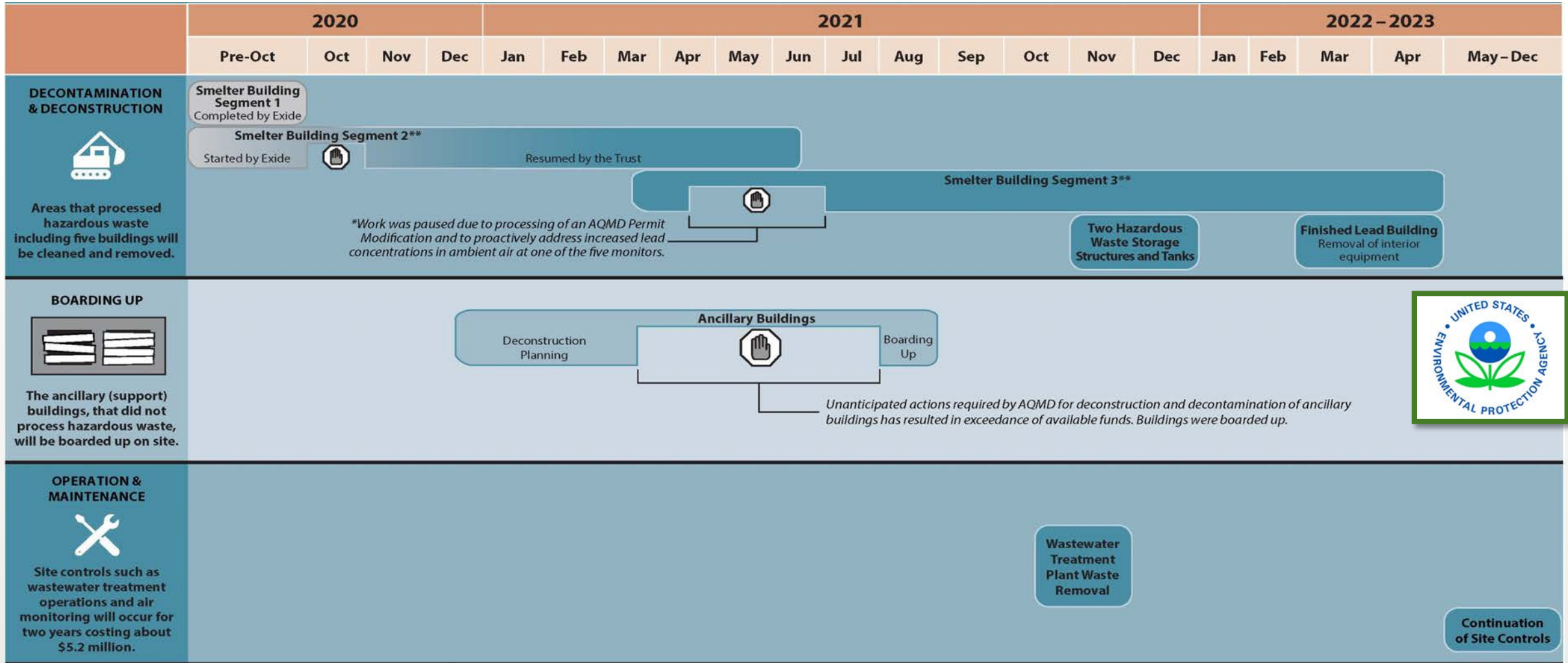
- On October 28, 2021, EPA released the draft Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities (Lead Strategy) for public comment.
- EPA is seeking input from communities affected by lead contamination on the Draft Lead Strategy.

Upcoming Listening Sessions

Dates	Times (PST)
March 1	5:00 pm
March 3	4:00 pm
March 7	12:00 pm
March 8	3:00 pm
March 9	3:00 pm



Trust Work Activities Overview



*The EPA's health-based standard for lead in the ambient air was not exceeded. [Click here](#) for more information on the temporary shutdown and the mitigation action taken.

**This includes the dismantle of the Full Enclosure Unit.



EPA Website



Website on EPA's role in overseeing the Trust work of decontamination and deconstruction at the former Exide facility.

- English and Spanish
- Latest updates
- Past presentations and memos
- Related contacts

www.epa.gov/ca/former-exide-battery-recycling-facility-vernon-california

Former Exide Battery Recycling Facility, Vernon, California

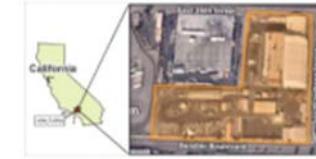
EPA's Role in Overseeing Decontamination and Deconstruction

English | [En español](#)

This website provides information about EPA's role at the former Exide facility in Vernon, California. Information about the related effort by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to clean up the residential yards in the 1.7 mile radius from the Exide facility is available at the [DTSC website](#).

On this page:

- [Why is EPA Involved?](#)
- [What is the Decontamination and Deconstruction Process?](#)
- [How is Money Spent?](#)
- [Trust Project Timeline](#)
- [Documents](#)



Former Exide Facility at 2700 South Indiana Avenue, Vernon, CA. | [Click to Enlarge](#)

Why is EPA Involved?

Background

Lead, a naturally occurring element, can be harmful to humans (particularly children) when ingested or inhaled. Exide and past companies ran a lead battery recycling facility at the Vernon, Calif., location for about 90 years; it closed in 2015. In 2020, Exide filed for bankruptcy which was resolved in a U.S. federal court settlement. The settlement set up the Vernon Environmental Response Trust (Trust) and directed EPA to oversee Trust activities. The Trust ensures the Exide facility work follows the:

- [Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act \(RCRA\)](#); and
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) Closure Plan requirements for the facility.



Smelter Building Segment 2 Full Enclosure Unit Takedown

Exide decontaminated and deconstructed the westernmost building, known as Segment 1, in September 2019. Segment 1 was where used batteries were recycled and raw materials were stored prior to smelting. Exide started decontaminating and deconstructing the easternmost building, known as Segment 2, but stopped this work in Spring 2020. Segment 2 had contained the highest amount of lead smelting emissions. The Vernon Environmental Response Trust later

Lead Listening Sessions

EPA is seeking input from communities affected by lead contamination on our [Draft Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities](#). For those in EPA's Region 9, a listening session will be held on February 22 ([Zoom Meeting Registration](#) [EXIT](#) at 6 pm PT. [Other listening sessions](#) are also available. Comments can be submitted in writing to docket [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0762](#) at [Regulations.gov](#) until March 16.

Public Meeting

See upcoming and past meeting information at [California Department of Toxic Substances Control](#).

Latest Updates

February 8, 2022

This week, the Trust is deconstructing the last structure, the Oxidation tank, from the Segment 3 building within the Full Enclosure Unit. The Trust continues to transport scrap metal for recycling and waste for disposal from deconstruction activities to an off-site location.



Vernon Environmental Response Trust

Project Status Report

February 24, 2022

Prepared for

Public Meeting

Prepared by

Roberto Puga, PathForward Consulting, Inc.

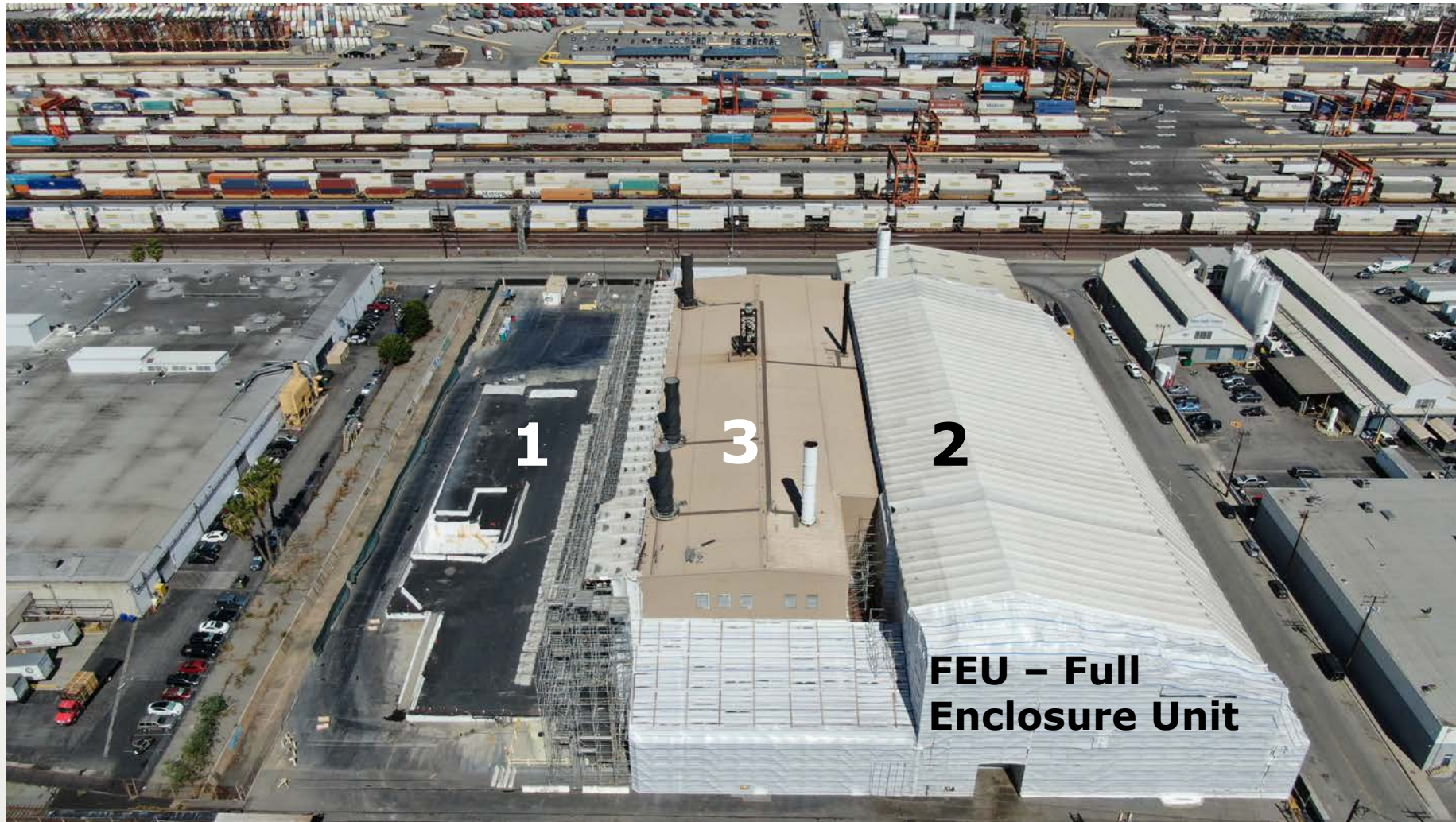


Agenda

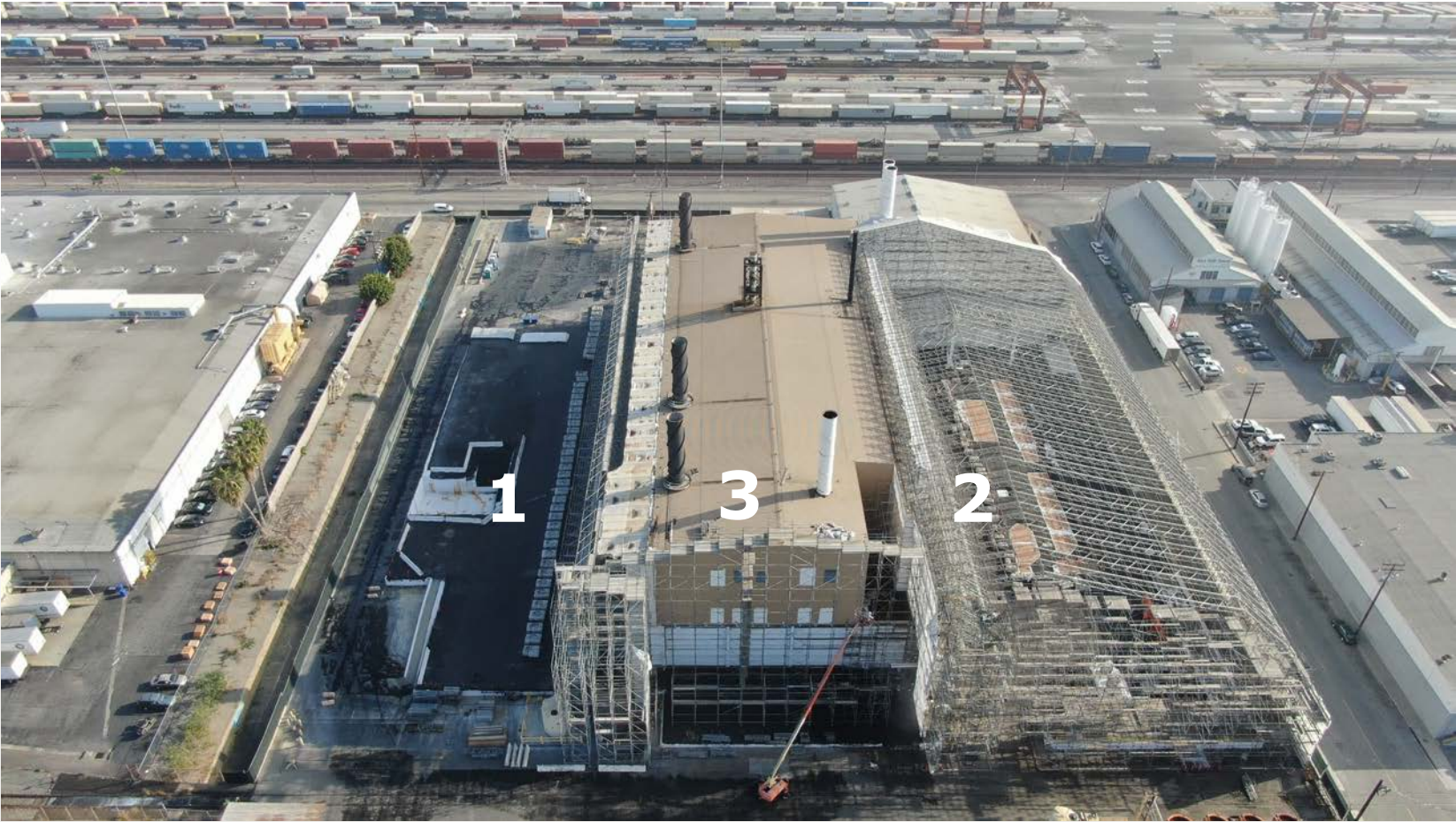
- 1. Facility Work Progress**
- 2. Ambient Air Sampling**
- 3. Upcoming Work**

1 3

Segments 1, 2 & 3 – March 2021



Segments 1, 2 & 3 – May 2021



Segments 1, 2 & 3 – June 2021



Segment 3 FEU – November 2021



Segment 3 Interior - September 2021



Segment 3 Interior - November 2021

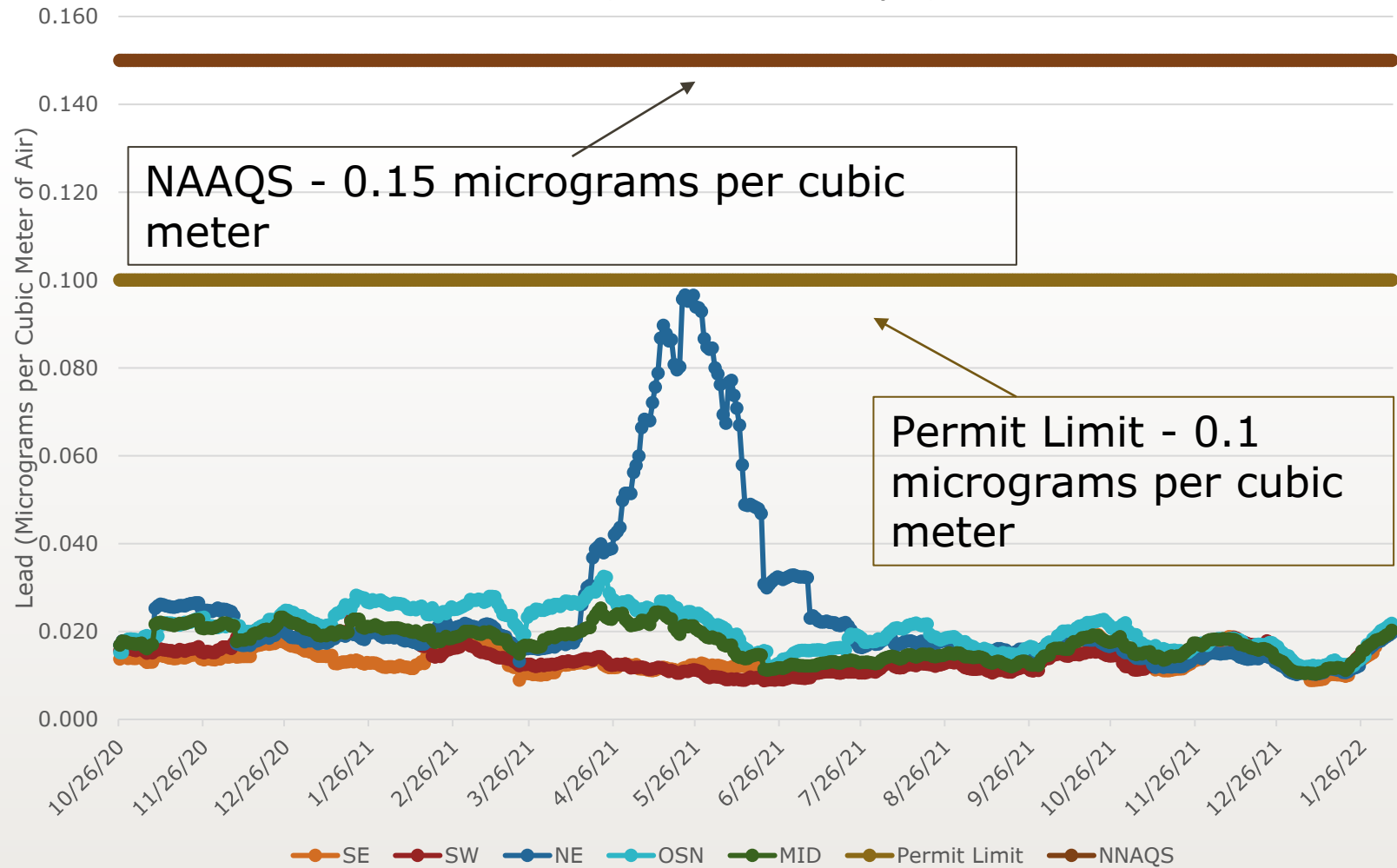


Segment 3 Interior – February 2022



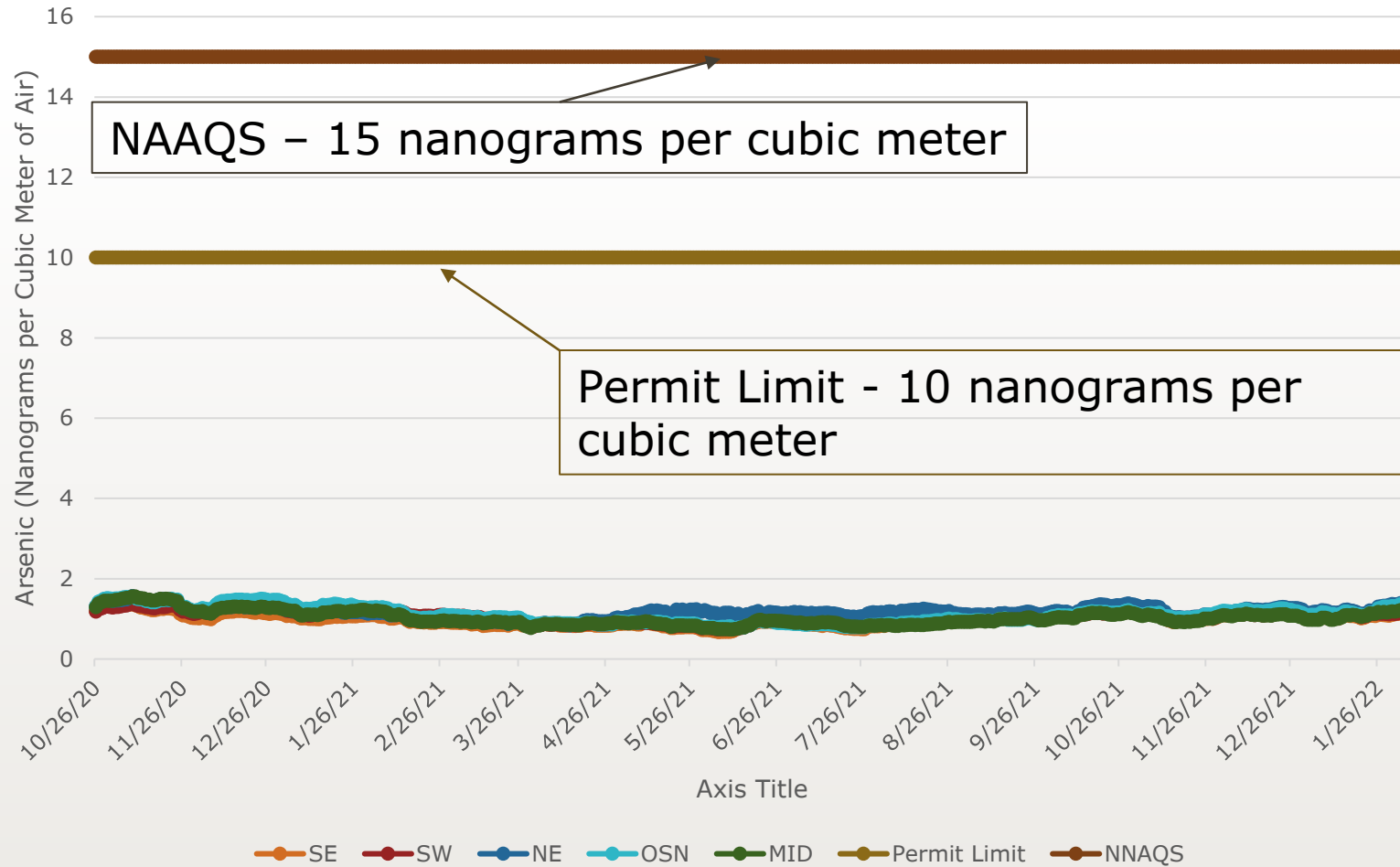
VERT Compliance - Daily Ambient Air Monitoring - Lead

30-Day Rolling Average Lead Concentration
October 26, 2020 - February 6, 2022



VERT Compliance – Daily Ambient Air Monitoring – Arsenic

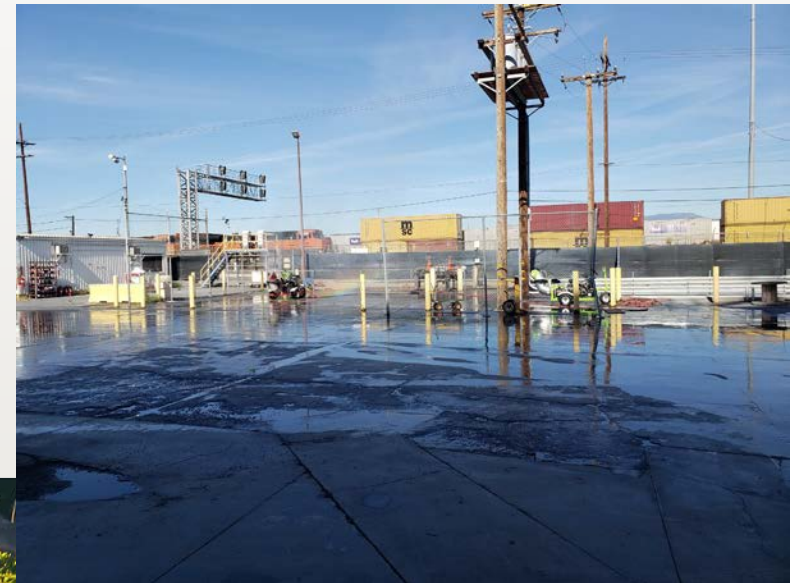
Daily Ambient Arsenic Concentrations
October 26, 2020 - February 22, 2022



Dust Suppression Measures



Enhanced Dust Suppression Measures (During Scaffolding Dismantling)



Remaining VERT Work



Torit Baghouse Units
Decontamination and Deconstruction



FEU Dismantlement

The VERT On-Site scope of work is expected to be completed by the end of April 2022

