



Iron King Mine & Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • April 2011

Residential Soil Sampling Completed Ahead of Upcoming Yard Cleanup

This fact sheet updates the community on the status of EPA's work, including residential soil sampling in preparation for yard cleanup, work on the site investigation and the analysis of cleanup options, and the award of a \$50,000 federal grant to assist the community in understanding the cleanup documents.

A future public meeting will be announced through a separate fact sheet during Summer 2011.

Soil Sampling Results

From 2008-2010, EPA sampled 185 privately-owned, residential parcels and one elementary school playground. At each sampling location, 10 samples were collected. 9 samples were taken from 0-2 inches below ground surface and 1 sample was taken from 10-12 inches below ground surface. About 100 yards had elevated levels of arsenic and/or lead. EPA provided each resident with results for their yard sampling data. More information regarding the soil sampling completed from 2008-2010 will be available in the Remedial Investigation Addendum.

EPA plans to clean up a subset of contaminated yards through a removal action in the summer. However, EPA believes that more data is required to identify which homes will be addressed during this removal action. As a result, EPA conducted follow up sampling on additional yards in early March 2011. This information will be used to scope and characterize which homes will be cleaned up. Yards that require cleanup that are not addressed during this removal action will be addressed in the future either through another removal action or during the final cleanup actions identified in EPA's future Record of Decision.

Remedial Investigation Addendum

EPA is currently working on a Remedial Investigation Addendum. This report will supplement the Remedial Investigation to include information on the nature and extent of residential

soil contamination. The addendum will contain all the information collected in a number of sampling efforts. The Remedial Investigation Addendum is expected to be finalized this spring.

Feasibility Study Update

EPA is currently working on the Feasibility Study (FS). Detailed analysis is the last phase of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process. The FS develops, screens, and evaluates alternative cleanup actions. Different technologies or groups of them are combined into alternatives. Once sufficient data are available, alternatives are evaluated in detail with respect to seven of the nine evaluation criteria that the Agency has developed to address the statutory requirements and preferences of the federal Superfund law.

These seven criteria are:

- overall protection of human health and the environment
- compliance with ARARs (applicable state and federal environmental laws)
- long-term effectiveness and permanence
- reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume
- short-term effectiveness and time to reach cleanup goals
- implementability
- cost

The remaining two criteria are modifying elements that take into consideration the issues and concerns of the broader public and regulatory community. They are evaluated later in the decision-making process following a formal public comment period.

- State acceptance
- community acceptance

The alternatives are analyzed individually against each criterion and then compared against one another to determine their respective strengths and weaknesses, and to identify the key trade-offs that must be balanced for the site. The results of the detailed analysis are summarized so that an appropriate remedy consistent with the Superfund law can be identified. The FS is expected to be finalized in 2011.

Proposed Plan Update

The next step following the completion of the RI/FS is the Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan does the following:

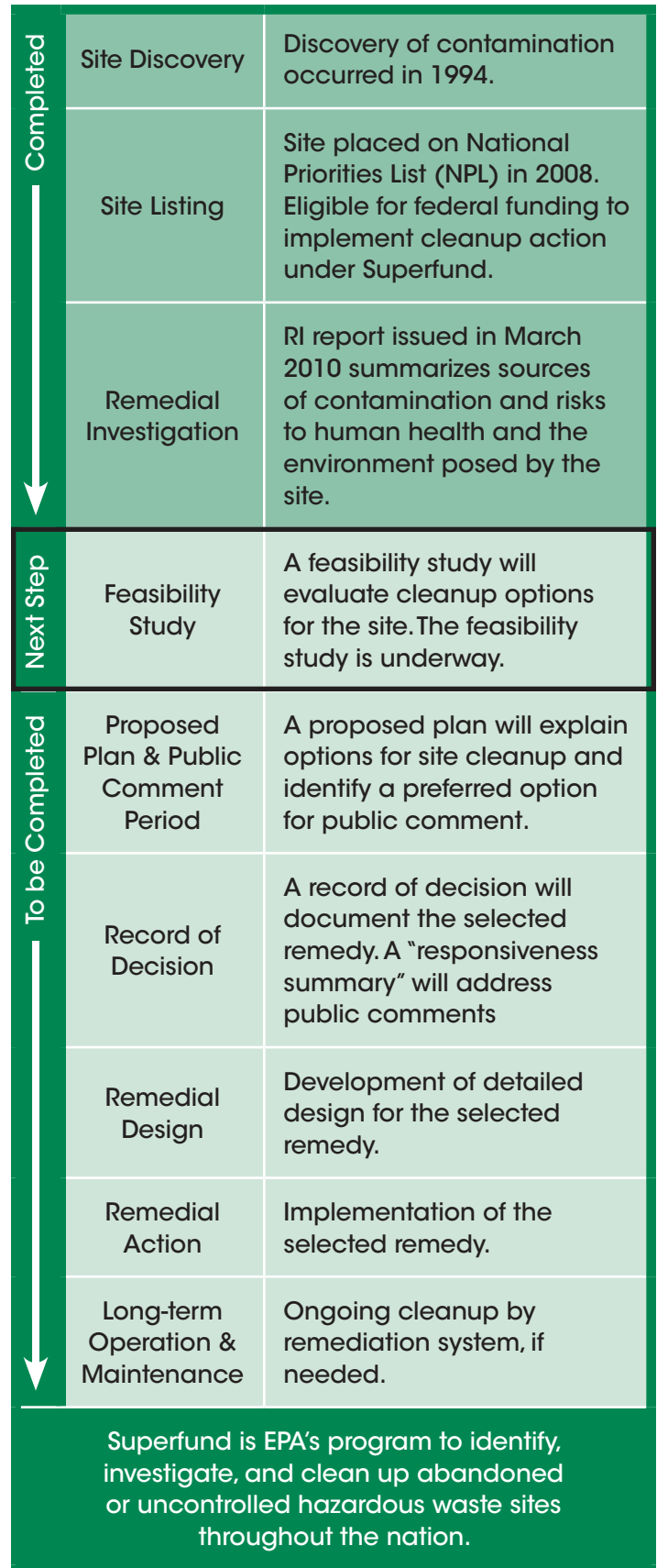
- presents the EPA's preliminary recommendation concerning how best to address contamination at the site
- compares alternatives that were evaluated
- explains the reasons why EPA recommends the Preferred Alternative

During this phase of the Superfund process, EPA will solicit public comment on the Proposed Plan, including all of the alternatives considered in the FS. No decision is made before all public comments are considered. Based on public comment, EPA and support agencies may select a remedy other than the Preferred Alternative. The final decision regarding the selected remedy is documented in the Record of Decision after EPA has considered all comments from both the support agencies and the public. Currently the Proposed Plan is scheduled to be issued to the community in 2011.

Community Involvement

The Community Coalition of Dewey-Humboldt (CCDH) has been awarded a \$50,000 Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to hire an independent technical advisor (TA) to help the community understand the cleanup documents. Under the terms of the grant, CCDH interviews and selects an environmental firm, manages the TA's scope of work, then shares the information in the reports with the broader community. The TA can help the community frame issues and concerns about the site and EPA's work. To learn more, contact the Community Coalition of Dewey-Humboldt at reitemiller@gmail.com. General questions about the TAG program may be directed to David Cooper, 415-972-3245 or EPA's toll-free message line 800-231-3075.

Figure 1. The Superfund Process for the Iron King Mine - Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site



Please send any questions or comments to
Monika O'Sullivan (contact information below).

Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns, please contact any of the following individuals:

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Information Repository

For site documents, please visit the
information repository at:

Dewey-Humboldt Town Library
2735 S. Corral Street
Dewey-Humboldt, AZ

Please visit EPA's and ADEQ's
Iron King Mine and Humboldt
Smelter site websites at:

[http://www.epa.gov/
region09/ironkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/region09/ironkingmine)

[http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/sps/
statesites.html#ironking](http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/sps/statesites.html#ironking)



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If you are not already on EPA's mailing list for the Iron King Mine – Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site, please send an e-mail or return the coupon below to David Cooper.

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