



ATSDR and ADHS Work at the Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter Site



Dewey-Humboldt, Arizona • December 2013

Background

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) have been working together to investigate potential health impacts related to hazardous substances in the environment near this site for several years.

Arsenic, lead and other chemicals are present in the Dewey-Humboldt environment. Arsenic and lead occur naturally in the area's soil and groundwater. Also, past mining and smelting activities in the Dewey-Humboldt area led to contamination in some parts of the community.

Exposure Concerns

ATSDR and ADHS are investigating three ways that people might be exposed to harmful chemicals in the area.

- ✓ Breathing dust in outdoor air
- ✓ Drinking water from private groundwater wells or from the Humboldt Water System
- ✓ Swallowing soil or indoor dust accidentally



In addition to investigating each of these concerns individually, ATSDR and ADHS will address potential health risks to residents from air, water, and soil combined.

ADHS and ATSDR Investigation and Health Consultation Documents

ADHS and ATSDR are writing three reports called Health Consultations. The reports will identify how people living in the Dewey-Humboldt area might be exposed to hazardous substances in the environment. The reports will also assess exposures to chemicals and determine if the exposures could harm people. Finally, they will make recommendations to government agencies and residents to protect the community's health.

ADHS and ATSDR do not usually collect their own data. We typically use environmental data collected by U.S. EPA and other agencies to investigate possible health impacts at a site. ADHS and ATSDR also use information community members provide about health concerns.

ATSDR and ADHS published the Health Consultation on air in February 2013. It is available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/IronKingMineAir/IronKingMineAirHC02072013.pdf> or by contacting ATSDR or ADHS at the numbers below.

Current Status and Next Steps

ATSDR and ADHS are currently evaluating site documents and data on drinking water. In early 2014, ATSDR and ADHS expect to publish the Health Consultation focused on drinking water. Later in 2014, a draft of the Health Consultation on soil and exposures from soil, water, and air combined will be published and members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments.



ADHS and ATSDR Points of Contact

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