

Below are quarterly updates EPA provided to the Town of Dewey-Humboldt from December 2019 to November 2021 to be placed on the Town's special website for EPA IKHS updates at:

<https://www.dhaz.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=200>.

Update November 23, 2021

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing the feasibility study report of options to address the contamination at the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Superfund site. In the feasibility study report, we compare the options by considering the effectiveness of each option, the time it takes to complete, costs, and how the options might affect the community, among other factors. Our recent recorded presentation "[Options for Cleanup: The Feasibility Study](#)" explains this comparison.

We understand people want more information about the site and EPA's work. This fall, we worked with the Town of Dewey-Humboldt on a plan to use our [Technical Assistance Services for Communities](#) (TASC) contract. TASC services help communities better understand EPA actions and help EPA better understand community concerns. Through TASC, we will provide additional information on naturally occurring metals in groundwater in Dewey-Humboldt and summarize the various exposure studies that have already been done in the community.

Questions have been raised about a town owned property at on Main Street (parcel 402-10-026A), next to the former rail corridor leading into the former Humboldt Smelter property. During our remedial investigation, we took 16 samples from soil across the property. The levels of lead and arsenic in the soil varied among the 16 samples. All levels were below EPA's action levels needed for cleanup. Our sampling results showed that levels of lead and arsenic in the soil were low across the property and regular use of the property should not pose a significant health threat. We have been in recent communication with the Town of Dewey-Humboldt about this past work.

This fall, EPA coordinated with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to understand options to address safety issues at the former Humboldt smelter property. In September, EPA and ADEQ visited the property with our contractors to evaluate options. Since July, we sent regular email updates to Town of Dewey-Humboldt staff and Councilmembers, and we provided an update to the community in the [October Dewey-Humboldt Newsletter](#). This winter, EPA will continue to coordinate with ADEQ on its work to takedown the smelter smokestack and attached brick structure and install additional fencing. For information on ADEQ's work, please visit: <https://azdeq.gov/dh-stack-project>.

For more information about EPA's work at the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter site, please visit:

www.epa.gov/superfund/ironkingmine

Update June 25, 2021

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a seven-part recorded presentation series on the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Superfund site. We hope this information helps you visualize the site, understand EPA's Superfund process, and learn about the cleanup options we are studying to address the contamination.

To view the presentations, click on the titles in our flyer: <https://go.usa.gov/x6vNq>

The presentations are:

- A Look at the Site (with Photo Tour)
- Defining the Problem: The Remedial Investigation
- Options for Cleanup: The Feasibility Study

- Interim Dust Control, Fencing, and Signs
- Residential Investigation and Cleanup
- Future Reuse of the Smelter Property
- A Health Concern: Natural Arsenic in Private Drinking Water Wells

EPA has been invited to the July 13, 2021 [Dewey-Humboldt Town Council](#) Study Session at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to virtually participating to answer questions from Councilmembers and discuss our ongoing study of options to address the contamination (called a feasibility study).

Please contact EPA with any questions using the contacts on our site webpage:

www.epa.gov/superfund/ironkingmine

Update September 2020

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a [new fact sheet to remind parents to talk to their children/teenagers about staying away from the dangerous smelter and mine properties](#). We will mail it to our mailing list (roughly 3,000 addresses). This effort is to reinforce our messages from an October 2019 [press release](#) and [fact sheet](#), in addition to an article we wrote for the [July 2020 Dewey-Humboldt Newsletter](#).

In June, we placed over 40 additional warning signs at or near the former smelter property. The signs supplemented 9 larger warning signs around the site that we installed earlier in 2019. We also added barbed wire to the front gate at the smelter to better-restrict access. In addition, we inspected the “Posi shell” covering we placed in 2019 to control dust at the former smelter property, and we determined it was in good shape.

Over the summer, we worked with the Town of Dewey-Humboldt to arrange for installing a large warning sign on the Town’s property near the 3rd Street overcrossing of the Chapparal Gulch. The installed sign is down the path a short distance from the street. The sign is to warn hikers that the trail eventually opens into a flood plain with toxic tailings.

In June, the owner of the former Iron King Mine upgraded and added fencing around the mine pile. Last week, we installed 20 new small hazard warning signs along the new fence on the Iron King Road side of the former property.

We continue to work on our feasibility study of options to clean up the contamination across the whole site. In June, we issued a [reuse assessment of the former Humboldt Smelter property](#) to summarize what we heard from the community about approaches to reuse the smelter plateau. The forthcoming feasibility study uses the information EPA collected in the remedial investigation. It will compare a variety of cleanup options to address the contamination across the site. Before completing the feasibility study early next year, we would like to provide an update to Town Council and the public. However, we may need to plan for a virtual update, given the COVID pandemic.

Update July 22, 2020:

In June 2020, EPA issued a [reuse assessment of the former Humboldt Smelter property](#). EPA does not choose or pay for future land uses. However, we need to know what future land use the community might want. That way, we can see how our site cleanup options for the former smelter property can be compatible with the community’s reuse ideas. The ideas in the assessment were gathered over the past

two years from key stakeholders and participants in EPA's May 2019 workshop. This assessment summarizes the community ideas, describe how redevelopment has occurred at other Superfund sites and seeks to assist the community in thinking about how various redevelopment options could be implemented.

Community ideas for reuse include: open space, bike trails, walking trails, disc golf, recreational fields, recreational vehicle (RV) and camping, park space, amphitheater or event space, nature preserve and other economic development opportunities (such as businesses, waste treatment and solar panels).

Update June 18, 2020:

In late May 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed around 40 additional warning signs at and around the former Humboldt Smelter property. These smaller signs are mounted to the new fencing and on posts in a line across where the tailings flood plain. These are in addition to the larger signs we added in 2019 (see December update). They warn of chemical and physical hazards in these areas.

We placed these additional warning signs:

- along the new fence EPA installed in 2019 at the (northeast of the smelter plateau);
- along the road/trail leading down to the smelter's mine tailings area (southwest from the main gate);
- along the mine tailings area where it enters the flood plain in the Chaparral Gulch (southwest of the smelter plateau); and
- in the "parking area" and along the east side of the dross areas, near the smelter stack.

In addition, EPA also performed work at the front gate of the smelter to limit access. At the front gate, we added barbed wire to the top and added gravel underneath.

EPA also inspected the "Posi-Shell" covering we place in 2019 to control dust at the smelter property (see December update), and we determined it is in good shape.

Update April 2020:

In late 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed fencing at the former Humboldt Smelter property to limit public access. EPA continues to work with the owner of the former Iron King Mine property to upgrade and add fencing. We ask the public to follow warning signs and [stay away from the mine and smelter properties](#).

In early 2020, EPA focused on the study of options to clean up the contamination, called a "Feasibility Study." This study uses the information EPA collected in the remedial investigation, which was a comprehensive evaluation of sampling data and information about the nature and extent of contamination. The Feasibility Study will also use information about approaches to reuse the smelter plateau, collected during the May 2019 community brainstorming workshop.

EPA was planning a trip to Dewey-Humboldt. However, we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 situation. EPA is taking necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, and contractors as the

priority. As a result, we are postponing in-person public meeting events to reflect current COVID-19 guidance from federal, state, tribal and local officials.

In the meantime, we have updated [EPA's Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter site webpage](#). Please contact EPA with any questions using the contacts on our webpage.

Update December 2019:

In early December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took actions to control blowing dust from the grayish-colored waste dross on the former smelter property. EPA applied a product called Posi-Shell over the waste dross material. This forms a crust over the dross to prevent its entrainment by wind.

This fall, EPA placed nine warning signs in areas on or near the former smelter property and former Iron King Mine property. These signs warn of chemical and physical hazards in these areas. In addition, EPA placed fencing at the former smelter property to limit public access. EPA continues to work with the owner of the former Iron King Mine property to upgrade and add fencing.