

**DRAFT Email update to IKHS “email list” – January 2022**

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**Subject: EPA updates on the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Superfund site***This email is being sent “bcc” to protect private emails and prevent accidental “reply-all” mistakes*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the lead agency for the environmental investigation and cleanup work at the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter Superfund site. Recently, we developed an email listserv to provide relevant updates on our work. If you do not want to receive these emails, please just let me know.

**Arizona Department of Environmental Quality will takedown the smelter smokestack**

The takedown of the Humboldt Smelter smokestack and attached brick converter flue will be completed by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), in coordination with EPA. For more information on ADEQ’s project, see: <https://azdeq.gov/dh-stack-project>.

Since August, EPA has been coordinating with ADEQ on how to address the safety issues at the former Humboldt Smelter property. In September, EPA and ADEQ visited the property with our contractors to evaluate options. Between August and November, EPA communicated our ongoing efforts to address safety concerns at the former Humboldt smelter property in two ways. First, we provided updates via email to Town staff and Town Councilmembers. Second, we provided a community update in the [October D-H Town Newsletter](#). In November, ADEQ decided it will take actions to address the safety concerns at the former Humboldt smelter property. At that time, ADEQ began to communicate its work.

EPA encourages everyone to talk with their neighbors and children about following to posted warnings and stay away from this dangerous property and the former mine property. (See EPA September 2020 fact sheet [Stay Away from the Former Smelter and Mine Properties](#).)

**EPA is finalizing our “Feasibility Study” of options to address site contamination**

We are 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.

Our next step is to develop a “Proposed Plan” and issue that to the community.

**A Proposed Plan:**

- presents information on the site history and the contamination
- summarizes cleanup options from the feasibility study;
- highlights EPA’s recommended cleanup option to address contamination; and

- invites public comment.

### **EPA provides updates to the community in various ways**

We are trying to provide updates to the community in a variety of ways. If you have ideas on other opportunities to provide information to the community, please let us know!

Currently, we:

- keep our EPA Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter website updated at [www.epa.gov/superfund/ironkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ironkingmine);
- provide updates in the [D-H special webpage for EPA's work at the site](#);
- have ongoing conversations with the Town Manager (we understand the Town Manager provided Town Councilmembers summaries of those discussions);
- issue articles in the Dewey-Humboldt Newsletters (see [August](#), [October](#), and [December 2021](#) issues);
- have site information available at the Dewey-Humboldt Town Library (located at 2735 S. Corral Street);
- started this email listserv; and
- participate in the quarterly D-H Community Environmental Board meetings (facilitated by the University of Arizona).

In addition, Jeff Dhont and Yolanda Sanchez regularly take calls and respond to emails from community members. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions or concerns.

### **EPA issued an Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter recorded presentation series**

In 2021, we developed a seven-part recorded presentation series on our work at the site. Please refer to our flyer for an overview of each presentation: <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