



Iron King Mine / Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • September 2016

EPA Issues Remedial Investigation and Risk Assessment Reports; Next Steps in Cleanup of Residential Yards

Over the past several years, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed extensive sampling and studies in Dewey-Humboldt as part of an environmental investigation related to historical mine and smelter operations at the Iron King Mine/Humboldt Smelter (IKHS) Superfund site. During this investigation, EPA screened or sampled 580 residential yards for lead and arsenic contamination and has analyzed more than 6,000 samples in both residential and non-residential areas of the site.

Sampling results show that the great majority of yards sampled do not have levels of arsenic or lead that would pose a health risk to residents. However, EPA found a small number of yards with soils containing elevated levels of lead or arsenic and is determining cleanup options for these yards.

Remedial Investigation and Risk Assessment Completed

EPA has completed and issued two documents for the IKHS site that have increased our understanding of the yard contamination and the potential risk to human health: the **remedial investigation report** and the **human health risk assessment**.

The remedial investigation shows the nature and extent of the contamination at the IKHS site, and the risk assessment evaluates the risks that may be posed by this contamination. The completion of the remedial investigation report and the human health risk assessment are an important part of the Superfund cleanup process. These reports will help EPA make decisions about cleanup options, not only for the residential yards that are affected by the site, but also for the site's non-residential areas, including the site's mine tailings pile, former smelter, and the contaminated Chaparral Gulch. Both the remedial investigation report and the human health risk assessment can be found online at: <https://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/ViewByEPAID/AZ0000309013>. They can also be found in hard copy at the Dewey-Humboldt Town Library at the address listed on the reverse.

Next Steps in Addressing Residential Yards

EPA considers the residential areas of the site to be of higher priority than the non-residential areas and will address these areas first. We are planning a cleanup that will likely begin in Spring 2017 of approximately 15-30 yards where we found high levels of lead and arsenic during sampling. EPA will start our cleanup at yards with the highest lead or arsenic levels.

EPA will conduct outreach within the next few months before the start of this cleanup action. This will include issuing a detailed fact sheet describing cleanup criteria and methods. We will also hold one or more public meetings and conduct individual outreach to all homeowners and residents who are affected by the cleanup. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information listed on the reverse.

Recent Progress at the IKHS Superfund Site:

- EPA has completed its investigation of contamination at the site and has issued a major report.
- EPA is planning a cleanup action at a small number of residential yards.
- A study of cleanup solutions for the tailings piles, smelter, dam, and gulch is underway.
- EPA will conduct more public outreach in the next several months.



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Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns or wish to be added to the site mailing list, please contact:

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Information Repository

For site documents, please visit the site information repository at:

Dewey-Humboldt Town Library
2735 South Corral Street
Humboldt, AZ 86329
(928) 632-5049

For additional information about the IKHS site, please visit our site website at <https://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/ViewByEPAID/AZ0000309013>.

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