



Environmental Investigation in Hayden and Winkelman

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • FEBRUARY 2006

Soil Investigation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), in coordination with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), has been conducting an environmental investigation in the areas of Hayden and Winkelman, Arizona. U.S. EPA completed residential surface soil sampling in Kearny, Hayden, and Winkelman, AZ in October 2004. Based on the sampling results reported in the February 2005 fact sheet and March 2005 public meetings, U.S. EPA determined that the concentrations of metals such as arsenic and copper detected in soil do not pose an immediate human health concern in any of the three towns.

However, the levels detected in Hayden and Winkelman are above levels that exist naturally in Arizona soil. For this reason, U.S. EPA is conducting a more comprehensive investigation in Hayden and Winkelman that includes further soil sampling, and air and water sampling to address other possible exposure pathways.

U.S. EPA included public input received at the March and August 2005 public meetings in planning the investigation. A copy of the Workplan is available for reference at the Hayden Public Library, 520 Velasco Ave, Hayden, AZ 85235 and the Arthur E. Pomeroy Public Library, 912-A Tilbury Road, Kearny, AZ 85237.

The next steps of the investigation will determine whether current environmental conditions in Hayden and Winkelman could increase the potential for health effects over the long term and whether they require any U.S. EPA action.

What additional soil sampling will be done?

Beginning on January 30, 2006, and continuing through late February, we will offer to sample many residential yards in Hayden and most of Winkelman. At each residence, nine samples will be taken on the surface (0-2 inches) and one at 12 inches in each yard.

Sampling will also be conducted in areas surrounding residential properties that can be accessed from residences such as tailings piles and roadways. Samples will not be taken at the concentrator and smelter facilities, except in those specific areas where material could move to residential properties or could be accessed by the public. All of the sampling will be for a variety of metals but will focus on arsenic and copper concentrations since those were found to be of most concern during the October 2004 sampling.

Soil and sediment samples will also be collected along the Gila River floodplain to assess potential effects on the environment.

When will the results of the investigation be available?

Results of the sampling are expected by late 2006 or early 2007, and will be reported to the community via fact sheet and public meetings at that time. These results will be used to determine an estimate of the potential risk posed to residents.

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Contact Information

John Hillenbrand

Project Manager (WTR-7)
(415) 972-3494
hillenbrand.john@epa.gov
www.epa.gov

André Villaseñor

Community Involvement Coordinator (SFD-3)
(415) 972-3238 or (800) 231-3075
villasenor.andre@epa.gov

U.S. EPA, Region 9

**75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105**

You may leave a message on U.S. EPA's toll-free
Information Line: (800) 231-3075 and we will
return your call.