



ASARCO HAYDEN SMELTER SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ San Francisco, CA \$ March 2007

UPDATE ON RECENT ACTIVITIES AT ASARCO HAYDEN SMELTER

Welcome to the latest fact sheet on the Asarco Hayden Smelter.
In it you will find information on current and planned activities.

Site Investigation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) conducted residential surface soil sampling in Kearny, Hayden, and Winkelman in October 2004. Based on the sampling results, 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 were above levels that naturally exist in Arizona soils. For this reason, U.S. EPA is currently conducting a more comprehensive remedial investigation study in these two towns that includes more soil, air and water sampling to investigate other possible exposure pathways.

The U.S. EPA, in coordination with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), is currently completing the final sample-gathering phase of the remedial investigation. Following that, we will analyze and compile the soil, air and water data and write the Remedial Investigation Report.

U.S. EPA included public input received at the March and August 2005 public meetings in planning the current remedial 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 Tillbury Rd., Kearney, AZ 85237.

Soil Sampling

Beginning in February 2006, U.S. EPA sampled residential yards in Hayden and most of Winkelman. Each residential yard had nine samples taken on the first 0 to 2 inches and one taken at 12 inches of soil.

Sampling was also done in concentrator and smelter facilities to assess possible source areas for material that could be transported by wind or water to surrounding residential properties. Samples were also taken in non-residential areas if there was a possibility that the area could be accessed from residences such as tailings piles or the industrial facilities related to the smelter or concentrator. All of the sampling was for a variety of metals but focused on arsenic, lead and copper concentrations since those were found to be of the most concern during the October 2004 sampling.

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

Water and Air Sampling

U.S. EPA has completed sampling the water in the Gila River and drinking water supply wells that serve the towns of Hayden and Winkelman. We also sampled the groundwater around Hayden and the concentrator and smelter facilities.

U.S. EPA is currently sampling air quality for the volume of particulates in the air and the concentrations of various metals that make up the dust. The air sampling will continue for many months to determine the effects of different wind conditions.

When will the Results be Available?

Results of the sampling will be compiled and analyzed in a Remedial Investigation Report expected to be finished in late 2007 and will be available to the community and reviewed through public meetings. These results will be

used to determine an estimate of the potential risk posed to residents. Home owners who had testing done on their property will receive the sampling results via mail in Summer 2007.

Next Steps

Based on the information from the remedial investigation, U.S. EPA is beginning a risk assessment to determine community members' risk from air, soil and water exposure in and around Hayden and Winkelman. U.S. EPA is also assessing the risk to the ecosystem in and around the Gila River. When the results are completed, U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss the results.

Community members will be notified of the completion of the remedial investigation and risk assessment through a fact sheet. Copies of both studies will be available for public review around the time of the public meeting in the Fall of 2007.



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