



# Iron King Mine & Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • April 2012

## EPA Completes Interim Cleanup

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to a community update meeting to announce the completion of the interim removal action, the status of future work and to answer questions about health concerns associated with the Superfund cleanup of the Iron King Mine Humboldt Smelter Site in Dewey-Humboldt.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday April 18, 2012, from

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, at the Humboldt Elementary School.

Following EPA's short update presentation, representatives from EPA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), the Arizona Department of Health Services, and representatives from the University of Arizona will briefly introduce their agencies, their mission and any work they do in Dewey-Humboldt.

Then the meeting will become an open house where people can meet with the individual agencies and ask them specific questions about their health issues and concerns.

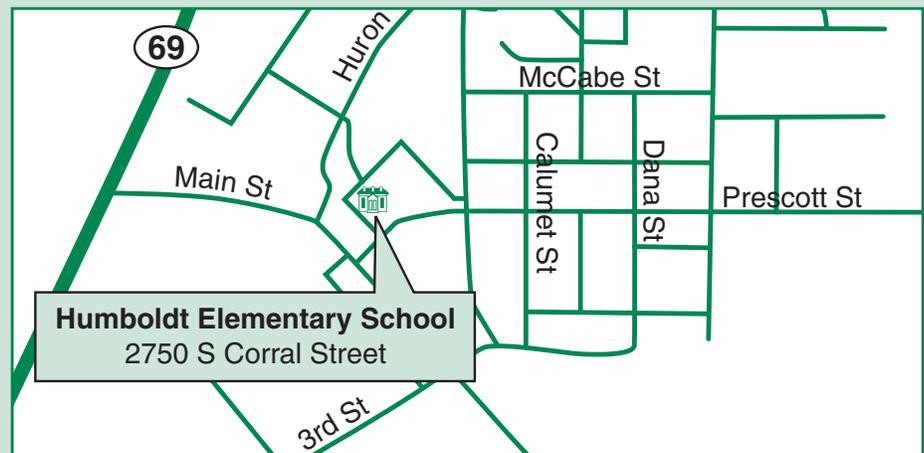
EPA has also invited the Town of Dewey-Humboldt's Environmental Issues Advisory Committee (EIAC) and the Coalition of Dewey-Humboldt (EPA's Technical Assistance Grant recipient) to participate.

### Community Update Meeting

**April 18, 2012**

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Humboldt Elementary School  
2750 S Corral Street  
Humboldt, AZ 86329



## Interim Removal Action Completed

EPA completed a removal action in November 2011. The interim removal action began in September 2011, and included the cleanup of a subset of residential yards, the removal of the Small Tailings Pile, and the application of a soil sealant to ash piles at the Humboldt Smelter.

As part of this removal action, EPA remediated 12 yards and replaced up to two feet of soils with clean backfill. These yards contained elevated levels of arsenic and lead. The yards were later restored to their original condition with clean soil. The

soils removed from the yards were placed on the Main Tailings Pile at the Iron King Mine. Hydro-seed was added on top of the soils to encourage vegetation growth and act as a temporary dust suppressant.

The Small Tailings Pile, located adjacent to the Chaparral Gulch was also removed as part of the removal action. Over 20,000 cubic yards were removed and placed in a designated storage area on top of the Iron King Main Tailings Pile. Upon placement of the Small Tailings Pile in the storage area, Gorilla Snot, a temporary soil sealant was applied to this area to act as a temporary dust suppressant. After the Small Tailings Pile was removed from its original location, the area was restored to a natural drainage pathway.

Lastly, as part of the removal action, Gorilla Snot, a temporary soil sealant was re-applied to the ash piles at the Humboldt Smelter to aid in dust suppression efforts.

## Recent Cleanup Work

In late January 2012, EPA conducted additional field sampling to continue to evaluate the background levels of arsenic and lead in the area. EPA also conducted sampling of the Main Tailings Pile at Iron King Mine. This sampling will provide information on the stability of the Iron King Mine Main Tailings Pile.

Additionally, EPA is continuing to evaluate groundwater at the Site. EPA will be conducting additional soil sampling this spring to continue to evaluate background. When EPA receives the results from the field sampling effort, the data will be evaluated, validated, and included in the Remedial Investigation Addendum, which will include all the data collected after April 2010, when the first Remedial Investigation Report was published.

## Next Steps

The Remedial Investigation Addendum is anticipated to be available for public review in late 2012. This report will be followed by the Feasibility Study, the report that screens, and evaluates alternative cleanup technologies and techniques. The Feasibility Study Report will then be followed by the Proposed Plan and the Record of Decision. While EPA strives to

meet the previously stated schedule for releasing these documents, the dates are subject to change, pending evaluation of the data and the need to collect additional data.

## Community Involvement

EPA has a number of ways to keep the community informed about the progress of its work and to solicit public input into the decision-making process.

EPA places cleanup documents in the town library and has developed a web site (see below). In addition, EPA seeks public input at its community meetings.

EPA has awarded a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to the Community Coalition of Dewey-Humboldt (CCDH) to hire an independent technical advisor (TA) to help the community understand the cleanup documents. To learn more, contact the Community Coalition of Dewey-Humboldt at [reitemiller@gmail.com](mailto:reitemiller@gmail.com).

General questions about the TAG program may be directed to David Cooper, 415-972-3245 or EPA's toll-free message line 800-231-3075.

EPA looks forward to seeing the community at the April 18, 2012 Open House. In the mean time, please visit the Site website, [www.epa.gov/region09/irongkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/region09/irongkingmine) for a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" about the Iron King Mine-Humboldt Smelter Site.



## Mailing List Coupon

If you are not already on EPA's mailing list for the Iron King Mine – Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site, please send an e-mail or return the coupon below to David Cooper.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## Tips for Safe Gardening, Safe Play, and a Safe Home

### Working in the Garden and Yard

- Avoid eating or drinking while working in the yard or garden because contaminated soil and dust might get on your food and you could accidentally swallow it.
- Dampen soils with water before you garden to limit the amount of dust you inhale.
- Avoid working in the yard on windy days, when dust can be stirred up and possibly increase your exposure.
- Consider wearing a mask if you spend time in dusty areas.
- Wash your hands after gardening.
- Wash work clothes to remove dust and dirt.
- Take your shoes off at the door to avoid tracking soil into your home.



### Creating Play Areas for Children

- Fill sandboxes with sand or soil from an outside source such as a commercial gardening center.
- Cover bare soil with grass or other material such as mulch.
- Keep children from playing in contaminated soil. The most likely way for children to become exposed to arsenic is from ingesting (eating) dirt.
- Have children wash hands and faces after they play in the yard.



### Cleaning Your Home

- Remove work and play shoes before entering your house.
- Damp-mop floors and wipe down counters, tables, and window ledges regularly.
- To reduce dust levels in the home, consider upgrading your vacuum cleaner bags to those that filter better or simply change your bags more often. Some persons may want to buy a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filter to better reduce dust levels.
- Wash the soil from homegrown fruits and vegetables before bringing them into your home.
- Keep pets out of areas of contaminated soil. Dogs and cats carry contaminated soil on their feet and fur into the home. Bathe your pets frequently.

### Preparing Fruits and Vegetables

- Clean your hands, cutting boards, and kitchen tools with hot, soapy water and rinse well before and after handling your fruits and vegetables.
- Soak garden produce in cool water and rinse thoroughly until the water runs clear. Commercial vegetable cleaning products are available in supermarkets to help free soil residues from your produce. These products work well with leafy vegetables. Vinegar can also be used for cleaning produce.
- Scrub firm fruits and root crops with a vegetable-cleaning brush to remove dust and dirt before peeling or eating.
- Peel root crops like carrots, rutabagas, radishes, and turnips.
- Wash berry fruits like strawberries and blackberries, and remove the “caps” (the tops of the berries where the stem and leaves attach).
- Buy Some, Grow Some: Eat some fruits and vegetables from your garden and some from the farmer’s market or grocery store. Eating a mix of homegrown and commercial products can help reduce your potential exposure.



# Iron King Mine & Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site

EPA Completes Interim Cleanup • EPA Community Meeting on April 18, 2012

## Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns, please contact any of the following individuals:

### EPA Contacts

**Monika O'Sullivan**  
Project Manager  
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**David Cooper**  
Community Involvement  
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### ADEQ Contacts

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ADEQ Project Manager  
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**Felicia Calderon**  
Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
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## Information Repository

For site documents, please visit the information repository at:

**Dewey-Humboldt Town Library**  
2735 S. Corral Street  
Dewey-Humboldt, AZ

Please visit EPA's and ADEQ's Iron King Mine and Humboldt Smelter site websites at: 

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/ironkingmine>

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/sps/statesites.html#ironking>

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Attn: David Cooper (IKHS 4/12)

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