



ASARCO Hayden Plant Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ San Francisco, CA \$ September 2008

EPA Releases ASARCO Hayden Plant Investigation Results

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to two community meetings to discuss the results of its comprehensive investigation of properties in Hayden and Winkelman associated with the ASARCO Hayden Plant Site (Site).

Both meetings will be held at the Hayden Senior Center, 520 Velasco Ave., Hayden, AZ, one on Thursday, September 11th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and the other on Friday September 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Both meetings will cover the same information.

During each meeting, EPA will present information on the results of the cleanup investigation, provide the status of the cleanup of the yards, and discuss methods of community involvement, including the availability of an independent technical advisor to assist the community in understanding EPA's cleanup documents.

The draft Phase I Remedial Investigation Report is now available in the Information Repository at the Hayden Library. EPA invites the public to review and comment on the report. Please submit comments to John Hillenbrand by September 25, 2008 (see contact information on back page).

Results of EPA's Investigation

The Phase I site investigation has found extensive soil contamination in Hayden residential soils, and air contamination in both Hayden and Winkelman, related to past and present smelting and milling operations.

Over 1,000 soil samples were collected in Hayden and Winkelman. This sampling has found arsenic, lead and copper above residential soil cleanup standards. Areas which are closer to the old Kennecott Smelter and the ASARCO concentrator show the highest concentrations of arsenic and copper. In Winkelman, soil contamination is centered along the old railroad tracks and Highway 177.

One year of air monitoring near city hall in Hayden, and at the high school in Winkelman, has indicated elevated levels of arsenic, lead, copper, cadmium and chromium. For example, the average levels of arsenic in Hayden air is .0239 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) while areas unaffected by mining, such as the Organ Pipe National Monument area southwest of Tucson, have average concentrations of

Community Meetings

Hayden Senior Center
520 Velasco Ave
Hayden, AZ

Thursday, September 11th
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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Friday, September 12th
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



**Remedial Investigation
Comment Period Ends
September 25, 2008**

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Superfund Process
3. Remedial Investigation Results
4. Risk Assessment
5. Community Involvement
6. Adjourn

.0004 ug/m³ or less. These concentrations indicate that the arsenic in Hayden air is about 60 times above what would be expected in an area unaffected by smelting activities. The high levels in Hayden were typically measured when the wind was blowing from the smelter towards town. The high arsenic concentrations are not always associated with high dust levels.

In Winkelman, the average arsenic air concentration (.00796 ug/m³) is 20 times higher than the Organ Pipe area and is elevated when the wind direction is from the smelter. The pattern of other metals such as lead and copper are similar to arsenic and will be discussed at the public meeting.

Drinking water supplies for the towns of Hayden and Winkelman, as measured at the drinking water fountains at the Hayden Public Library and the Hayden High School in Winkelman, meet drinking water quality standards for all parameters except manganese. The manganese standard is not based on health effects but on the effects of staining on cloths and plumbing fixtures.

ASARCO Cleanup to Follow Superfund Process

The ASARCO Hayden Plant Site will be cleaned up as outlined in the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (AOC) and under the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which is commonly referred to as Superfund. The process has a number of steps (see figure below). The public is encouraged to share its issues and concerns throughout the Superfund process.

The Remedial Investigation determines the nature and extent of contamination. This involves collecting samples of the soil, groundwater and air. Currently, the ASARCO site is at this stage. However, during any stage of the cleanup process, EPA can conduct short-term or immediate

cleanup actions, which EPA calls removal actions. The cleanup of the 15 yards in Hayden falls into the removal action category.

After the remedial investigation is completed, the “Feasibility Study” will be initiated. The Feasibility Study describes and analyzes the potential cleanup alternatives for the Site. Individual alternatives will be assessed against EPA’s evaluation criteria and a comparative analysis of options will be performed.

After the Feasibility Study, EPA will identify the preferred cleanup remedy and will share this in a public meeting which is accompanied by a comment period. After all public comments are reviewed, EPA will document the selected remedy in a legal document called a Record of Decision (ROD).

Following the ROD, EPA will oversee the design, construction, testing, and operation of the remedy and/or perform the necessary cleanup activities itself.

Community Involvement Process

EPA policy establishes a strong program of public participation in the site cleanup process. The purpose of the Community Involvement program is to help community members become involved in the decision-making process by developing two-way communication between the affected community and EPA. It focuses on answering the community’s questions about the cleanup effort, providing information to the community about site activities, and incorporating community issues and concerns into Agency decisions.

A Community Involvement Plan (CIP) will be developed to organize the way EPA provides cleanup information and community access to the decision-making process. During community interviews with local residents, elected officials



and other interested parties, EPA gathers a list of issues and questions the community is concerned about so that they may be considered during the cleanup process, and when a cleanup remedy is proposed. EPA also learns the best ways to provide information and notify the community of meetings.

If you are interested in being interviewed for the development of the CIP, please contact David Cooper (see back page).

Throughout the cleanup process, there will be a number of public meetings. Typically, these events occur when the remedial investigation report is released and when EPA's preferred cleanup method is identified. These meetings and formal comment periods will be announced through fact sheets and through public notices advertised in the *Copper Basin News*. The EPA website for this site is found through <http://www.epa.gov/region09/AsarcoHaydenPlant>.

Technical Assistance Available

Under the terms of the settlement, ASARCO will fund an independent technical advisor to interpret cleanup documents and help the community understand technical information about the site. Interested community groups should contact David Cooper (see back page) at EPA for more information.

EPA also has an internal assistance program called Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) which provides the services of independent, outside technical experts. For more information about TASC services, please contact: Luis Garcia-Bakarich (415) 972-3237 or email: garcia-bakarich.luis@epa.gov.

Next Steps

The next steps in Hayden and Winkelman involve two parts and are controlled by the AOC agreement between EPA, ADEQ and ASARCO. The first part is sampling and, if needed, removal of residential soil in additional yards. ASARCO, under EPA oversight, will sample and remove soil in a manner similar to the 15 yards that are already completed.

The second part is extensive sampling of ASARCO facility soils and more detailed sampling of air quality coming from different areas, including ASARCO facilities. This second part is called the Phase II Remedial Investigation and will help pinpoint specific contamination sources, and may include any specific actions needed to control these air or soil contamination sources.

Information Repositories

EPA has established two information repositories for community members. A copy of the EPA October 2004 Sampling final report is available for review at:

Hayden Public Library
175 5th Street
Hayden, AZ 85235

Arthur E. Pomeroy Public Library
912-A Tilbury Road
Kearny, AZ 85237



Mailing List Coupon

If you are not already on the ASARCO Hayden Plant mailing list and would like to be, please fill out the coupon below and return it to: David Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-3), San Francisco, CA 94105 or e-mail the information to: cooper.david@epa.gov

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

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For Further Information

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

Technical Issues

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