

**Draft Meeting Summary**  
**Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group**  
**March 8, 2016**

On March 8, 2016, the Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group (CAG) and members of the public met at the Steelworkers Center of the West. The key topics covered during the meeting included:

- Ilex and New Pueblo Freeway projects;
- Community Visioning Forum and Superfund Revitalization Planning;
- EPA sampling efforts;
- Colorado Smelter Health Fair and other health department updates;
- Public Comment;
- Future Meetings; and
- Next Steps

A copy of the meeting agenda can be found here: [March CAG Agenda](#). There was insufficient time to discuss one item on the agenda: Sampling Workgroup and the Role of the TASC. This item will be communicated via email to the CAG.

This summary is not a detailed transcript of the meeting, but rather includes highlights of the discussions and decisions that occurred. It is a summary of the facilitator’s notes and is not intended to state formal EPA policy. Action items in this summary are tracked in the Facilitator’s Tracking Sheet found here: [Tracking List Update as of 3 22 2016](#).

Key links and documents discussed during the meeting:

Links to documents handed out at the meeting	<a href="#">March CAG Agenda</a> <a href="#">CDOT presentation</a> <a href="#">Community Visioning Workshop Summary</a> <a href="#">Community Visioning Forum Presentation</a> <a href="#">March Vitalization Workgroup Summary</a> <a href="#">EPA Postcard about Sampling</a> <a href="#">Health Fair Flyer</a> and <a href="#">Information for Booth at Health Fair</a> . <a href="#">Lead Pamphlet</a> <a href="#">Tracking List Update as of 3 22 2016</a> .
Attachment A	Attendance list for March 8 (attached)
Important Colorado Smelter Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado Smelter Health pamphlet in English and Spanish:  <a href="http://county.pueblo.org/sites/default/files/documents/Lead_pamphlet_jul2014.pdf">http://county.pueblo.org/sites/default/files/documents/Lead_pamphlet_jul2014.pdf</a></li> <li>• Colorado Smelter: <a href="#">Dirt Alert Video by the PCCHD</a>.</li> <li>• Residential Soil Sampling Demo: <a href="http://youtu.be/8Zct3h9ehhQ">http://youtu.be/8Zct3h9ehhQ</a></li> <li>• Incremental Residential Soil Sampling Demo: <a href="http://youtu.be/PFbN9nEfrv4">http://youtu.be/PFbN9nEfrv4</a></li> <li>• Top Ten Questions to Ask When Buying a Superfund Site <a href="http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/report-top-10-questions-ask-when-buying-superfund-site">http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/report-top-10-questions-ask-when-buying-superfund-site</a></li> <li>• Key information to know about gardening near the Colorado Smelter site:  <a href="http://www2.epa.gov/region8/colorado-smelter-gardening-and-homegrown-vegetables">http://www2.epa.gov/region8/colorado-smelter-gardening-and-homegrown-vegetables</a></li> <li>• Information about being exposed to lead on EPA’s website:  <a href="http://www2.epa.gov/lead">http://www2.epa.gov/lead</a></li> <li>• ATSDR blood and urine testing: Factsheet English –  <a href="http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/Smelter_Factsheet%20508.pdf">http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/Smelter_Factsheet%20508.pdf</a></li> </ul>

- ATSDR blood and urine testing: Factsheet Spanish - [http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/Smelter\\_Factsheet%20Spanish508.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/Smelter_Factsheet%20Spanish508.pdf)

## **Ilex and New Pueblo Freeway Projects**

At the request of the CAG, Joe DeHeart, Resident Engineer for Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), attended the meeting and spoke about future highway projects that affect the community near the Colorado Smelter site. Joe spoke about both the Ilex project, which is ongoing now and expected to be completed by fall of 2017. He also discussed the larger New Pueblo Freeway project for which CDOT is aligning funding for projects north of Ilex and the projects south of the Arkansas. The actual highway work for this project is expected to start decades from now. Mr. DeHeart's presentation can be viewed here: [CDOT presentation](#). Joe reported that EPA and CDOT meet periodically to discuss potential overlap between the Colorado Smelter Superfund effort and the New Pueblo Freeway project, but that he believes that work on the two federal projects will occur during entirely different timeframes.

In response to questions, he discussed future routing of Highway I-25. He stated that the Preferred Alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will relocate the highway such that it goes over the slag pile and will require the removal of 50+ houses in the Eiler's neighborhood. However, he noted that if improvements happen in the area between now and actual construction time, that the government would take into consideration these changes. He didn't believe such changes will result in a different preferred location for the highway, but rather that CDOT might mitigate differently.

A CAG member asked Joe to come to CAG meetings on a regular basis, participate in the visioning efforts going forward, and provide an update to the CAG on a quarterly basis.

## **Community Visioning Forum and Superfund Revitalization Planning**

The Superfund Vitalization Workgroup held their Visioning Workshop on February 20. Joe Kocman presented a summary of the event and outcomes: [Visioning Workshop Presentation](#). A copy of the complete Workshop report can be found here: [Visioning Workshop Summary](#). In his presentation, Joe emphasized the importance of EPA utilizing this information in their Superfund Redevelopment Initiative and Sustainable Communities events. He further stressed the necessity of local, state, and federal government assisting in accomplishing these goals.

Fran Constanzi, the EPA Superfund Redevelopment Coordinator and Cindy Cody, the EPA Sustainability Coordinator attended the CAG meeting to hear the results of the Visioning Workshop. They reported that EPA is in the process of reviewing the details and look forward to building upon the good ideas presented. They have also shared this information with Skeo, the entity that will be organizing the next visioning workshop. EPA agreed to report back to the CAG in the near term on the scope and timeline for their visioning effort and the implementation roundtable. At the moment, they are thinking that next efforts might focus on the future use of the slag pile and nearby area and how to fund and implement the revitalization.

Several CAG members commented on the presentation. Many thanked Joe and others for the work they did to organize the successful workshop. Some noted that they would like EPA to expedite their timeline for holding workshops and moving towards implementation. They would like CDOT to participate in these meetings. Some stressed the importance of focusing on community needs such as walkability and

that the slag pile should not be a priority in the initial stages of this effort. Kelly Gehlhoff asked whether the visioning document could be a living document and the potential for paying a community leader to guide this effort. Pueblo Commissioner Hart and City Planning Director Stephen Meier discussed the interest of local government in helping build on the momentum created by the Visioning Forum. Local and federal officials will report back at the next meeting.

### **EPA Sampling Efforts**

Sabrina Forrest, the EPA Remedial Project Manager, reported that EPA has tested 136 properties since December 2015. In most cases, they gather 20 samples per property, which includes taking 5 samples at four different depth levels. The Agency anticipates having results from the sampling available to homeowners during April and consolidated results available to the CAG and public in May. Currently, samples are analyzed onsite and at a lab. Once it is determined that the onsite analysis is accurate, EPA will have a quicker turn around time for all samples. EPA anticipates having 300 properties sampled before the end of 2016. This information will play a key role in setting the preliminary remediation goal by the end of 2016. Currently, EPA leaves a postcard with homeowners when sampling is being scheduled to explain the timing and next steps. The postcard also has the PCCHD contact number and information about the education and screening that PCCHD can provide to residents in the Colorado Smelter study area: [EPA Postcard](#).

One CAG member noted that his house was sampled recently. The process did not go smoothly. He did not receive a confirmation call from the contractors and thus his burglar alarm was set off. Sabrina responded that local contractors are hired to mark utility lines and that perhaps there was a disconnect. She stated she would look into what happen at this particular site and whether there appears to be a broader problem and get back to the CAG.

Another CAG member with a broad background in Superfund issues stated that he observed a sampling event this past week and was impressed by the process.

A CAG member asked if EPA plans to sample under the levy. Sabrina reported that EPA does not plan to do so at this time.

It was stated that the EPA-City-County consent agreement to sample in parks and alleys had expired. EPA is working to renegotiate this agreement.

A member of the public asked EPA about the cleanup process and cost. Sabrina responded that at this site, EPA will pay for the cleanup generally. The likely remedy will involve moving up to 18 inches of dirt and replacing it with clean dirt. EPA will replace landscaping to its original state at no cost to the homeowner.

### **Colorado Smelter Health Fair and Update**

Aaron Martinez of Pueblo City-County Health Department reported that they will be a health fair focusing on methods to reduce lead and arsenic exposure, in addition to food and fun. The event will be on April 30 from 10 to 2 in Benedict Park. Please share the information on this flyer: [Health Fair Flyer](#). Also, the Pueblo City-County Health Department encourages others to have booths at their event to share information: [Information for Booth at Health Fair](#).

Aaron also provided an update on other health department activities. He noted that they continue to conduct screenings for all lead hazards, and will do blood lead testing, consumer product testing, and

paint testing for free. To make an appointment, call 719-583-4307. The Pueblo City-County Health Department can bring its services to the community, so transportation is not essential. Attached please find additional information on lead: [Lead Pamphlet](#)

## **Public Comment**

**Health Concerns:** Demetri Barton expressed concern about health problems in the community. He noted that his neighbors have two grown sons with cancer and that other community members have had tumors and other health problems. He would like additional information in the neighborhoods to warn about the health problems and requests a better assessment of whether there is a systemic problem. Ruth Von Stein noted that she had two brain tumors and other neighbors have also made problems.

Steve Wharton of EPA responded that CAG members should let EPA know about new families in the neighborhood. EPA and the Pueblo City-County Health Department can reach out and provide information. Also, community members can request that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) review data to determine if there is a systemic problem. The group agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

**Public Documents.** The CAG discussed the importance of making Superfund documents and information available to the public. The group discussed the potential for using Neighborworks as one option. EPA noted that documents are available at the public library and on their website. It was agreed that EPA and the Community Involvement Workgroup would discuss this issue at their next meeting.

**Bessemer Plan:** Kelly Gehlhoff asked about the current status of the Bessemer Neighborhood Plan. She specifically wanted to know whether it will be revised into a cumulative plan and whether there will be a funded community leadership position to assist with implementation. Steven Meier stated that he would inquire into this and report back.

## **Topics for Future Meetings and Next Steps**

**Update on Soil Sampling.** Sabrina hopes that she can provide a summary of sampling results by the May CAG meeting. Other sampling topics will include:

- Updating the city-county agreement to sample alleys and parks;
- Discussion of proposed approach of removing 3 inches of soil in city alleys and paving; and
- Follow up with contractors regarding notification problems prior to sampling.

**Visioning workshop and implementation roundtable.** EPA will review the Vision Workshop summary and consult with Pueblo City Planning regarding next steps. Topics include: timing and scope of workshop and roundtable, Bessemer Neighborhood Plan, hiring of a community person for implementation, and urban renewal issues.

**Health concerns:** How can information best be shared with the public and new neighbors, in particular? Is there anything the CAG can do to determine whether there are clear health problems caused by the Colorado Smelter? Should the CAG sponsor a public health meeting in addition to efforts by the Pueblo City-County Health Department?

**Tracking the Superfund Process.** Terry Hart, Joe Kocman, and Demetri Barton will work with EPA to develop an effective method for tracking the Superfund process. Many CAG members are concerned that

this process move along as efficiently as possible and would like a tracking mechanism to ensure this is happening.

**CDOT Updates.** Joe DeHeart will be invited to attend all CAG meetings and encouraged to update the CAG at regular intervals.

The above information for next steps can also be found here: [Tracking List Update as of 3 22 2016.](#)

## Attachment A

### March 8, 2016 CAG Meeting Attendance

<b>CAG Attendance</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>8-Mar-16</b>
<b>Cis</b>	<b>Ashenafi</b>	
Andrew	Baca	
Barton	Demetri	x
Bob	Blazich	
Terrie	Boguski	
Roman	Castro	
Kristi	Celico	x
Merril	Coomes	x
John	Cordova	
Fran	Costanzi	x
David	Dorian	
Libby	Faulk	
Sabrina	Forrest	x
Karen	Fortner	
Kelly	Gehlhoff	x
Raj	Goyal	
Jasmin	Guerra	x
Terry	Hart	x
Kiera	Hatton	
Tim	Hawkins	x
Tori	Johnson	
Constance	Jones	

Joe and Pam	Kocman	x
Aaron	Martinez	x
Stephen	Meier	x
Jeannine	Natterman	x
Maureen	O'Reilly	
Charlie	Partridge	
Charlotte	Plutt	
Romero	Richard	x
Krissy	Russell-Hedstrom	
Alissa	Schultz	x
Julie	Shue	
Steve	Singer	
Alicia	Solis	
Nadine	Triste	
Harric	Vander Valk	x
Ross	Vincent	x
Christopher	Wardell	x
David	Webb	x
Michael	Wenstrom	
Steve	Wharton	x
Ken	Williams	
Julianne and James	Williamson	
Robin	Witt	
Chad	Wolgram	x

Guests: Wayne and Ruth Von Stein, Verenda Howard, Raymond Howard, Erika Marston, Doug Fitzgerald, Cathy Garcia, Chris Messer, Cindy Cody