

**Final Meeting Summary
Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group
June 14, 2016**

On June 14 2016, the Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group (CAG) and members of the public met at NeighborWorks.

The key topics covered during the meeting included:

- Soil and dust sample results;
- Indoor dust cleanup process
- Public involvement workgroup update;
- Revitalization update;
- Public comment; and
- Next steps.

A copy of the meeting agenda can be found here: [June CAG agenda](#).

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 Sheet as of June 20, 2016](#).

Key links and documents discussed during the meeting:

Links to documents handed out or presented at the June 14 CAG meeting.	June CAG agenda . EPA Letter to Terry Hart in Response to CAG Letter CAG Tracking Document as of June 11, 2016 EPA Powerpoint on Soil and Dust Sampling Examples of letters sent out to homeowner's regarding their soil and dust sampling results
Attachment A	Attendance List for June 14 CAG meeting
Important Colorado Smelter Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New EPA Fact Sheet on Colorado Smelter; • Colorado Smelter Health pamphlet in English and Spanish: http://county.pueblo.org/sites/default/files/documents/Lead_pamphlet_jul2014.pdf • Colorado Smelter: Dirt Alert Video by the PCCHD. • Residential Soil Sampling Demo: http://youtu.be/8Zct3h9ehhQ • Incremental Residential Soil Sampling Demo: http://youtu.be/PFbN9nEfrv4 • Top Ten Questions to Ask When Buying a Superfund Site http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/report-top-10-questions-ask-when-buying-superfund-site • Key information to know about gardening near the Colorado Smelter site: http://www2.epa.gov/region8/colorado-smelter-gardening-and-homegrown-vegetables • Information about being exposed to lead on EPA’s website: http://www2.epa.gov/lead • ATSDR blood and urine testing: Factsheet English – http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/Smelter_Factsheet%20508.p

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- ATSDR blood and urine testing: Factsheet Spanish - http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/Smelter_Factsheet%20Spanish508.pdf

Soil and Dust Sample Results

Steve Wharton and Charlie Partridge of EPA presented the following slides regarding soil and dust sample results: [EPA Powerpoint on Soil and Dust Sampling](#). In addition, EPA shared examples of letters sent out to homeowners: [Examples of letters sent out to homeowner's regarding their soil and dust sampling results](#). CAG and members of the public asked a number of questions regarding the sample results.

The group discussed whether a clear pattern has emerged of where dust and soil samples are highest with lead and/or arsenic. EPA acknowledged that it does appear that samples were higher southeast of the slag pile and that this is consistent with the prevailing winds for many seasons. However, they cautioned that usually 15 percent of houses need to be sampled before EPA can clearly identify a trend and that this has not yet been achieved. EPA noted that they will continue to sample homes in the area, but that EPA has found that other urban smelters generally show that 1 in 4 to 1 in 8 homes have a contamination problem. Currently, EPA has sampled 100 homes for dust and 300 homes for soil. At this time, it is anticipated that EPA could sample up to 1900 homes in the area.

Many had questions about how EPA will determine what level of lead and arsenic is dangerous. Will EPA clean up homes and yards that are above a certain level and if so, what level? And to what level will they clean up? EPA responded that they will determine the Preliminary Remedial Goals (PRG) by August of 2016. All homes that have soil or dust above the PRG levels will be cleaned up by EPA at EPA expense. EPA will not cleanup beyond what is considered naturally occurring background levels. A CAG member requested that background levels be established by ensuring that they are looking at clean areas and not those contaminated by other smelters or events. Another CAG member asked that EPA share the exposure parameters used in determining the PRG. EPA agreed.

Some homeowners wondered why they should get their houses tested since if high levels of lead are discovered, they will need to disclose this when renting or selling the house. EPA noted there are several reasons why homeowners should have their houses tested, including:

- **To protect one's family.** There are serious health effects from being exposure to lead and arsenic.
- **Ethical and moral obligations.** A homeowner might feel a responsibility to ensure renters or buyers are protected.
- **Legal reasons.** If the property has been tested and found to contain lead, homeowners must disclose this information to potential renters or homebuyers. Even if the property has not been tested, the 1995 Lead Disclosure law requires homeowners to inform renters or buyers of the potential for lead in target (i.e., pre-1978) housing. These requirements are independent of Superfund related sampling and are something of which all property owners should be aware.
- **Economic reasons.** EPA will pay for the testing and cleanup at this time and provide the homeowner with a letter stating that the house is clean. It will likely be difficult to sell or rent a home located within a Superfund site that has not been tested or cleaned up.

In response to questions about EPA's future sampling plans, EPA reported that they have an additional 200 to 300 homeowners who have agreed to have their houses sampled. EPA will sample many of these

homes in the coming months. The agency had set a goal to sample 300 homes prior to the end of 2016 and achieved this goal by June 2016.

Cleaning of Homes

Duc Nguyen of EPA will head up the indoor cleaning of 19 homes that have been identified to have high levels of lead in the dust. EPA has talked to 18 of the homeowners directly. One homeowner is out of town but is aware of the concern. Cleanup of homes will begin the week of June 20 and is totally voluntary. **Homeowners must agree to have EPA enter the home.** EPA will pay for homeowners to stay in a hotel and provide additional funding for meals since more eating out will be necessary. There is no set amount of time that each house will take to clean or set amount of money that EPA will spend. Each house will differ. Duc discussed how the Agency will be cost-efficient at ensuring that houses are safe. For example, EPA might determine it is cheaper to replace carpet rather than to spend hours cleaning it. While each house will vary all cleanups will be protective of human health and the indoor cleanups will be cleaned up to 275 mg/kg or below.

The CAG discussed how EPA does not consider these initial actions of cleanup in the houses and educating the community on the best ways to reduce their exposure to lead to be permanent solutions. EPA will likely remove contaminated soil and take other, more permanent solutions over time.

CAG members asked whether contaminated dirt and dust wouldn't reenter the house after these initial cleanups. EPA responded that they will provide information to homeowners on how to reduce the chances of recontamination. Also, it was noted that many of these houses have gathered contamination over the past 100 years from the smelter, leaded gas, and lead paint. The smelter hasn't operated since 1908 and lead gas and paint have been illegal since the 1970's.

Public Involvement Workgroup

Julie Shue is the new chair of the Public Involvement Committee. The group met on May 28th and began working on a workgroup mission and vision. Julie noted that the group wants to have a deliberate purpose and not just engage in disparate activities. The group identified challenges:

1. General communication. All neighborhoods need more information;
2. Health information;
3. Physician education;
4. Need for a multi-layer communication plan; and
5. Consistent and clear communication between the CAG and workgroups.

She noted that they established a Facebook page, which can be found at: Colorado smelter site community involvement work group. Julie is posting news articles about the Colorado Smelter on the site in addition to other information.

A CAG member inquired about the type of information shared with school children and homeowners and whether it provided generic warnings about lead or was specific to the Superfund site. EPA responded that the information is specific to the Superfund site and includes a map of the area and instructions to stay off the slag pile and have children tested for lead in their blood.

A CAG member requested that the Pueblo Chieftain stop referring to this effort as "the Eiler's cleanup" since the area of focus is not just Eiler's and that this might confuse readers who should consider having their homes tested.

The next Public Involvement Workgroup meeting will occur June 18 at the Dew Drop Inn at 9:00 a.m.

Revitalization Update

Steven Meier of Pueblo Planning Department reported that EPA, Pueblo, and Skeo (EPA's contractor for organizing the revitalization workshop) have been meeting every other week. They are gathering land use maps, past planning documents, and other information to identify information gaps. A meeting will occur June 30 that includes local and state government.

Public Comments

A CAG member asked how many people in the area have had their blood tested for lead and how are new homeowners/renters informed of the need for testing. An update will be provided at the next meeting regarding the number of people who have been tested for lead. EPA and Pueblo City-County Health Department stated that they had sent out postcards to 1900 homes in the area and regularly go door-to-door to talk to homeowners. Information was sent home with public school kids on the last day of school. In addition, the Agencies attend various public events to get the word out. After the CAG meeting, the Health Department did blood sampling of interested parties.

A CAG member asked about follow-up on the levee and whether it had been tested. Terry Hart reported that he had discussed the issue with the Conservancy District Manager and Engineer. The Conservancy District did isolate and test the soils from the Smelter area and are awaiting results. Terry will report back to the group at the July meeting if the testing results are available. The CAG member noted a Chieftain article that provided history about the levee and noted that a channel went directly through the slag pile. He stressed the importance of not spreading the Smelter contamination further.

Next Steps

In addition to the Public Involvement Workgroup meeting on June 18, the Sampling workgroup is scheduled to meet June 15 at 10 a.m. and July 13 at 10 a.m. at the Steelworks Museum. The Vitalization workgroup is scheduled to meet July 6 from 2 to 3 in the Special Function Room at Eiler's Place. The next CAG meeting will occur July 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Requested topics for the agenda include:

- Site activities update
- Workgroup updates
- Overview of lead blood sampling completed in the area
- Update on Levee sampling
- EPA Planning Calendar
- Visioning Workshop

Attachment A

June 14, 2016 CAG Meeting Attendance

CAG Attendance						
First Name	Last Name	14 June	16	July	16	
Cis	Ashenafi					
Andrew	Baca					
Barton	Demetri		x			
Bob	Blazich					
Terrie	Boguski		x			
Roman	Castro					
Kristi	Celico		x			
Merril	Coomes		x			
John	Cordova					
Fran	Costanzi					
David	Dorian					
Libby	Faulk					
Sabrina	Forrest					
Karen	Fortner					
Kelly	Gehlhoff					
Raj	Goyal					
Jasmin	Guerra		x			
Terry	Hart		x			
Kiera	Hatton					
Tim	Hawkins		x			
Tori	Johnson					
Constance	Jones					
Joe and Pam	Kocman					
				Aaron	Martinez	x
				Steven	Meier	x
				Jeannine	Natterman	x
				Maureen	O'Reilly	
				Charlie	Partridge	x
				Charlotte	Plutt	
				Romero	Richard	x
				Krissy	Russell-Hedstrom	
				Alissa	Schultz	x
				Julie	Shue	x
				Steve	Singer	
				Alicia	Solis	
				Nadine	Triste	
				Harric	Vander Valk	x
				Ross	Vincent	
				Christopher	Wardell	
				David	Webb	
				Michael	Wenstrom	
				Steve	Wharton	
				Ken	Williams	
				Julianne and James	Williamson	
				Robin	Witt	
				Amy	Winegardner	x
				Chad	Wolgram	

Guests: Jody Carrillo, Doug Fitzgerald, Cathy Garcia, Alan Lamberg, Garrison Ortiz, Sylvia Proud, Ruth Von Stein, A. Wilde