

**Final Meeting Summary
Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group
November 10, 2015**

On November 10, 2015, 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:

- Briefing on next steps in the Superfund process at the Colorado Smelter Superfund site;
- Inviting human health experts to present a talk to the community on lead and arsenic health issues;
- Learning about the Pueblo City-County Health Department blood lead testing program and health education activities;
- Workgroup updates; and
- Future CAG meetings.

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 attached to the end of this document.

Key links and documents discussed during the meeting:

Attachment A	CAG Agenda for November 10, 2015 meeting (attached to this document)
Attachment B	Attendance list for November 10, 2015 meeting (attached)
Links	Superfund Process and Timelines Links: Superfund Process.jpeg , Colorado Smelter Preliminary Study Area.jpg , Colorado Smelter Timeline Page 1.jpg , Colorado Smelter Timeline Page 2.jpg
Attachment C	Facilitator Tracking Document as of November 30, 2015 (attached)
Links	November 2015 CAG/Nov. 4, 2015 Vitalization Minutes (Link)
Important Colorado Smelter Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.pdf • ATSDR blood and urine testing: Factsheet Spanish - http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/Smelter_Factsheet%20Spanish508.pdf

EPA's Path Forward: Short and Long Term

Chris Wardell of EPA provided an overview of the Superfund process, along with a timeline for the Colorado Smelter cleanup. Specifically, Chris shared the following charts:

- [Superfund Process.jpeg](#),
- [Colorado Smelter Preliminary Study Area.jpg](#),
- [Colorado Smelter Timeline Page 1.jpg](#),
- [Colorado Smelter Timeline Page 2.jpg](#)

Additional information about the formal Superfund process can be found here:

<http://www2.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-cleanup-process> or at

<http://semspub.epa.gov/work/11/175197.pdf>. Chris noted that the process is very deliberate and that this can be frustrating for communities, but he reassured them that the process in Pueblo “is moving fast for a Superfund site.”

Health Expert

The group discussed the desire to have one or more health experts come and speak at a CAG meeting. It was decided that a public meeting should be held where Dr. Michael Kosnett should be invited and perhaps others to answer questions such as:

- What is the impact of lead and arsenic on health to the young, pregnant, and elderly?
- What are the health impacts over a long period of exposure?
- What type of information should be shared with a medical provider?
- Why don't we see immediate health problems? Why are people not visibly sick if there is a problem? Why do lots of people seem to live a long, healthy lives in the neighborhood if EPA thinks it is dangerous?
- How do we know that the origin of the lead is from the smelter and that the soil is making people sick?
- How could someone ingest enough to make them sick?

Pueblo City/County Health Department Testing for Lead and Health Education Activities

Chad Wolgram noted that his office teamed with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to sample a small set of residents in the Bessemer and Eilers neighborhoods for lead in their blood and arsenic in their urine. In 2013, 135 people were tested, including 80 children. Four children had lead blood levels of 5 micrograms per deciliter. And 3 children had lead blood levels of between 4 and 5 micrograms per deciliter. Generally, lead experts consider no amount of lead to be safe, but 5 micrograms per deciliter is the “reference” level used to identify children who have levels much higher than most children. Additional information can be found on references levels at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at this link:

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/acclpp/blood_lead_levels.htm. Chad stated that the Health Department has provided educational materials to these families and had conducted follow-up tests. Generally, their lead blood levels had fallen. Fact sheets in English and Spanish can be found about this testing in the blue box at the beginning of this summary. The complete ATSDR report can be found at:

[http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/ColoradoSmelter %20HC-EI%20\(final\) %2009-10-2015_508.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ColoradoSmelter/ColoradoSmelter%20HC-EI%20(final)%202009-10-2015_508.pdf).

Chad updated the group on the health education activities of the Health Department. The Health Department has received funding from EPA to help educate the community about ways to protect themselves from lead and arsenic exposure. Some of the tools can be found in the blue box at the beginning of this summary, such as the Dirt Alert Video. He noted that the Health Department, EPA, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) will be going door to door in the community on December 10, 11, and 12 to hand out flyers and answer questions. They will also have equipment to test toys and other consumer products for lead and can conduct a lead-screening test with a finger prick. At this time, they will be focusing on the first 100 homes that will have soil sampling done. The Health Department is planning an April or May community event to educate people before the gardening season starts anew. In addition, the Health Department plans trainings for specific audiences such as training contractors for remodels involving lead and working with the medical community to be aware of lead problems.

Public Involvement Workgroup

Kelly Gehlhoff reported that the public involvement and revitalization workgroups are organizing a forum to bring together three Superfund communities in the area to envision a sustainable development plan and determine clear actions. These efforts will be different from the EPA visioning process. They are roughly aiming for January 13 as a possible meeting date.

Vitalization Workgroup

Joe Kocman reported on the commitment and enthusiasm of this group. The meeting notes can be found here: [November 2015 CAG/Nov. 4, 2015 Vitalization Minutes](#). In addition, Joe talked about the community meeting with Rick Garcia of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD reported that Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans couldn't be used for houses within a Superfund site. However there is a bit of a gray area now since EPA has not drawn a formal Superfund boundary yet. The local bankers and lenders asked HUD to provide a letter saying that technically FHA loans could be provided until such a boundary is drawn. Beyond the HUD meeting, the workgroup is looking to use private investment monies to help renovate some of the area. The plan includes buying two properties, renovating them, and then selling or creating lease-to-own opportunities.

Sampling Workgroup

Sabrina Forrest provided an update on sampling efforts. She noted EPA hopes to finish the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) also known as the sampling plan in the immediate future and begin to sample the first 100 houses in late November. In addition to the houses planned for sampling, EPA is trying to include a handful of other homes where residents wish to sell their house now and need sampling information as soon as possible. She noted that the sampling data from the pilot test is available in the main Pueblo library, via CD from Chris Wardell (Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov), or at the Steelworks Museum.

Future CAG Meetings

The group agreed not to have a December CAG meeting and generally supported moving to having full CAG meetings every other month, particularly while EPA is focused on soil sampling and there will little information to report. Some expressed concern that this may lead to the group losing momentum. The group requested a tracking process to ensure this did not happen and also a more detailed schedule for short and long term plans. The next meeting of the CAG will be January 12.

ATTACHMENT A

AGENDA

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Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Colorado Smelter
Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Steelworks Museum
215 Canal Street, Pueblo

- 5:30 p.m. Introductions, Agenda Review, and Logistics**
Kristi Parker Celico, Rocky Mountain Collaborative Solutions
- 5:35 p.m. EPA's Path Forward: Short Term and Long Term Plans**
Chris Wardell, EPA
- 5:50 p.m. Human Health Information: Brief Discussion Regarding Future Speakers and Topics.**
- 6:00 p.m. Pueblo City/County Health Department Health Education Activities**
Chad Wolgram, PCCHD
- 6:15 p.m. Soil Sampling Workgroup Update**
- 6:30 p.m. Vitalization Workgroup Update and Discussion of HUD Meeting**
Joe Kocman, CAG Member
- 6:45 p.m. Public Involvement Workgroup Update**
Kelly Gehlhoff, CAG Member
- 7:00 p.m. Public Comment and Q and A***
- 7:20 p.m. Future CAG Meetings**
- Workgroup meetings in December, no CAG meeting
 - **January 12 CAG meeting**
 - Health speaker
 - Sampling Update

7:30 p.m.

Adjourn

***If you are a member of the public and need to leave earlier, please inform the facilitator if you would like to make public comment.**

Attachment B Attendance November 10, 2015

CAG Members

Barton, Demetri	x
Blazich, Bob	
Boguski, Terrie	
Castro, Roman	
Celico, Kristi	x
Coomes, Merril	x
Cordova, John	
Costanzi, Fran	
Dorian, David	
Faulk, Libby	
Forrest, Sabrina	x
Fortner, Karen	
Gehlhoff, Kelly	x
Goyal, Raj	
Guerra, Jasmin	x
Hart, Terry	x
Hatton, Kiera	
Hawkins, Tim	x
Johnson, Tori	
Jones, Constance	
Kocman, Joe and Pam	x
Martinez, Aaron	x
Natterman, Jeannine	x
O'Reilly, Maureen	
Partridge, Charlie	
Plutt, Charlotte	
Russell-Hedstrom, Krissy	
Romero, Richard	
Schultz, Alissa	x
Singer, Steve	
Shue, Julie	x
Solis, Alicia	x
Sprouse, Dalton	
Triste, Nadine	
Vander Valk, Harric	
Vincent, Ross	x
Wardell, Christopher	x
Webb, David	
Webster, Kirby	

Wenstrom, Michael	
Wharton, Steve	
Williams, Ken	
Williamson, Julianne and James	
Witt, Robin	
Wolgram, Chad	x

**CAG Guests: Jason Lopez, Chris Messer,
Victoria Thierens**

Facilitator's Tracking Document
Outstanding items ONLY
As of November 30, 2015

Date of Input	CAG Input/Decision	Government Response	Task Completed
2-5-15	David Webb asked EPA to provide additional information regarding what information EPA will file with the County when properties are sampled and after cleanup.	EPA provide some information on this at the 2/10/15 meeting but generally stated that these decisions will be made after more information about the contamination has been gathered.	Ongoing.
4-14-15	Vitalization Workgroup and EPA seek solutions for potential lender liability issues and report back at May 2015 CAG meeting.	In certain cases, EPA can prioritize when sampling can take place on certain properties. EPA can work with homeowners/real estate community to provide documentation that may exists on a property as it pertains to EPAs work on that property. A meeting between HUD and the community happened in November 2015. Follow-up information will be shared.	Ongoing.

7-14-15	EPA will share the draft Sampling Plan with the CAG Sampling Workgroup. During the CAG workgroup meeting, the group will also discuss what sampling data will be publicly available.	EPA shared the Sampling Plan for the pilot project with the Sampling workgroup on August 12. EPA plans to share the full draft Sampling Plan in late August. The agency states that the full Sampling Plan will be finalized by the end of September. Update 9/24/15: EPA is working on setting a meeting with the workgroup. Update: 10/13/15 EPA held a Sampling workgroup meeting and discussed the pilot sampling plan and how the full sampling plan may differ. Update 11/10/15: EPA plans to share the draft final Sampling Plan with the workgroup when complete.	Ongoing.
8-11-15	CAG requests Pueblo City-County Health Department develop a publicly available database to show whether the lead levels for children in the neighborhood are decreasing.	The Health Department agreed to provide such a database, noting that personal health data cannot be shared with the public, but trends can be shown.	Ongoing.
8-11-15	Public Involvement Workgroup will work with EPA Public Involvement staff and PCCHD to review methods of outreach to the diverse community. This group will also work with the EPA		9/8/2015: Workgroup provided input on TASC document. Other activities are ongoing.

	to consider all public feedback on the TASC document. Notice for the next Work Group meeting will be shared with the full CAG and mailing list.		
8-11-15	The Vitalization Workgroup asked Terry Hart and John Cordova to follow-up with their elected colleagues regarding the idea of developing a state fund to guarantee loans in the area. The two will also talk about the idea of making this a broader urban renewal effort.	Terry and John agreed to report back to the Workgroup and the larger CAG. 10-13-15. Terry reported that he will get a letter to HUD this month. October, 2015 HUD had a meeting in Pueblo with leaders and public. Report back will occur at November CAG meeting.	Completed 11/2015
9-8-15	EPA will respond to the following questions at the October meeting: What is the best way for the CAG and public to engage the services of Skeo? Why haven't some in the community received information and what can EPA or Skeo do to address this concern? Can Skeo, EPA, and/or the Health Department give additional consideration to the long- term effects of lead and arsenic upon the elderly in	EPA Responses Below: Engage Skeo: By contacting Chris Wardell or Jasmin Guerra. EPA/CDPHE/PCCHD will go door to door in the initial study area on Dec 10-12 to pass out doorknockers and answer questions. EPA will continue to provide the most up to date information to as many people as possible but realize that some people may	Completed 11/30/15

	<p>the community?</p> <p>Can Skeo's reports and regular updates be placed on the web?</p>	<p>not receive information. If individuals want current information they can contact Chris Wardell.</p> <p>Not at this time. EPA can look into if it's feasible as we move forward.</p>	
10-13-15	EPA provide CAG with simple talking points summarizing DMA (pilot sampling) data		
10-13-15	Pueblo Health Department provide talking points on ATSDR report	Generally provided by Chad Wolgram at November 10 meeting	Completed 11/10/15
10-13-15	EPA will begin soil sampling of properties in November 2015.		
10-13-15	EPA will share CAG comments regarding the visioning workshop with Skeo. EPA will report back to the CAG regarding next steps and appropriate places for CAG input.		
11-10-15	CAG requests EPA provide a more detailed schedule for short and long-term		