

TWELVE OF THE MANY REASONS WHY WE QUESTION SUPERFUND FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

1. CHILDREN COME FIRST—Blood level testing has been completed but the final results are not in. The Pueblo City County Health Department wants to make a decision that will affect our neighborhood without the final test results.

- **We strongly recommend that the City and the City and County Health Dept. adopt the “Kids First” Program. This comprehensive program identifies the source(s) of lead in the child’s home. The program tests the soil and water, the entrance into the home, the exterior and interior paint, and house dust and provides information to families that reduce lead exposure.**

2. Out of 130 children tested, six children (or 4.6%) tested above the suggested guidelines for lead. This number is already below the 5% that is recommended AFTER a Superfund cleanup takes place.

3. Most lead comes from:

- **Paint—all of the houses in the neighborhood were built before lead paint was banned.**
- **Toys from China**
- **Imported pottery**
- **Plastics from China**
- **Factories**

4. We are concerned that because more than 90% of the homes in our neighborhood were built prior to 1978, all contain some degree of lead based paint. Therefore, a lead exposure problem will continue to exist following Superfund clean-up.

5. Educational outreach, such as the HUD Healthy Homes Program could be more effective at mitigating lead exposure to neighborhood residents. Superfund will only address lead exposure from soil.

6. There is no guaranteed funding.

7. Testing was not done correctly. We can’t make a decision and the City/County of Pueblo can’t make a decision until we all get the right information.

8. Your yards will not be improved-if you have a dirt yard, it will stay a dirt yard.

9. No program is in place to pay for any future soil mitigation such as replacing a sidewalk. The EPA will NOT PAY for you having to remove the dirt to a hazardous waste site or pay for replacement dirt.

10. The EPA has a one year warranty to fix problems with foundations, water lines, etc. once your property is cleaned.

11. You will never be able to sell your home if we are listed as a superfund site and you choose not to have your yard tested and cleaned if contaminated.

12. If our neighborhood becomes a Superfund site broad neighborhood participation is a must:

- the government can be in our neighborhood for more than twenty years (based on other sites). Your children will be dealing with this.
- Examples of the government takeovers of neighborhoods for many years include:
 - i. California Gulch-Leadville (EPA Website <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/california-gulch>)
 1. EPA Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)-1983
 2. 8 out of 12 operable units still ongoing 30 years after listing.
 - ii. Denver Radium Site-Denver (EPA Website <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/denver-radium-site>)
 1. EPA Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)-1983
 2. Land Use and Institutional Controls implemented in lieu of clean up in certain areas.
 3. 30 years after listing the site still not deleted from the NPL.
 - iii. Vasquez Blvd. and I-70 (EPA Website <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/denver-radium-site>)
 1. EPA Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)-1999
 2. Land Use and Institutional Controls implemented in lieu of clean up in certain areas.
 3. 14 years after listing the site is still not deleted from the NPL.

For further information please e-mail us at eilerheights@gmail.com

COLORADO SMELTER SITE FACT SHEET

We know that the soils on the old Colorado Smelter site and in the adjacent neighborhoods are contaminated with toxic metals, notably lead and arsenic. Four separate tests have shown the same results.

We know that people who work and play outdoors in contaminated soils are exposed to those toxic metals.

We know that people – especially children – who are exposed to those toxic metals, even at very low levels, are subjected to permanent and irreparable cognitive and neurologic damage and increased cancer risk, as well as other adverse health consequences.

We know that blood samples taken from current and recent residents in the surrounding neighborhoods, including children, in four separate campaigns have shown contaminants in excess of EPA and CDPHE health-protective benchmarks.

We know that every federal, state and local public health official who has evaluated the available information on this site agrees that the problems are serious and need to be addressed immediately.

We know that the only practical way that these problems can be addressed effectively is through the EPA's National Priorities List process. No one else has the resources and the expertise to do the job well.

We know that some 70% of the residents of the Eilers neighborhood who responded to a door-to-door survey last fall said that they want the cleanup to proceed.

We know that Pueblo's reputation suffers whenever our local leaders try to sweep problems like this under the rug. Moving forward as a community to fix this problem will help us to shake the persistent notion that Pueblo is contaminated and likes it that way. It will make Pueblo a more attractive place to live and work. It will bring money and jobs into the community. It will allow real estate values to recover in the affected areas. And it will provide our kids (and adults) with protection from avoidable toxic metals exposures.

We know that EPA has offered to expend millions of dollars to clean up and improve this historic Pueblo neighborhood, put people to work, improve the

City's image, and protect the public health.

We know that the EPA is unlikely to proceed without our Community's approval.

We know that there is no higher priority for our elected officials than assuring that every child who lives in this city has a clean, safe neighborhood in which to grow up. Clearly, the kids who live in the Eilers neighborhood today do not. Just as clearly, the only thing that stands between those kids and the clean, safe neighborhood they deserve is a simple "yes" from our Community.

We know that the time for our elected officials to act is NOW! Please say "yes" to the EPA's invitation now. Please get this cleanup process started so that those kids don't have to spend a single day longer than absolutely necessary exposed to toxic lead and arsenic.