



ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

February 2004



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y



Washington State Department of
Health



Northeast Tri County
Health District

Soil Testing Completed, Cleanup Being Planned Northport, Washington

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed soil testing at the former Le Roi Smelter, Northport Elementary School, Northport High School, and 13 residential properties in Northport. Testing was done in October 2003. The Northport School District and home owners asked EPA to test their properties under a voluntary testing program that was begun after EPA learned that contamination might be present.

What We Found in the Soil

Results of the tests show that soils at the smelter and several residential properties contain higher-than-normal amounts of lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals. Soils at both the elementary school and high school contain low levels of contaminants that are generally below EPA and Washington State levels of concern.

How Serious is the Contamination?

While this is not a life-threatening situation, long-term exposure to the contaminated soils, especially for young children, could increase the risk of health problems. If you are uncertain about the safety of soils in your neighborhood, you can take a few precautionary measures to reduce your family's exposure. To make sure you do not accidentally eat or swallow soils, or bring them into your home:

- Wash your hands frequently and wear gloves when you work with soils in your yard.
- Remove your shoes before entering your house.
- Control dust in your house with a wet mop, sponge or towel.
- Wash fruits and vegetables grown in your yard before eating them.
- Frequently wash pets and toys that touch soil in your yard.

If you have additional questions about how to reduce exposure to contamination, call **Jim Matsuyama** at the **Northeast Tri County Health District** at **509-684-2262**.

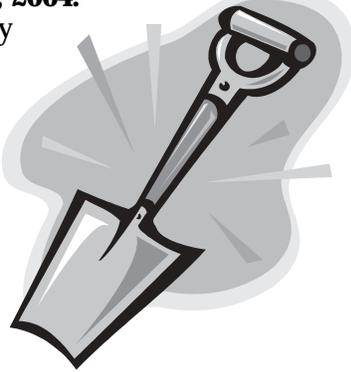


For nearly 25 years, the former Le Roi Smelter produced wastes containing lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals.

Can I Still Have My Yard Tested?

If your yard has not been tested, you can still sign up for voluntary EPA testing. **The sign-up deadline is April 30, 2004.**

Yards in the voluntary testing program will be tested and, if warranted, cleaned up this summer at no cost to property owners. Property owners will receive a report of work done on their property when the project is completed.



To sign up, call **1-877-292-9943**.

What Happens Next?

EPA is working closely with state and local agencies, the owner of the former Le Roi Smelter, and the Northport community, to decide the most effective way to clean up contaminated soils. We plan to begin cleanup this summer, and hope to have it completed in the fall.

In addition to this work, some more soil testing will take place in the coming months. EPA, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad plan to work together to test the Railroad's properties in Northport.

How Did The Soils Get Contaminated?

From 1896 to 1921, the Le Roi Smelter processed ores and produced large amounts of wastes containing lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals. By 1908, the Le Roi Smelter was one of the largest smelters on the West Coast, processing up to 500 tons of ore per day. Historically, wastes were either stored at the Le Roi Smelter site or flushed directly into the Columbia River. Some waste materials, such as slag bricks, may have been moved from the site to nearby properties for use as construction materials. The smokestacks at the smelter released contaminants into the air that were carried by wind currents to nearby properties.

Why Is EPA Doing Work in Northport?

In 1999, the Colville Confederated Tribes filed a formal petition requesting that EPA conduct an assessment of contamination in the upper Columbia River, extending from the Grand Coulee Dam to the U.S. — Canadian border. EPA responded by conducting Preliminary Assessments and Site Inspections at 39 mine and mill sites in Stevens County. EPA's study found higher-than-normal amounts of heavy metals in soil and sediment at several of the sites. Le Roi Smelter was one of the sites in the study where EPA found high amounts of heavy metals. As a result, EPA has been sampling soils in Northport to better understand the extent of contamination.

Working Together as a Team

EPA is working closely with the Northeast Tri County Health District, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Washington State Department of Health to decide how to most effectively do the cleanup. We will also work with affected Tribes in a government-to-government relationship.

EPA and involved agencies will also coordinate with local and county officials, and Northport residents and businesses. We will make every effort to listen to concerns, answer questions and address problems. We will also seek comments and ideas on how to do the cleanup quickly with the least amount of disruption to the community.

Mark Your Calendar – Community Open House on April 20, 2004

EPA plans to host a community open house on April 20, 2004. At the open house, EPA staff will talk about the project and next steps. There will be plenty of time for you to talk with the people who will be working on the project, provide suggestions, discuss concerns, and ask questions. To receive more information on the open house, please fill out the form at the end of this fact sheet to join our mailing list.



For More Information

Below are the people at EPA and state and local agencies who can answer questions and provide additional information.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

General information:

Deborah Neal, Community Involvement Coordinator
206-553-0115 or 800-424-4372
neal.deborah@epa.gov

Technical information:

Earl Liverman, On-Scene Coordinator
208-664-4845
liverman.earl@epa.gov

Andy Smith, On-Scene Coordinator
206-553-1750 or 800-424-4372
smith.andy@epa.gov

EPA Region 10 Website

www.epa.gov/r10earth/
click on **index A-Z**
click on **L**
click on **Le Roi Smelter**

For people with disabilities: Call **Deborah Neal** at **800-424-4372** if you have special requests for reasonable accommodation. TTY users may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

Washington State Department of Ecology:

Guy Gregory, Project Manager
509-329-3562
ggre461@ecy.wa.gov

Washington State Department of Health:

Lenford O'Garro, Site Health Assessor
360-236-3376
Lenford.O'Garro@DOH.WA.GOV

Northeast Tri County Health District:

Jim Matsuyama, Environmental Health Director
800-776-6207
jmatsu@netri.org



EPA will work as a team with the Northeast Tri County Health District, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Washington State Department of Health to clean up contamination at the former Le Roi Smelter and nearby properties.

Join the EPA Mailing List

If you would like to receive future fact sheets about EPA activities in Northport, please fill out this form and mail or fax it to the address below. You can also email your contact information to neal.deborah@epa.gov. Write in your email that you want to be on the mailing list for **Northport Activities**. **The next fact sheet will provide information on the community open house on April 20, 2004.**

Mail or Fax Form To:
Deborah Neal
U.S. EPA Region 10, ECO-081
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98019
Fax: 206-553-2955

OR

Email Contact Information To:
neal.deborah@epa.gov

Name:

Address:

Email:

What topics would you like to hear more about at the open house in April?
