



# Site Investigation Activities

## Barth Smelting Corporation

Newark, New Jersey

Community Update

March 2013

### SAMPLING DATES

EPA will be in your community collecting additional soil samples the week of March 25, 2013.

These additional soil samples will be collected from the unpaved and grassy areas throughout the Terrell Homes property. Additional sampling is being done to determine if historic operations conducted on and around the Terrell Homes have contaminated the soil with metals, specifically lead.

On Monday, March 25, 2013 a utility mark out will be conducted. Soil sampling will begin on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and continue through the week.

*Free blood lead screening is available Monday to Friday for children 0-6 years at the Newark Department of Child and Family Well Being (located in the WIC OFFICE, ask for the lead screening lab):*

**110 William Street  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**If you have any questions regarding the soil sampling, please contact the EPA toll free at:**

**1 (800) 346-5009**

Or visit EPA's website at:

[www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/BarthSmelting](http://www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/BarthSmelting)

### SITE INVESTIGATION

In December 2012 EPA sampled soil at the Terrell Homes playground area. Soil sampling results show that lead levels are above the EPA's Residential Screening Level of 400 parts per million (ppm) in surface and subsurface soils in the old playground areas at the Terrell Homes housing complex along Riverview Court. EPA will be in your community next week conducting additional sampling at the Terrell Homes.

### WHY IS MORE SAMPLING BEING DONE?

Soil samples will be collected from the unpaved and grassy areas throughout the Terrell Homes property to determine if historic operations conducted on and around this property have contaminated the soil.

In the past, a zinc smelting facility operated on the property that is now the Terrell Homes. This facility also operated on land now occupied by 99 Chapel Street and on a small portion of the Essex County Riverfront Park.

When the zinc facility closed, the buildings were demolished and the property was sub-divided. Currently a cargo securing facility operates at the 99 Chapel Street property; however, historical operators include General Lead & Battery, a storage battery manufacturing facility, and Barth Smelting, a secondary copper smelting facility.

### LEAD IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Secondary smelting plants re-refine scrap or used metals into metals of a higher purity. Zinc smelting and secondary copper smelting can be

**If you would like additional information, please contact:**

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**For health related questions, please call:**

Peter Dillon Jr  
City of Newark Health Department  
Director of Inspections  
Department of Child and Family  
Well-Being  
(973) 733-4315

Shonda Bryant  
City of Newark Health Department  
Childhood Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program Coordinator  
(973) 733-5323

responsible for releasing heavy metals into the surrounding environment. The smelting process itself can be a major source of lead emissions.

Lead acid storage batteries are produced from lead alloy ingots and lead oxide. Lead is the main pollutant present in the battery production industry.

**HISTORIC OPERATIONS**

The New Jersey Zinc and Iron Company, also known as the Newark Zinc Works, operated on the property now occupied by the Terrell Homes, the neighboring property at 99 Chapel Street, and a small portion of the Riverfront Park. The zinc facility was one of the first commercial zinc oxide plants in the United States and operated on this location from 1848 to 1910.

When New Jersey Zinc and Iron Company closed, the buildings were demolished and the property was then sub-divided into five lots and sold.

In the 1930s, General Lead & Battery, a battery manufacturing facility, operated on three of the five lots (known as 99 Chapel Street) that were formerly owned by New Jersey Zinc & Iron Company. From 1946 to 1982, Barth Smelting Corporation operated on the 99 Chapel Street property producing brass and bronze ingots and non-ferrous metals and alloys. Currently a cargo securing company operates on this property.