



Former Smelting Site Evaluated for Environmental Cleanup

Allied Smelting
West Allis, Wisconsin

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For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the former Allied Smelting site and EPA's investigation, contact these team members:

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Additional resources:

www.epa.gov/lead
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the cities of Milwaukee and West Allis to investigate the public health risks and environmental impacts of residual contamination from the former Allied Smelting Corp., or ASC. ASC operated a lead-acid battery recycling and smelting facility in the 5000 block of Lincoln Avenue from the 1950s to the 1980s. The facility has since been demolished and redeveloped into new businesses.

The investigation area includes a downwind section from ASC's smokestack, roughly defined as 700 feet to the southeast of the 5000 block of Lincoln Avenue. Experts believe the air pollution settled in this area. EPA and its partners are asking property owners in this section for permission to collect soil samples. The samples would be taken from small holes dug in yards up to 2-feet deep. A laboratory will then evaluate if arsenic, lead or zinc are present at levels that require cleanup. EPA officials will also try to find the source of elevated metal concentrations, whether the pollution comes from ASC, urban dust or lead paint. Sampling will be done at no cost to homeowners.

Historic contamination from smelting operations across the Midwest has been investigated over the past few years by various organizations, including EPA and state environmental and health agencies. This investigation builds upon previous ASC sampling to determine if residual contamination found around the former smelter site might pose a risk to neighbors. Similar studies are occurring at other smelter sites in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

EPA officials plan to complete the sampling before the ground freezes this winter. Once completed, EPA will determine if a cleanup is warranted.

If you are interested in having your property sampled, please contact Kathy Halbur (*contact information in the box to the left*). For additional information, contact any of the team members listed in the left-hand box.