

# Historic Potteries Site Public Meeting

February 21, 2024, 6:30PM

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# Agenda

- Introductions
- About EPA's Superfund Program
- EPA Initial Involvement in East Trenton – L.H. Mitchell Site
- Historic Potteries Site Background & History
- Current Activities including Grant Intermediate Sampling
- Exposure Pathway & Risk
- Next Steps
- Questions & Answers

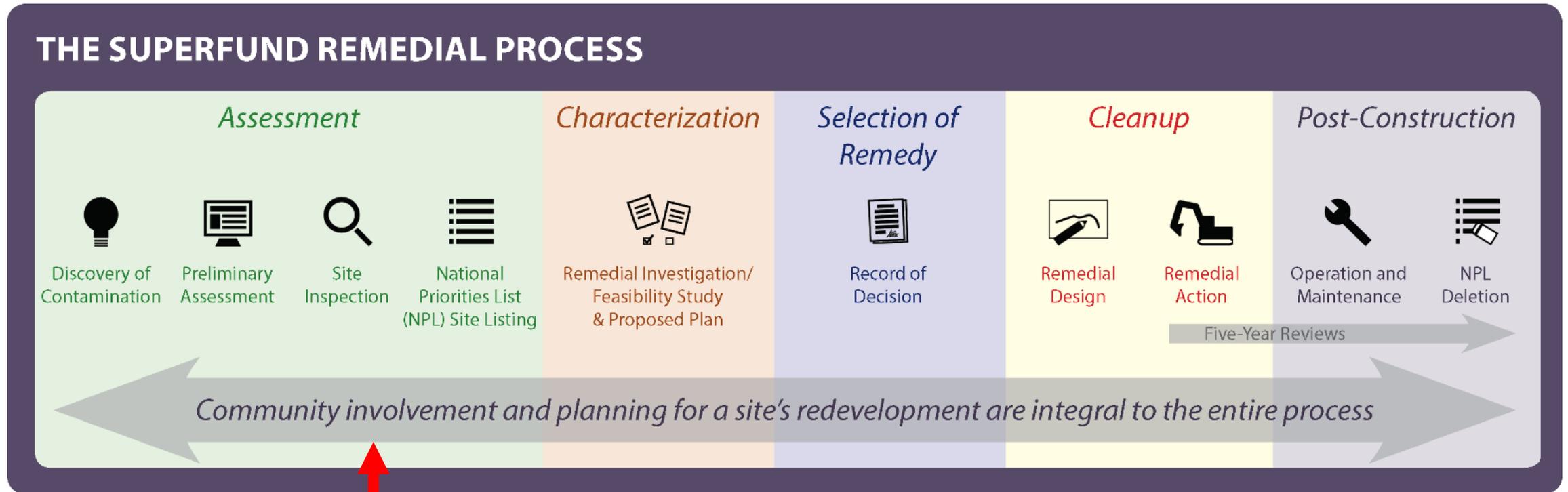
# What is Superfund?

- Congress established the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) in 1980
- CERCLA is sometimes informally referred to as “Superfund”
- EPA’s Superfund program is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation’s most contaminated sites and responding to environmental emergencies and natural disasters

# Superfund Removal and Remedial Programs

- Superfund has two sub-programs that study and address polluted sites:
  - **Removal Program:** for short-term responses to mitigate the most immediate threats to people's health or the environment
  - **Remedial Program:** for complex sites needing long-term response that are placed on the National Priorities List (NPL)
- For sites in the remedial program, EPA often employs the removal program to take immediate action
  - Removal actions can last days to several years while remedial actions often involve years of study and cleanup work to achieve full cleanup

# Superfund Remedial Process



Current status of Historic Potteries Site

NOTE: **removal actions** can occur at any time and simultaneously.

## Initial EPA Soil Investigation at L.H. Mitchell Site

2018: L.H. Mitchell lead solder facility was referred to EPA by NJDEP for assessment

2018 & 2019: EPA investigation of historic lead contamination in soil surrounding L.H. Mitchell

All sampled residential properties besides background locations contained lead at the surface (0-2 in.)  $\geq 200$  parts per million (ppm)

L.H. Mitchell site was ineligible for a removal action due to the elevated levels of lead being unattributable to the facility

# Historic Sources of Lead in Soil

**Automobile Emissions**



**Lead-Based Paint**



**Fill**



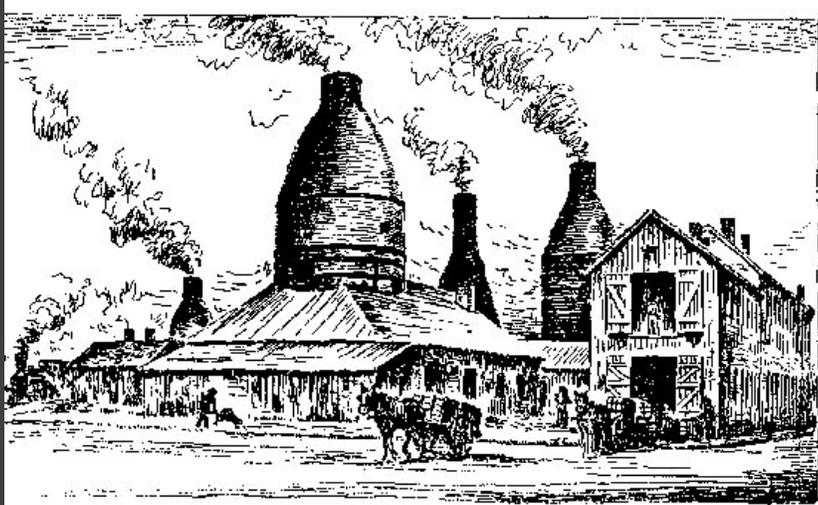
**Industrial Emissions**



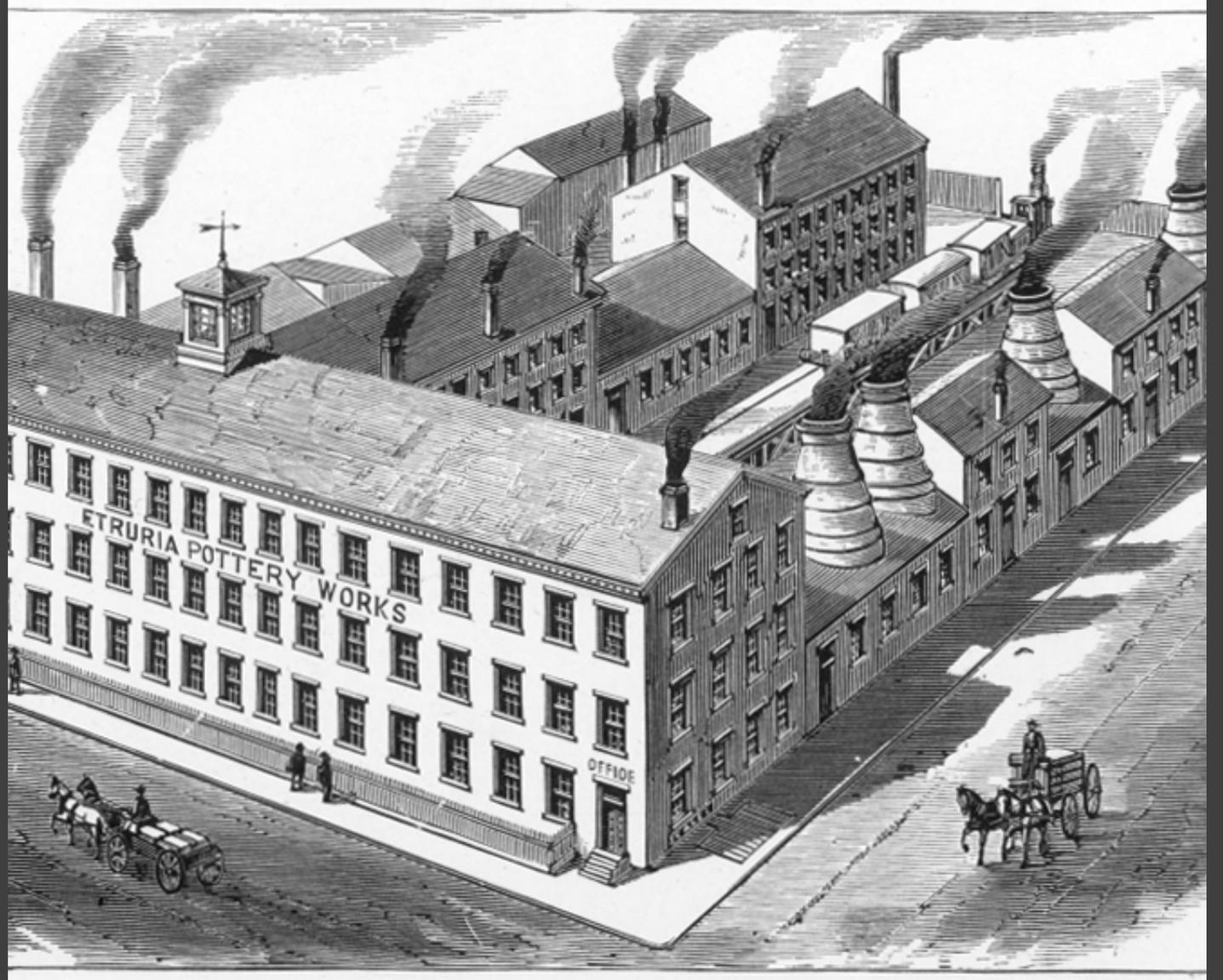


# Historic Potteries Industry

- **Ceramics Manufacturing – historically, predominant industry in East Trenton**
  - About 80 locations throughout the city identified from historic maps, about ½ large scale-operations
  - Over 30 locations identified in East Trenton/Top Road that may have impacted residential properties
- From 1850s grew steadily until its peak in the 1920s; began decline afterwards



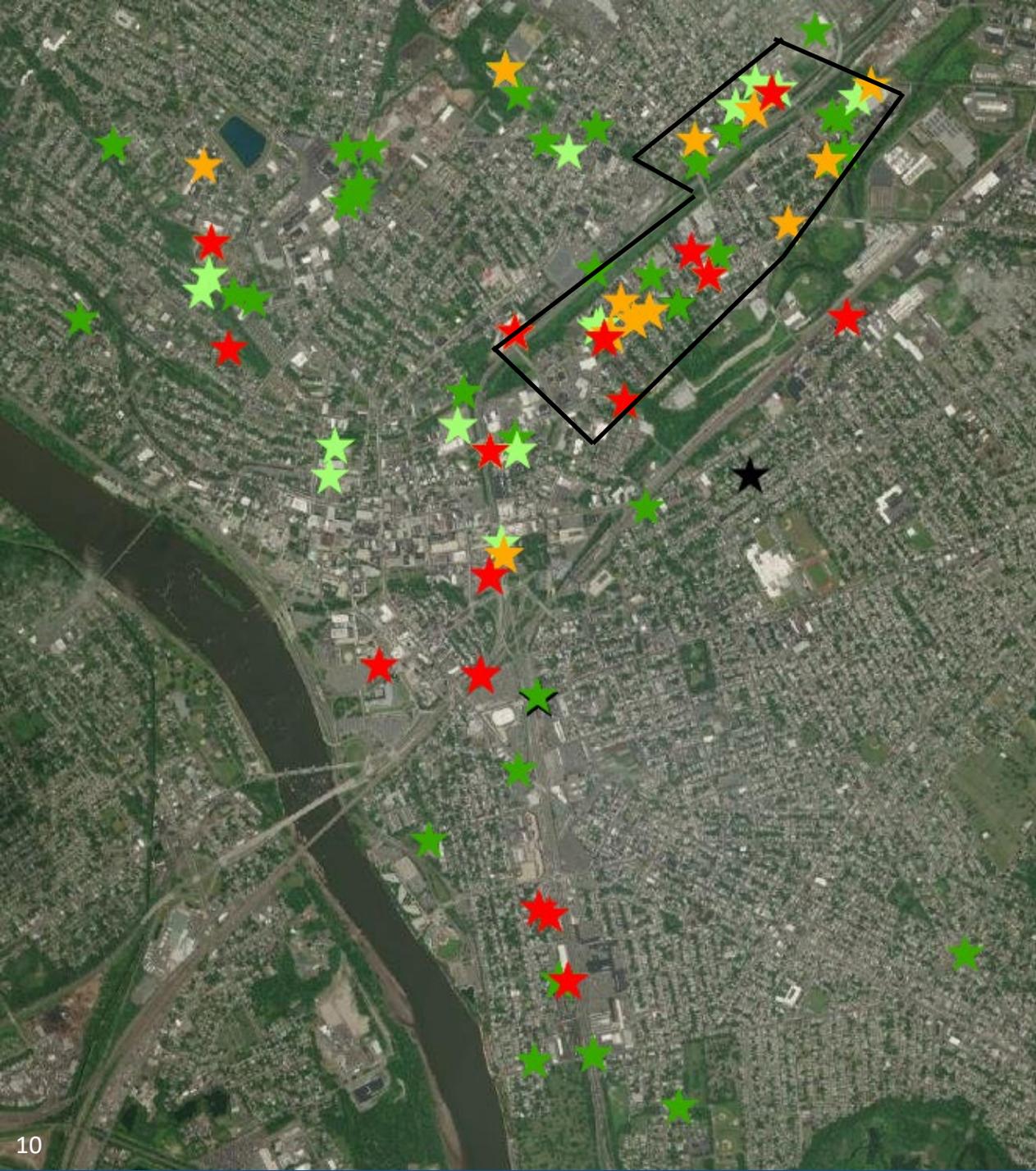
TAYLOR AND SPEELER'S POTTERY, CIRCA 1852



# Identified Pottery Locations

**≈30 Pottery Locations Identified in East Trenton & Top Road Neighborhoods**

**≈80 Pottery Locations Identified throughout Trenton**



## Historic Potteries Site Attribution Study

NJDEP referral in January 2020, study conducted from 2020 - 2023

Ceramic materials from these potteries found in residential soils at varying frequencies

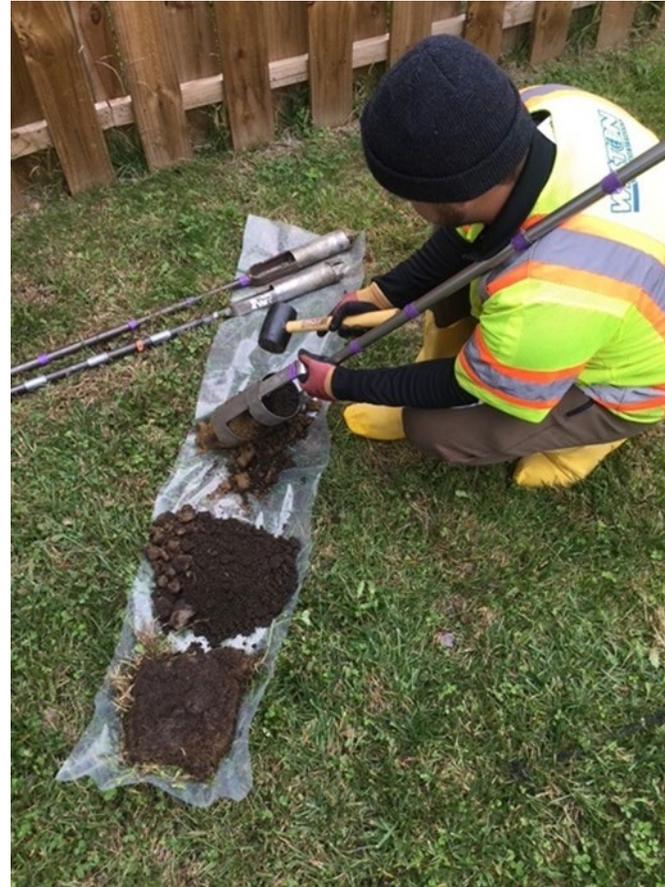
Found relationship between soil and ceramic chips from potteries and residential properties

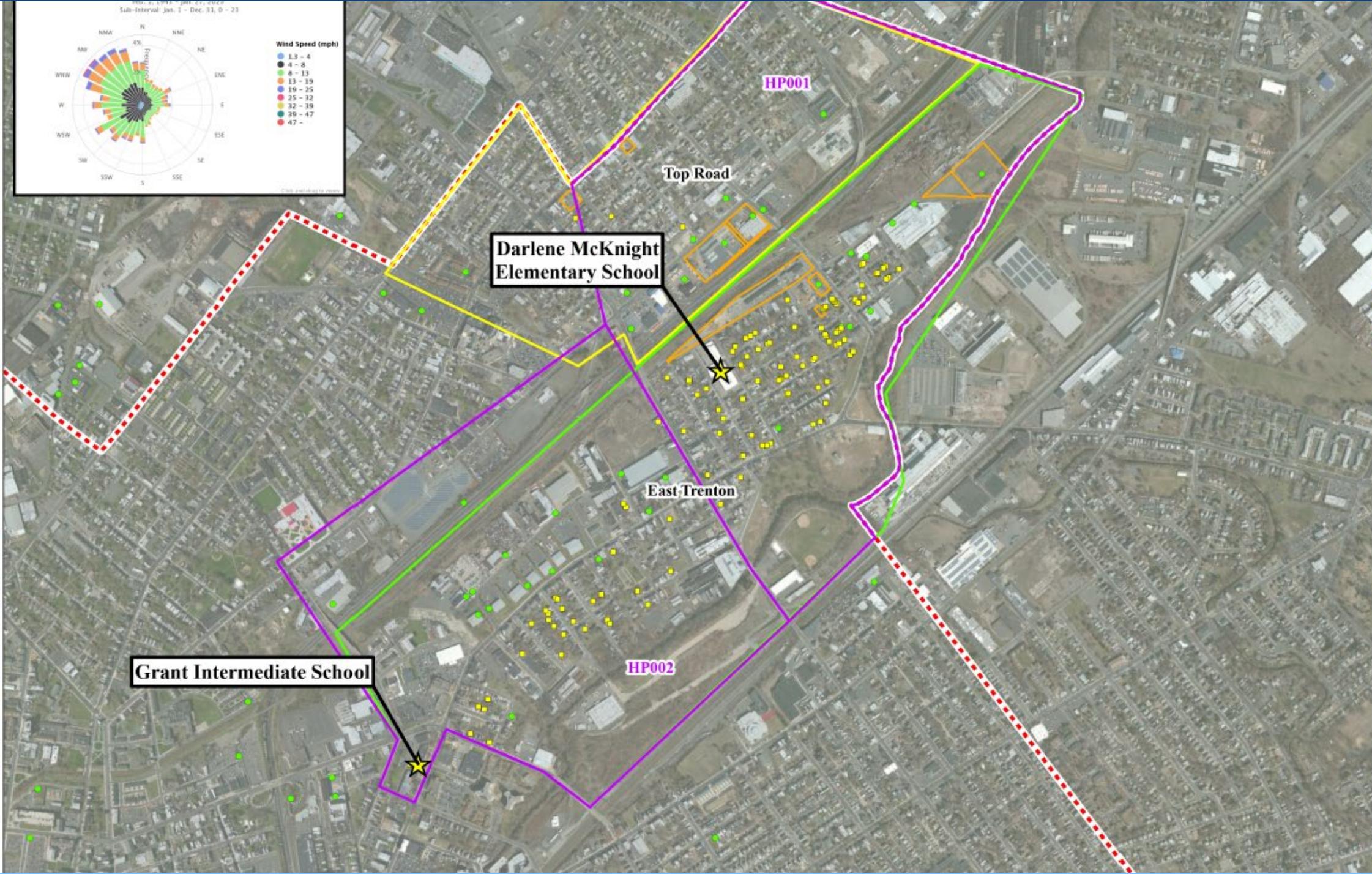
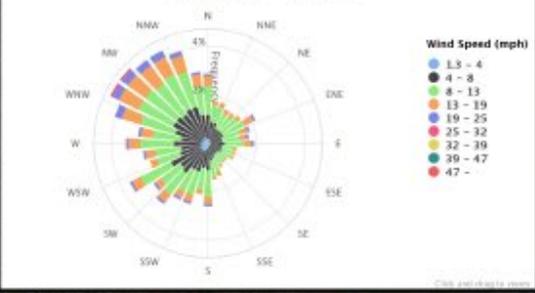
Non-CERCLA sources ruled out as the main sources of lead

Pottery fill and airborne releases from the kilns significantly contributed to the lead contamination

# Current Activities

- **Outreach and Public Education**
  - Over 900 homes in East Trenton
- **Soil Sampling**
  - 100+ homes sampled
  - Two schools
  - Three parks
- **Removal Action Preparation**
  - Prepare resident results letters
  - Interim actions at high-risk properties
- **Community Meetings**
  - School faculty meeting held on 2/2
  - Availability session held on 2/9
  - Community meeting at Grant Intermediate today
  - Board of Education meeting 2/26/24 at 5:30 PM





SCALE  
1:10,800

- LEGEND
- Sampled Properties
  - Sampled School Locations
  - East Trenton Sampled Industrial Property
  - Historic Potteries
  - Historic Pottery Areas
  - Top Road
  - East Trenton
  - Trenton Boundary



Figure 1: HP001 and HP002 Sampled Properties

Historic Potteries Site  
Trenton, New Jersey

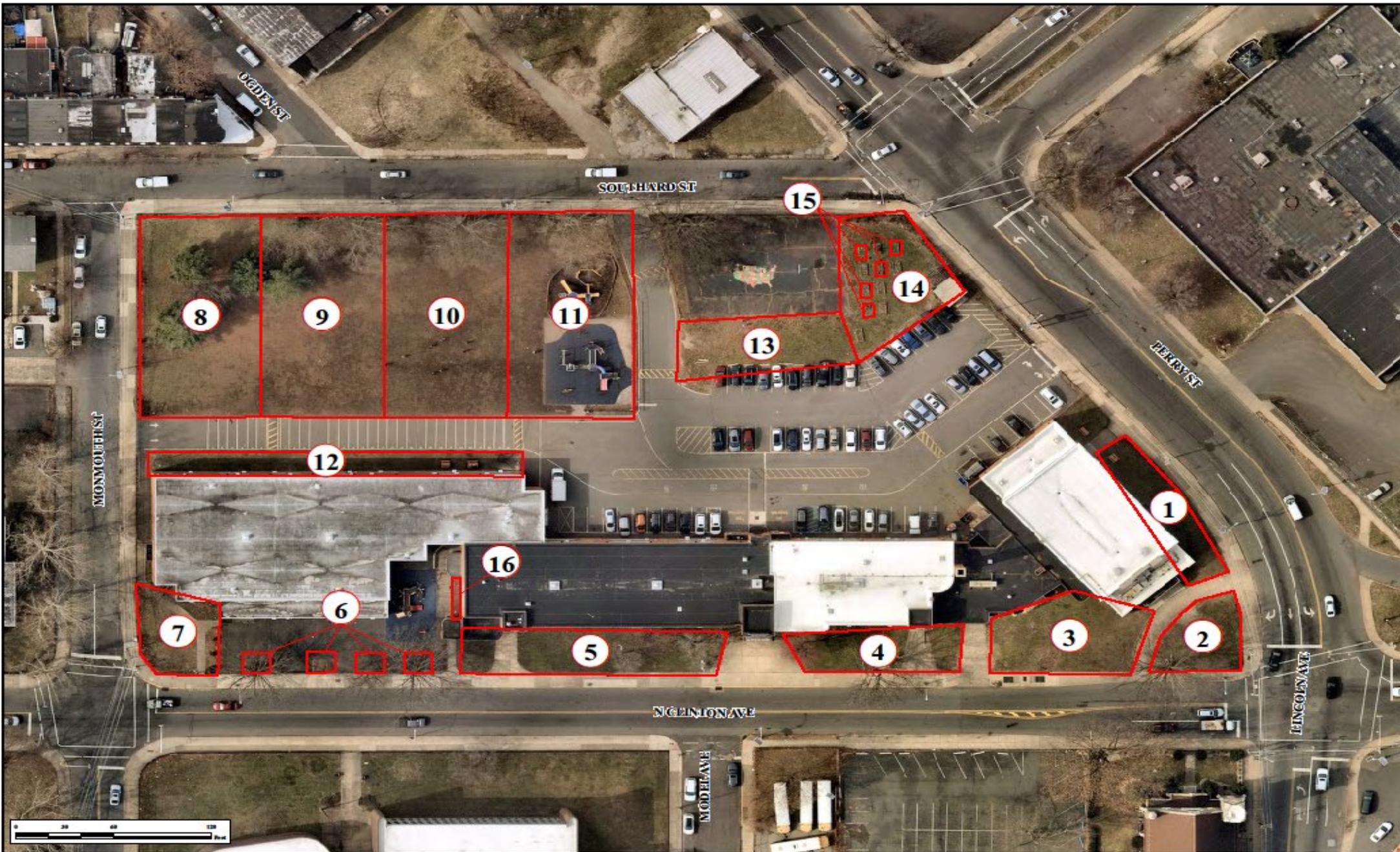
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
SUPERFUND TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE TEAM V  
CONTRACT # 68HE0319D0004

Weston Solutions, Inc.  
Federal East Division

In Association With  
Eco-Risk, Avator Environmental, LLC,  
Pro-West & Associates, Inc.,  
On-Site Environmental, Inc.,  
Sovereign Consulting, Inc.,  
and TechLaw Consultants, Inc.

GIS ANALYST:	K. HEULITT
EPA OSC:	J. PETTY
STATE V SPM:	M. LANG
CHARGE #:	40200051 950 5145





SCALE

1:720

LEGEND

Assessment Quad

SOURCE:  
 Newsmap www.newsmap.com. Imagery Date: 2/27/21



FIGURE 1: GRANT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL AERIAL PLAN

Historic Potteries  
 Trenton, New Jersey

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
 PROTECTION AGENCY  
 SUPERFUND TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT  
 & RESPONSE TEAM V  
 CONTRACT # 681801150004

Weston Solutions, Inc.

In Association With  
 Eco-Risk, Avaster Environmental, LLC,  
 Pro-West & Associates, Inc.,  
 On-Site Environmental, Inc.,  
 Sovereign Consulting, Inc.

CREATED BY:	K. BELLETTI
DATE:	1/11/2024
BY:	J. PETTY
DATE:	1/11/2024
BY:	M. LARSON
DATE:	01/30/2024 Grant Intermediate Aerial plan
FIGURE:	1
REVISION:	0
DATE MODIFIED:	11/17/2024



# Grant School Results

- **Soil samples collected from 16 areas or “quadrants”**
- **Lead concentrations highest within top 6”**
  - Average lead concentration in the top 2 inches of soil property wide is **312 ppm**
  - Average lead concentration in the top 2 inches of soil in the play areas is **224 ppm**
  - Average lead concentration in the garden beds is **92 ppm**
- The **RML** is a screening number used to help prioritize and define areas that may be eligible for a removal action

**EPA Removal Management Level (RML) for lead = 200ppm**

# Grant School Results

- Exposure factors include **concentration, duration, age, and pathway**
  - Exposure pathways: **Ingestion and inhalation**
- Health risks from lead evaluated differently for adults and kids
  - Children more vulnerable to effects of lead exposure
- Risk to children and staff evaluated using blood lead level models
  - Estimates risk of elevated blood lead levels from multiple exposure pathways
- **EPA is taking immediate action to make sure the youngest children using the school are protected from elevated soil concentrations**

# Grant School – Next Steps

- **Interim Actions to make sure school is safe for those who use it most**
- Access temporarily restricted to soil areas until protective measures installed
- **EPA is working to open plays areas**
  - Clean cover material to be installed in main play areas first
  - Fencing around low use areas
- Actions to be implemented by EPA over next several weeks

# Overall Site Next Steps

## • February/March 2024

- Begin interim action at Ulysses S. Grant Intermediate School
- Receive validated data and deliver results letters to residents
- Conduct meetings with Board of Education, Faculty, and Parents about school actions
- Conduct additional residential sampling in East Trenton as requested

## • Throughout 2024 - 2025

- Interim actions to address highest risk properties: schools, parks, and residences
- Review data to determine NPL eligibility
- If eligible, propose site for listing, then address public comments

## • Future, if Site is Listed on NPL

- Begin characterization (RI/FS) & remedy selection
- Investigate other areas where historic potteries operated
- Record of Decision to perform remedial actions

Community involvement to occur during all activities

# EPA SITE TEAM

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**Website:**  
[response.epa.gov/Historic\\_Potteries](https://response.epa.gov/Historic_Potteries)

## QUESTIONS?