

Minutes for Jewett White Lead Co. April 16, 2009 –

EPA On-Scene Coordinators noted that Site stabilization activities began at 2000 Richmond Terrace on Monday, April 6th. These activities included reinforcing the fence to ensure no further access to trespassers, the installation of sediment and erosion controls (silt fencing with haybales) along the perimeter of the property, and the covering of the soil piles on site with poly sheeting.

On Thursday, April 9th, grass seed was spread throughout the entire site. The growth of grass will hold soil in place and act as a cover to prevent any further migration of wind-blown lead-contaminated dust.

During all site activities personnel monitoring devices were worn by contractors to determine if they are being exposed to lead. All personnel monitors have been non-detect for lead. Particulate monitors placed in upwind and downwind locations have indicated that no fugitive dust emissions occurred during site activities.

The property owner plans to mulch the site to prevent any dust emissions. There are also plans to remove sediments and dust from the sidewalks and gutter line immediately adjacent to the property. EPA anticipates that this activity will take place early the week of April 20th. (***This work was completed April 20th***).

Lead hazard signs have been ordered and will be placed along the perimeter fencing. (***This work was completed Friday, April 16***).

EPA will be developing a plan to conduct off-site sampling to determine whether lead has migrated from the Site. An assessment will also take place at the property across the street from 2000 Richmond Terrace, the remaining portion of the footprint of the former Jewett White Lead facility.

EPA has met with property owner and has plans to meet with the former operator of the facility to discuss the future removal action at the Site.

EPA Toxicologist reported that from a positive standpoint, the scientific and public health professions know a great deal about the health effects of (lead) Pb in both children and adults - and that we learn more each day. We also know a lot about the major routes of exposure associated with environmental Pb contamination.

Pb is a multi media contaminant: it's in the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. Another less obvious exposure route is from lead in settled dust and soil that gets incidentally ingested when kids contact contaminated surfaces/soil then engage in mouthing activity.

So when we learned about the Pb contamination at the Jewett site and after consulting with our sister agency ATSDR, our first actions were directed at minimizing exposure to soil and settled dust by fencing the property and installing wind screens and surface covers.

Additional focus will be placed on tracking the spatial extent of contamination from the site and assessing public health impact. As we move off site and gather data to determine the presence of off-site contamination, these sampling results will also need to be compared to background levels and health-based benchmarks (400 ppm for residential properties with bare soil or play areas; and 1,200 ppm for areas with less intensive exposure potential).

Also stated at the meeting was that the exposure potential for a person waiting for the bus (even on a routine basis) would be small and in and of itself there was little public health need to move or close the bus stop. ***(The bus stop area on Richmond Avenue was cleaned on April 16 to address high lead levels found there previously. Subsequent to this cleaning, EPA observed no run-off from the site during recent heavy rain events indicating that the sediment and erosion controls installed by the property owner are effective and that there is low likelihood for recontamination of this area. This area will be resampled as part of the off-site sampling being planned.)***

NYCDOHMM noted that childhood lead poisoning is an issue in the Port Richmond area that may be associated to exposure to lead-based paint and other sources of lead. They are in the process of finalizing a fact sheet on "Lead Poisoning Prevention" and performing outreach in the community informing residents of places where they can go to get tested - Clinic on Port Richmond offering low fees or waiving fees for those that have no insurance. There was also mention of an FQHC Beacon Clinic where people can be tested.

Upcoming

We are still in the planning stages for the "Community Meeting" since it is important that the issues of lead contamination from the site vs. neighborhood lead issues are addressed by appropriate agencies. EPA will be working closely with the health agencies to ensure we coordinate all public information and community involvement efforts. We anticipate having the meeting sometime in May and will work with Debi Rose to ensure an appropriate location (Port Richmond High School).