



Soil Cleanup of Residential and Common-Use Areas in Northport, Washington

Region 10

August 2020

During the next couple of months, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will clean up the soil on 16 properties located within Northport town limits. EPA has determined that this cleanup is warranted to address a threat to people's health from exposure to lead in their soil. EPA is working with property owners, the Mayor of Northport, and the Northport Town Council to schedule and conduct soil cleanup activities.

Cleanup Plans

In August, EPA will begin the soil cleanup in the town of Northport. With the consent of property owners, cleanup will begin at residential properties and common use areas. Common use areas include the Lyn Kaste Gould Memorial Park, the lawn at the Northport Community Library, the play area at the Northport Community Garden, the lawn at the Northport American Legion vacant lot, and the lawn at the Northport Welcome Center. EPA estimates the entire cleanup to take 8 to 10 weeks. Work will be done during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

While the cleanup is taking place, you will see construction equipment such as dump trucks, excavators, graders, and water trucks working in town. EPA and its contractors will make every effort to be a good neighbor while the project is under way.

As we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 situation, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about conducting cleanup activities are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state and tribal partners, and contractors as the priority.

Therefore, decisions about conducting on-site activities will be made on a case-by-case basis. We are working closely with our local, state and tribal partners to evaluate options for conducting site work or securing sites, especially in areas where local health declarations are in effect due to COVID-19. EPA will continue to coordinate with the NE Tri-County Health District regarding the cleanup work to be conducted within the Northport town limits.

Controlling Dust

EPA and its contractors will control dust where cleanup activities are taking place. They will apply water to surfaces and air monitoring instruments will be placed at the properties being cleaned up to ensure dust is controlled effectively.

Background information

Areas for soil removal were identified based on an October 2019 review of 2004 data reports of properties within Northport town limits with lead levels near or above 700 ppm (parts per million). When these areas were first evaluated in 2004, cleanup was not conducted because EPA's removal action level at the time was 1,000 ppm.

The threshold of 700 ppm is the same level EPA used when working with Teck American to clean up 18 residential properties outside of Northport town limits from 2015 – 2018. Use of this lower threshold represents advances in scientific understanding of the adverse developmental effects of lead to young children and babies.

EPA's October 2019 reevaluation documented the condition and layout of each of the properties identified in 2004. This included interviews with each property owner about changes to property use since the 2003/2004 soil sampling. Cleanup actions will focus on lawns, gardens and play areas with a high likelihood of exposure to contaminated soil. Based on possible use changes, EPA collected and analyzed additional soil samples to better delineate the contaminated area. The results of the October 2019 removal site evaluation provide the information that supports the planned time critical removal action.

Contact information on next page. ➔

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the following people:

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General Information

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Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, call Kay Morrison at 206-553-8321.

TTY users, call the Federal Relay Service at 808-877-8339 and ask for Kay at 206-553-8321.



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