

# Soil pollution at Upper Columbia River properties



Region 10

Northport, WA  
October 2015

## ***Learn about metals in soil, EPA soil cleanup, and expanded sampling for 2016***

WHERE: **Northport School Cafeteria**, 404 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Northport, WA 99157

WHEN: **Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 pm**

### **Share your concerns and questions**

EPA will discuss our recent findings from residential soil sampling, and results from the separate upland soil study. Both studies found some elevated levels of lead and arsenic in soils. We will talk about the soil cleanup currently underway, and discuss residential soil sampling planned for 2016.

### **Residential soil testing**

*We sampled residential soil to determine if there are levels of lead and arsenic from smelter emissions in the soil around residential properties that may cause a concern to people.*

Based on its soil tests in undisturbed areas near the border, Washington Department of Ecology asked the EPA to accelerate planned residential soil sampling. For residents and property owners who volunteered, EPA sampled soil between Northport and the U.S./Canada border (see map on the next page) in the fall of 2014. Letters with results of the sampling were mailed to property owners in early March.

### **Results of the residential study**

*There are properties in the sampling area that are above both the state and federal screening numbers and some are significantly above these screening numbers. Properties with levels of lead in the soil above 590 parts per million are scheduled to have those areas of their properties cleaned up this year.*

The EPA national screening level for lead is 400 ppm. The State of Washington has a cleanup level of 250 ppm. The State of Washington level for arsenic is 20 ppm. We consider results below these levels to be safe for everyone living on a property, including children and pregnant women. Results above a screening level are not necessarily cause for concern. For results above these levels, we evaluate the land use, exposure concerns, and other site-specific factors to determine what actions to take.

**The study area will be expanded and additional voluntary soil sampling will be offered in 2016.**

### **Upland soil testing**

*The purpose of the upland study was to determine if there are levels of metals in the soil that may cause concern for people, as well as for plants and wildlife.*

As part of the broader Upper Columbia River Investigation, randomly selected locations within the defined area between China Bend and the U.S./Canada border (see map on the next page) were sampled. Property owners provided access voluntarily for the purpose of sampling their soil.

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*Please join us to learn more:*

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WHEN: Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 pm

*For information, please contact:*

Kay Morrison, Community Involvement Coordinator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

206-553-8321, or toll free at 800-424-4372 ex8321



Region 10  
1200 6th Avenue Suite #900 ETPA-202-4  
Seattle, WA 98101

October 2015

PRE-SORTED STANDARD  
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U.S. EPA  
PERMIT NO. G-35  
SEATTLE, WA

## Soil study results for Upper Columbia River properties

### *Please join us*

... at the Northport School on Thursday evening, **October 1, at 6:30 pm.**

Representatives from EPA will present:

- What is the Upper Columbia River Investigation?
- The purpose and results of the residential soil sampling,
- What it means to you and your neighbors,
- Ongoing soil removals,
- Expanded soil sampling in 2016

And we'll hear your concerns and answer your questions.

