

WORKING TOWARDS POSITIVE PROGRESS
IN THE PLACE WE CALL HOME.



ARCO TO REMEDIATE 467 YARDS

The 1996 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Community Soils Operable Unit (CSOU) established removal and backfill standards for soils showing elevated arsenic concentrations in residential and commercial properties within the Anaconda Smelter NPL site. Residential soils exceeding an arsenic concentration of 250 parts per million (ppm) and commercial soils exceeding 500 ppm were removed and replaced with clean soil. A protective cover; appropriate for the original use of the property (e.g. sod/seeding, concrete, gravel, etc.) was installed to prevent recontamination.

“ On Thursday, June 1st from 6:00-8:00pm at the Metcalf Senior Center, representatives from the EPA, DEQ, and Atlantic Richfield Company will share information and answer questions about Superfund yard cleanups. ”

A protective cover was also installed along the active railroad line in Anaconda to limit the transmission of contaminants. During the development of the work plan, priority was designated for yards or areas frequented by children. Between 2002 and 2010 roughly 1,740 properties were sampled, 350 of which required remedial action. During this time, 39 acres of commercial properties were also cleaned up. As part of the CSOU work plan, institutional controls were created to permit future development within CSOU and provide educational opportunities to the community.

Data collected in 2007 and 2008 identified health and safety risks with regard to lead

concentrations that were not previously addressed during the arsenic soil remediation. A few years later, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lowered the “level of concern” for blood lead levels (BLL) from 10 micrograms (mg)/deciliter (dL) to 5mg/dL. This was done in response to overwhelming scientific evidence indicating the serious adverse health effects of blood lead levels greater than 5mg/dL, especially in children.



In response to this data, the EPA conducted a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) in 2012 to develop and evaluate the changes necessary to ensure the health and safety of humans and wildlife living in the Anaconda Smelter NPL site in regards to lead concentrations in residential soils.

In 2013, the original 1996 ROD for CSOU was amended to include the removal of soils exceeding lead concentrations of 400 ppm for residential soils. The amendment also included the sampling and remediation of attic dust when an exposure pathway exists; an exposure pathway could be a utilized attic or ceiling cracks.

The new CSOU work plan was approved in November of 2015, and included the resampling of residential soils for lead, as well as arsenic at lower depths than those established in the 1996 ROD. Samples from previously tested properties were reassessed and those that showed lead soil concentrations of 400 ppm or greater were identified as priority yards. Approximately

1,130 priority yards were identified and, to date, 500 of these yards have been resampled. Of these sampled priority yards, roughly 52 were cleaned up; the majority of which were located in Opportunity. Under the new work plan, remediation includes removing contaminated soil, replacing it with clean soil, and installing an appropriate cap (i.e. sod/seeding, pavement, gravel, etc.).

During the 2017 construction season, Atlantic Richfield Company – the responsible party of the Anaconda Smelter NPL site – plans to cleanup 467 of the residential yards that were sampled in 2016. In addition, 500 more priority yards will be sampled. Yards sampled in 2017 that require remediation will be cleaned up during the 2018 construction season. All remaining priority yards will be sampled in 2018 with remediation occurring in 2019. **Following the conclusion of all remedial action addressing the 1,130 priority yards, Atlantic Richfield Company will test residential yards located within the Superfund Planning Area by request of the property owner beginning in 2019 until 2021.** A map illustrating the boundaries of the Superfund Planning Area is available on the EPA website.

The Arrowhead Foundation will be hosting a **community meeting to provide residents additional information about the Community Soils Operable Unit.** The meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 1st from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the Metcalf Senior Center (115 E Pennsylvania Ave.)** The following agencies have been invited to participate in this community meeting: Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8; Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Atlantic Richfield Company; and Anaconda-Deer Lodge County.

Questions and comments regarding CSOU or other Superfund issues in the Anaconda Smelter NPL site are welcomed by the Arrowhead Foundation. Residents may also direct questions to the EPA Project Manager, Charlie Coleman, at (406) 457-5038.

PUBLIC SURVEY

We need your input!

The Arrowhead Foundation released the Superfund Community Engagement survey to better understand how residents access local news with the intent of creating more effective strategies for informing the community of Superfund activities.

You can access the 16 question, anonymous survey on our website, anacondasuperfund.com. Contact our office for non-digital copies of the survey.

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