Message

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Sent: 4/14/2017 2:53:22 PM
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Subject: USS Lead - Press

East Chicago press clips
US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs
April 13, 2017

Chicago Tribune — **Bill to assist East Chicago headed to governor**
NW Times — **State assistance to East Chicago likely to continue**

http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-east-chicago-harris-bill-st-0413-20170412-story.html
Bill to assist East Chicago headed to governor
Craig Lyons Post-Tribune
An East Chicago legislator's bill to help address lead and arsenic contamination in the city is moving forward to the governor.
A bill entered by Earl Harris, Jr., D-East Chicago, is aimed at securing more resources for East Chicago to help address contamination issues both at the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site and the city as a whole. Both the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives passed the bill and it was sent to Gov. Eric Holcomb for his signature Wednesday.
"I cannot express my happiness that we were able to help the residents of East Chicago, who did not create the problem but have been unfortunate victims of it," Harris said, in a statement.
Harris' bill would compel the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to assist with clean up of the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site and test soil and water throughout the city; have the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority to work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to relocate residents of West Calumet; and push IDEM to do more thorough testing of the city's water.
Harris lauded Holcomb's attention to addressing the contamination issues in East Chicago, including a disaster declaration the governor signed in February — a request that former governor and Vice President Mike Pence denied.
Holcomb's disaster declaration will bolster efforts to assist residents affected by lead and arsenic contamination around the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site. As a part of that declaration, state officials would ask the EPA for funding to replace lead pipes at the Superfund site.
At Holcomb's direction, Indiana state agencies have already begun providing assistance to the city, including relocation assistance for the residents of the West Calumet Housing Complex and pledging to provide water filters to residents in the remainder of the Superfund site.

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/state-assistance-to-east-chicago-likely-to-continue/article_c3ab5eaa-6a35-5345-aaf3-a556a4c8a6a7.html

2017 Indiana General Assembly
State assistance to East Chicago likely to continue

- Dan Carden dan.carden@nwi.com, 317-637-9078
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- Apr 12, 2017 Updated 14 hrs ago INDIANAPOLIS — The General Assembly is sending legislation to Gov. Eric Holcomb that has the effect of indefinitely continuing portions of his emergency order providing enhanced state assistance to lead-impacted areas of East Chicago.
The Indiana House voted 81-0 Wednesday to advance House Enrolled Act 1344 to the governor. It previously passed the Senate, 48-0.

  If signed into law, East Chicago neighborhoods contaminated by past lead manufacturing operations would be designated "areas of special concern."

  State agencies would continue working in those areas with their federal counterparts to relocate residents and remove or remediate soil tainted by lead or arsenic.

  In addition, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management would be required to annually test East Chicago's water supply to confirm it complies with federal lead and copper limits for drinking water.

  The sponsor, state Rep. Earl Harris Jr., D-East Chicago, said he's grateful that lawmakers from across Indiana unanimously agreed to aid his hometown.

  "I cannot express my happiness that we were able to help the residents of East Chicago, who did not create the problem, but have been unfortunate victims of it," Harris said.

  Holcomb and the Region's representatives in Congress are scheduled on April 19 to tour East Chicago with Scott Pruitt, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.