Message

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Sent: 12/19/2017 5:42:26 PM
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Subject: USS Lead - Press

East Chicago press clips
US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs
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Northwest Indiana Times **6 companies ordered to continue cleanup of USS Lead site at estimated cost of $26.25 million**
Post Tribune **EPA orders companies blamed for East Chicago contamination to pay for cleanup**
AP **EPA Orders 6 Companies to Clean up East Chicago Soil, Dust**

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/companies-ordered-to-continue-cleanup-of-uss-lead-site-at/article_3ba70c59-0af7-5b15-8f82-2504717760 8e.html#tracking-source=home-trending

6 companies ordered to continue cleanup of USS Lead site at estimated cost of $26.25 million

- *Northwest Indiana Times, Sarah Reese, Dec 18, 2017*

EAST CHICAGO — The U.S Environmental Protection Agency said Monday it issued two unilateral administrative orders to six companies to clean up soil and indoor dust at the USS Lead Superfund site.
The soil cleanup ordered for zone 2 — the second of three residential cleanup areas at the Superfund site — could cost the potentially responsible parties $24 million, EPA said. Indoor dust cleanup in zones 2 and 3 was projected to cost $2.25 million.
The potentially responsible parties include USS Lead, Atlantic Richfield Co., E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., The Chemours Co., U.S. Metals Refining Co. and Mueller Industries.
EPA completed soil cleanups at 109 properties in zone 2 this year and cleaned indoor dust at more than 64 homes with funds from a $16 million March 2017 administrative settlement agreement with Atlantic Richfield, DuPont, Chemours and Metals Refining. The agreement expires early next year.
The new administrative orders direct the companies to continue soil cleanup in zone 2 and indoor dust cleanup in zones 2 and 3, EPA said.
"The soil cleanup in zone 2 is expected to satisfy all of the requirements outlined in EPA's 2012 Record of Decision," according to a news release. "EPA will also ensure that the potentially responsible parties follow agency protocol on interior dust sampling and cleanup."
The federal agency also plans to continue soil cleanups in zone 2 under a $26 million consent decree in 2014. The consent decree covered soil cleanups in zones 1 and 3.
EPA last week said the estimated cost for soil cleanup in zones 2 and 3 has nearly quadrupled from $22.8 million in 2012 to $84.9 million, according to a proposed explanation of significant differences document.
The latest estimated costs do not include indoor dust cleanup or excavation work in zone 1, the site of the now-empty West Calumet Housing Complex.
Excavation work in zone 1 has been put on hold as the East Chicago Housing Authority prepares to demolish the complex and EPA continues work on a revised feasibility study.
EPA said the remedy, originally selected in a 2012 Record of Decision, for zone 1 will change along with the estimated cost. Therefore, the agency plans to document the changes in a Record of Decision amendment.
EPA started a 60-day comment period Monday on the estimated cost increase. The agency also plans to schedule a public meeting next month.
The agency also is accepting public comments on a proposed $22.6 million plan to clean up and mitigate exposures at the former DuPont industrial site, which is southeast of zones 2 and 3.

Several residents have been fighting for a say in court on the 2014 consent decree for the USS Lead site. Oral arguments on their motion to intervene are scheduled for 1 p.m. Jan. 16 before U.S. District Judge Philip Simon.
EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Dec. 8 named the USS Lead site to a list of 21 Superfund sites in the U.S. to be targeted for "immediate and intense attention."
http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-east-chicago-epa-orders-st-1219-20171218-story.html

EPA orders companies blamed for East Chicago contamination to pay for cleanup
Post Tribune, Craig Lyons, Dec. 18, 2017

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered companies blamed for contamination in East Chicago to take over the cleanup of part of the Calumet neighborhood.
The EPA on Monday announced it filed two unilateral administrative orders against six companies held responsible for the contamination in East Chicago's Calumet neighborhood, which is a part of the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site.
The orders would compel the companies – U.S.S. Lead, Atlantic Richfield Co., DuPont, Chemours, United States Metals Refining Co. and Mueller Industries – to remediate contaminated soil in Zone 2, which runs from McCook to Huish Drive, and do indoor dust cleaning in that area and Zone 3, which runs east of Huish. The EPA said its staff will oversee the contractors the companies hire to do the work.
"We continue to make cleaning up East Chicago a priority, to protect the health and well-being of the residents who live in the impacted areas," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruittin a statement.
The EPA estimated the companies will have to pay $24 million for the remediation, according to the announcement, and $2.25 million for the indoor dust cleaning.
The new agreements come almost a week after the EPA said the costs to remove contaminated soil from two neighborhoods on the Superfund site could quadruple from what was initially estimated.
The EPA said the cost anticipated for the two residential zones of the Calumet neighborhood are expected to increase from the estimated $22.8 million to an estimated $84.9 million.
The EPA said it based the initial cost estimate on sampling done at 7 percent of the homes in those two residential areas, according to documents, but now that testing has been done at 90 percent of the properties, the data showed more the remediate would require more resources.
The EPA's remediation plan for zones 2 and 3 includes excavation of contaminated soil to a maximum depth of 24 inches; disposal of the contaminated material; and restoring the yards once new soil is filled in, according to EPA documents.
The U.S.S. Lead Superfund site is one of 21 that Pruitt put on a list of sites in need of immediate and intense attention.
Pruitt visited East Chicago in April and it was the first Superfund site he had went to after taking office.
Pruitt last week put the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site on a list of 21 sites across the county in need of immediate and intense attention, according to a press release.
"Getting toxic land sites cleaned up and revitalized is of the utmost importance to the communities across the country that are affected by these sites," Pruitt said, in a statement. "I have charged the Superfund Task Force to immediately and intently develop plans for each of these sites to ensure they are thoughtfully addressed with urgency."

https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/indiana/articles/2017-12-18/epa-orders-6-companies-to-clean-up-east-chicago-soil-dust

EPA Orders 6 Companies to Clean up East Chicago Soil, Dust
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is ordering six companies to clean up contaminated soil and indoor dust at a federal Superfund site in northwestern Indiana.
AP Dec. 18, 2017
EAST CHICAGO, Ind. (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is ordering six companies to clean up contaminated soil and indoor dust at a federal Superfund site in northwestern Indiana.
The EPA said Monday it issued two unilateral administrative orders for residential areas slated for cleanups in East Chicago's USS Lead Superfund site.
The (Northwest Indiana) Times reports the agency says the soil cleanups could cost about $24 million, while the indoor dust cleanups could cost about $2.25 million.
Potentially responsible parties include USS Lead, Atlantic Richfield Co., E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., The Chemours Co., U.S. Metals Refining Co. and Mueller Industries.

The USS Lead Superfund site is tainted with lead and arsenic left by a lead-salvage company. The EPA added the site to its list of priority cleanups 2009.

Sincerely,

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