



PUBLIC NOTICE: Opportunity for Public Comment on EPA's Proposed Explanation of Significant Differences to Record of Decision for Residential Components of Cherokee County National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund Site – Cherokee County, Kansas, January 2023



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is seeking public input to update the EPA cleanup level for lead contamination in soils at residential properties across the Cherokee County National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund Site. Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed, affects multiple body systems, and is particularly harmful to young children. Lead is the primary contaminant of concern at this site and is attributable to historical mining and smelter wastes throughout the site. This Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) proposes to lower the residential cleanup (remediation) level to **400 parts per million (ppm)** for lead in soil. This is down from the prior 800 ppm action level (and 500 ppm cleanup level) used during past EPA yard cleanups (response actions). EPA's prior site decisions, known as Records of Decision (RODs), explained the cleanup methods (remedies) needed to protect human health and the environment. To make significant changes to these prior RODs, EPA issues an Explanation of Significant Difference, or ESD.



What Does This Mean to Me? If the ESD is finalized, EPA would be able to clean up (remediate) lead contamination at residential properties (and/or other child high-use areas like parks and playgrounds) with soil lead testing results that meet or exceed the new cleanup level of **400 ppm** of lead in soil. Previously ineligible yards or areas of yards would become eligible for EPA's *free* remediation. This action covers the following project areas (known as Operable Units or OUs): **OU-3 – Baxter Springs Subsite; OU-4 – Treece Subsite; OU-6 – Badger, Lawton, Waco; and OU-7 – Galena Residential Soils.** This action also aligns the site remedies with other EPA cleanup actions at lead sites in southeastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri. The Proposed ESD is an interim (provisional) approach; additional sampling and analysis are planned to determine a final site-specific cleanup level for residential properties.

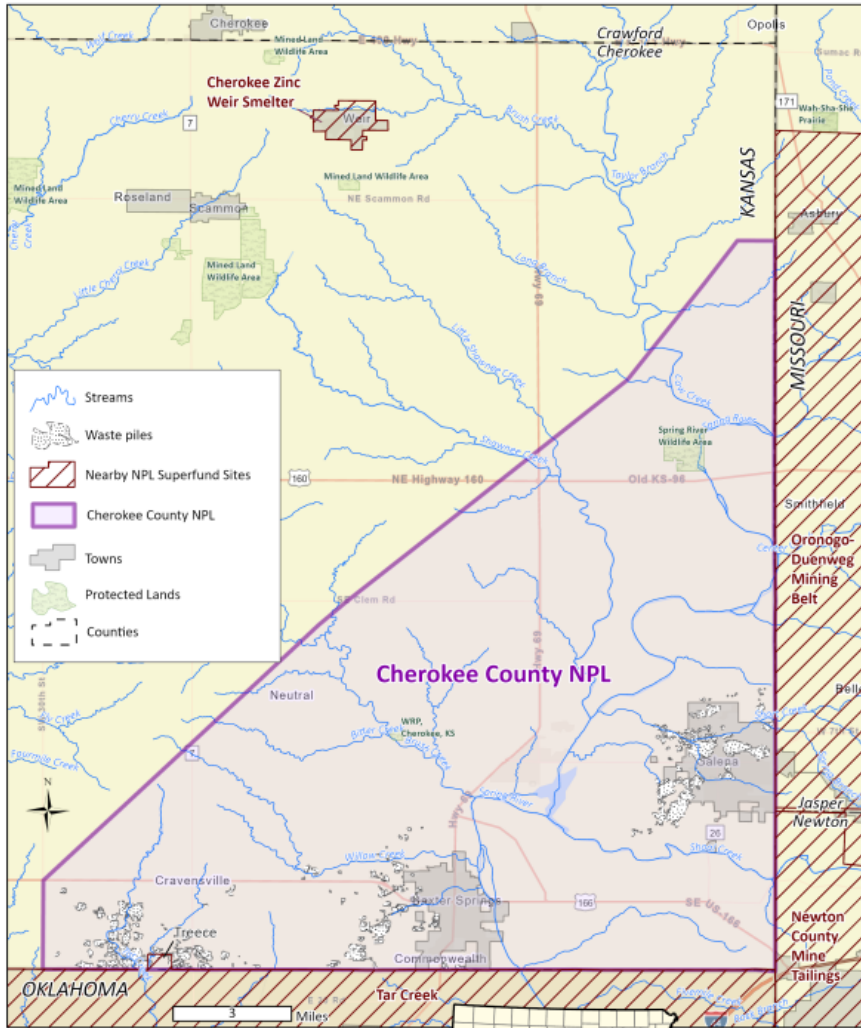
HOW TO COMMENT: Public comments on the Proposed Explanation of Significant Differences will be accepted for 30 days from Jan. 28 through Feb. 28, 2023. On Jan. 28, the ESD and supporting documents will be published online for public review at the weblink included below. Site information is available to the public at web repositories; please visit the Site Profile Page at www.epa.gov/superfund/cherokeecounty (click on **Site Documents & Data**, then on **Administrative Records**).

- **Send written comments to:** Elizabeth Kramer, Community Involvement Coordinator, Office of Public Affairs (ORA/OPA), EPA Region 7, 11201 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, KS 66219; or email: r7-tsmd@epa.gov. EPA also established a voicemail box for accepting oral comments at 913-551-8755.
- **Direct questions about the Proposed ESD and requests for site information to:** Elizabeth Kramer, phone: 913-551-7186; or Todd Campbell, Remedial Project Manager, phone: 913-551-7115; they can also be reached toll-free at 1-800-223-0425 or by email at r7-tsmd@epa.gov.
- Documents are available during normal business hours at the **EPA Region 7 Records Center**, 11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, KS 66219 (1-800-223-0425); and the **Galena Public Library**, 217 W. 7th Street, Galena, KS (620-783-5132); copies of the ESD can be mailed upon request.



FREE Lead Testing and Cleanup Opportunity! If your property has not been tested, and you would like to have your soil and/or private drinking water well tested for potential lead contamination, please **contact us today!** Call EPA's Contractor, **TetraTech**, at 620-284-1357; or call EPA toll-free at 1-800-223-0425, or email EPA at r7-tsmd@epa.gov. For more information about the ESD and prior site fact sheets, see EPA's Kansas Cleanups page at: www.epa.gov/ks/kansas-cleanups.

Cherokee County National Priority List (NPL) Superfund Site



NOTE: The Environmental Protection Agency does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information shown, and shall not be liable for any injury or loss resulting from reliance upon the information shown.

HM 6/15/2022

WHAT CAN I DO? You can take simple steps to reduce your exposure to lead in contaminated soils or dust.



Talk with EPA about testing your yard or private well



Get your child tested for lead poisoning, even if he or she seems healthy



Wash hands – especially children’s – after handling soil, playing outside, and before meals



Take shoes off at the door; clean children’s feet and pets’ paws/fur at the door



Damp (not dry) mop and dust surfaces regularly; keep toys and play areas clean



Make sure children eat nutritious meals high in iron and calcium



Practice safe gardening and wash foods grown in contaminated soil



Be aware of other sources of lead and try to minimize your overall exposure