



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Avanti Development Site Reassessment

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Background:

- Industrial operations at the former Avanti site included a battery recycling operation, a lead smelter and a lead oxide facility. The site, located at 502-566 S. Harris Street, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, is approximately seventeen (17) acres and is bound on the east by Harris Street, north by Victoria Street, south by the CSX railway and on the west by Eagle Creek. The site was heavily contaminated with smelter waste, battery casings and other related debris.
- In the 1990's, several investigations at the Avanti property and in the surrounding residential areas, showed high levels of lead and other metals in the soil. Impacted soil was removed from two-hundred-eighty-eight (288) residential properties and properly disposed. Removal of impacted soil and industrial waste was also conducted on the Avanti property. Some smelter waste and debris was disposed on-site in a properly constructed, capped and fenced consolidation area. All removal actions were completed in 2001.
- Ground water may also have been affected by the Avanti operations. By 1995, municipal water lines were extended to all residences on private drinking water wells which were down-gradient (south) of the Avanti site.
- Currently the Avanti site is maintained under an approved maintenance plan. The plan includes a thirty (30) year schedule for quarterly site inspections, maintenance for all capped areas, cutting of grassy areas, and potential corrective actions to address erosion problems or disturbed areas.
- As part of the final review of the removal project, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will conduct a reassessment of the Avanti property and the surrounding neighborhood to determine if there are any outstanding remediation issues.

Description:

- IDEM staff will begin to reassess the potential impacts of past Avanti activities through the sampling of soil, ground water, and surface water on the Avanti property and the surrounding neighborhood. IDEM may request your permission to sample on your property if necessary. The sampling will take only a few minutes and you will be informed of the results within sixty (60) days.
- IDEM will be reassessing the site and surrounding neighborhood for impacts from volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds, (SVOCs), Polychlorinated Biphenyl(s) (PCBs), metals and pesticides.

Environmental Impacts:

- Lead smelting operations generally contaminate surrounding areas through airborne particulates. Other on-site activities may have caused contamination to soil, ground water and surface water through spills, waste piles, improper storage activities or runoff.
- Human health and the environment can be affected by these contaminants through ingestion of contaminated water, eating of affected plants or animals, dermal absorption, and the inhalation of dust or vapor.
- The appearance and severity of symptoms of exposure to contaminants depend upon how much, how long and in what way exposure occurred. Gender, age, lifestyle and state of health also contribute to the effects of the exposure.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Site Investigation Program works to assess potential environmental hazards and prioritize contaminated sites for further needed actions.

- IDEM's Site Investigations Program staff will collect soil samples and if needed, water samples.
- Once the sample results have been evaluated, IDEM's Site Investigations Program staff and management will make a decision regarding future actions.
- IDEM's Site Investigations Program staff will be available to answer questions and address concerns of homeowners.

Citizen's Role:

- IDEM will ask homeowners in the area of the study to allow its Site Investigations Program staff access to their yards to collect soil samples. The sample will consist of a small amount of soil that will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. The amount of soil removed will be negligible and will leave little to no noticeable trace of IDEM's sampling activity after staff leave.
- If homeowners have a private well for drinking water or other purposes, please inform IDEM staff and the water may be tested at a later date.

More Information:

- For more information about IDEM's Site Investigations Program, please visit IDEM's Web site at www.idem.IN.gov/4143.htm.
- To view an IDEM Site Summary of the Avanti site, please visit <http://www.in.gov/ideM/4307.htm>.
- For information about the sampling event being performed by IDEM, contact Richard R. Milton, IDEM project manager, at (317) 234-6878; toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 4-6878, or by e-mail at rmilton@idem.IN.gov.
- For health-related information, please contact:
 - Mark Johnson, regional representative with the federal agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), at (800) 621-8431, ext. 3-3436.
 - LaNetta Alexander, director of the Environmental Epidemiology Division at the Indiana State Department of Health, at (317) 351-7190 ext. 262, or lalexand@isdh.IN.gov.
 - The Marion County Health Department's Housing and Neighborhood Health Division, at (317) 221-2155.
- For media inquiries, please contact Amy Hartsock, public information officer with IDEM's Office of Media Relations, at (317) 233-4927; toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 3-4927, or by e-mail at ahartsoc@idem.IN.gov.