

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



**Bunker Hill Site, Northern, Idaho**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

June 2004

## Yard Cleanups in the Box More than 85 Percent Done North Kellogg Cleanup Complete

Lead contamination has been cleaned up at more than 2,700 properties in the populated areas of the Box. This important work represents more than 85 percent of the residential properties that require lead cleanup in the Box. About 300 to 400 residential properties remain to be cleaned up.

This month, North Kellogg became the second community to receive its “Certificate of Completion.” This certification means that the lead soil cleanup is complete in that portion of Kellogg north of I-90. Smelterville was the first community to be certified, back in 1998.

These communities now have a protective clean-soil barrier that reduces lead exposure to young children and other residents. An Institutional Controls Program (ICP) is in place which requires residents to maintain the barriers. Before doing any excavation or grading, residents with barriers must first contact the Panhandle Health District to get a permit.

Some other community areas in the Box also are nearly completed, such as South Kellogg and Pinehurst. Testing and cleanups are going on as well in Wardner, Elizabeth Park, Ross Ranch, Montgomery Gulch and Page.



***Backhoe preparing to remove contaminated soil from yard in Osburn, Idaho. Yellow tape is used to keep people out of the excavation area during cleanup.***

The yard testing and cleanup program is voluntary. It is offered at no cost to homeowners. Children under seven years of age and pregnant women are the most at risk from exposure to lead. EPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) give priority to testing and cleaning up the yards of these “high-risk” homes. In addition to residential yards, commercial properties and rights-of-way also are getting cleaned up.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Yard Cleanups in the Box *(continued)*

Sampling is done only on properties where owners have given permission. In the Box, soil that contains at least 1,000 mg/kg (milligrams per kilogram) of lead is removed and replaced with clean soil. Property owners can stay at their homes during testing and cleanup. If you have questions about having your yard tested, call the DEQ Kellogg office at 208-783-5781.

## Upstream Mining Group Resumes Yard Cleanups in the Box

This year, the Upstream Mining Group will resume its work cleaning up yards in the Box. The Upstream Mining Group includes Asarco and Hecla Mining Company. EPA and DEQ will do about 40 residential yards this year. The Upstream Mining Group will do 160 yards to complete the full 200-yard program. Next year, the Upstream Mining Group will do all of the residential cleanup work, as required by a 1994 Consent Decree.

The pace of cleanup will be maintained. DEQ will oversee the Upstream Mining Group's work. The current goal is for the mining companies to complete residential cleanups in the Box in 2005.

### What's Happening with Yard Cleanups in the Basin?

In the Basin, more than 200 residential properties have been cleaned up. DEQ expects to clean up another 300 residential yards, commercial properties and rights-of-way in the Basin this year. Work began May 17.

From now through the fall, DEQ's contractor, TerraGraphics, is testing yards for lead and arsenic. Cleanups will be done by Randall Contractors. For details or to request yard testing, call DEQ at 208-783-5781.

### The Box and The Basin: Which is Which?

#### The Box

"The Box" is a 21-square mile area along I-90 in the Silver Valley in northern Idaho. It includes the towns of **Pinehurst, Smelterville, Wardner and Kellogg**. It also includes the communities of **Page, Ross Ranch, Elizabeth Park and Montgomery Gulch**. The Box is part of the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site. The populated areas of the Box are called OU1, or Operable Unit 1. The non-populated areas are called OU2, or Operable Unit 2.

#### The Basin

"The Basin" includes the Upper Basin and the Lower Basin. It does not include the geographic areas within the Box. The Upper Basin includes communities upstream (east) of the Box. The Lower Basin includes communities downstream (west) of the Box, including affected communities in Spokane County, WA. The Basin also is part of the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site and is often called OU3, or Operable Unit 3.



Alternative formats are available upon request by calling Debra Sherbina at 1-800-424-4372, ext. 0247. TTY users, please call 1-800-877-8339.

## Free Blood-Lead Tests Offered in Box and Basin

The Panhandle Health District continues to offer free blood-lead testing to residents in the Box and Basin. Lead is a concern due to its potential to cause subtle developmental effects in children. The developing nervous system is the most sensitive target for lead poisoning.

A payment of \$20 is provided to Basin residents who get blood-lead tests for their children who are six months through six years of age. No payment is provided in the Box.

In 2004, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is providing funds to the Panhandle Health District to make this testing possible. Individual results are kept confidential. Blood-lead testing will be offered at several locations beginning in July 2004. Watch for a flier to be sent soon to all addresses within the area eligible for testing. The health district will also make announcements on local television, radio and in local newspapers. For details about blood-lead testing, or to learn more about lead health effects, contact the Panhandle Health District at 208-783-0707.

### For More Information, contact:

The following EPA staff, based in Seattle, also can be reached toll-free at 1-800-424-4372.

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### Visit our Website

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda>

### Visit the Information Repositories

Cleanup project documents can be viewed at:

**Wallace Public Library**

415 River Street  
Wallace, ID 83873  
208-752-4571

**North Idaho College Library**

(the entire Administrative Record)  
1000 Garden Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-769-3355

**Harrison City Hall**

100 Fredrick Street  
Harrison, ID 83833  
208-689-3212

**Spokane Public Library**

906 West Main Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99201  
509-626-5336

**EPA - Coeur d'Alene Field Office**

1910 Northwest Blvd., Suite 208  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-664-4588

**EPA - Seattle Office**

(the entire Administrative Record)  
1200 6th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128  
206-553-1200 (Ask for Superfund Records Center)



United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10 ECO-081  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128

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