

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



## Northport Soil Testing — Northport, Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

September 2003

THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY will be testing soil in Northport for lead and other heavy metals. We are providing this service at no cost to you. Participation is completely voluntary.

### Why Is EPA testing soil in Northport?

- For nearly 25 years, the former LeRoi Smelter, located next to the present Northport city park, produced large amounts of waste materials called tailings and slag. These wastes contained lead and other heavy metals. EPA tested soil around the old smelter site and found that it contains high levels of lead and other metals. Now we want to find out if those heavy metals are in soil in other areas of Northport.

### What is the problem with lead?

- Lead and other metals can cause a number of health problems. We have prepared a separate fact sheet to tell you more about it. Children under 7 and pregnant women are at higher risk, and we highly recommend that soil be tested around their homes.

### How serious is this problem?

- This is NOT an emergency situation. We are testing to find out if there is heavy metal contamination in Northport. Once we have the test results, we will work with Northport residents, your elected officials, other landowners, and our partner agencies to develop an action plan.

### What can I do now?

- Sign up for the free soil testing, especially if you have children or someone pregnant at home.

Also see the **Arsenic, Lead, and Summary of Previous Investigations** fact sheets.

### How can I protect my family if our soil does have heavy metals in it?

- If you have concerns about how to reduce your exposure, contact the Northeast Tri-County Health District at 509-684-2262.

**Deadline to Sign up for Soil Testing:  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2003**

**Call 1-877-292-9943 to register**

- Testing starts the week of October 6, 2003
- Tests are expected to end during the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>
- Test results should be available by the end of April 2004

If your soil is sampled, you will receive a letter with your test results. When sampling results are available in the spring, EPA will hold another public meeting to discuss results and talk about next steps.

### Where can I get more information?

- About EPA's activities in Northport, contact: Monica Tonel or Renée Dagseth at 1-800-424-4372; Earl Liverman at (208) 664-4858.

About the health effects of lead and other heavy metals, see the lead and arsenic fact sheets. Or visit EPA's Web page on children's health: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf>