

Removal of Contaminated Soil from Residential Properties near Former Smelter Site in Cherryvale

June 22, 2012



Excavating contaminated soil at a residential property.



Backfilled residential property following excavation.



Residential property replanted with sod.

KDHE's Bureau of Environmental Remediation recently finished overseeing the removal of contaminated soils from residential properties near the Former National Zinc site in Cherryvale. The National Zinc Company operated as a primary zinc and lead smelter facility from 1898 to 1976, with most active operations ceasing in the 1930s. The facility was recognized as the largest zinc smelter in the world until World War I. The site was cleaned up in 2007 by the responsible parties by constructing a consolidation cell with an engineered cap.

In April 2011 KDHE received a residential complaint about possible contaminated soil on a property near the site. KDHE assessed potential environmental issues and identified smelter waste and elevated metals concentrations.

Based on the findings, in August and September 2011 the responsible parties for the Former National Zinc site assessed eight residential properties and identified surface and subsurface soils with levels of lead, cadmium, and arsenic above residential risk-based standards.

Following the assessment, the responsible parties began removing contaminated soil from the properties in May and completed the removal action in June. The contaminated soils were placed on the EPA consolidation cell used during the 2001-2002 removal action on the grounds of the former smelter facility, and have been covered with plastic sheeting designed to contain the soils until they are permanently capped. The excavated areas were then backfilled with clean soil and re-vegetated with sod.