

BER Presents Agency's Draft Decision Statement at Galena Council Meeting



Rick Bean, BER, presenting Agency Draft Decision Statement in council meeting in Galena.

BER's Remedial Section met with Representative Doug Gatewood, city officials, and members of the community during a special City Council Meeting at Galena City Hall on August 13, 2012, to present the Agency's Draft Decision Statement (ADS), which outlines planned remedial action at the former 68-acre Eagle Picher Smelter site.

The Eagle Picher Smelter, in operation from 1878 until it was abandoned in 2004, produced thousands of cubic yards of waste that remained on site after the company's bankruptcy in 2005. A settlement agreement between the site's Custodial Trust, KDHE, and EPA provided for investigation and remediation of the site, with KDHE as the lead agency.

Subsequent investigation revealed soil, sediment, and surface water contamination, as well as the large volumes of metal-contaminated slag. Remedial options were limited by the amount of funds awarded in the settlement agreement, and the only viable option that addressed all the concerns at the site within budget was consolidation of the contaminated materials on-site and covering them with a vegetative cap. Since the site sits alongside historic Highway 66, many conversations and meetings with city officials and concerned citizens were necessary to craft an encapsulation cell design that was acceptable to all stakeholders.

The \$5 million preferred remedy will include a single 7.6 acre encapsulation cell on the east side of the former smelter property. Council members, Galena City Mayor Dale Oglesby, and citizens at the meeting all expressed satisfaction with the design, which achieves remedial objectives by preventing human exposure to contaminated soil and smelter waste, preventing adverse impact to ecological receptors, and preventing further environmental degradation from contaminated soil, sediments, and smelter waste migrating from the site. In addition, it minimizes disruption of the view from Route 66 and leaves the rest of the site available for future redevelopment opportunities. Construction of the \$5 million cleanup is expected to begin the summer of 2013.



Former Eagle Picher Smelter site.