

Robarts Cleanup - Pittsburg

In November 2002, KDHE received a citizen's petition alleging past disposal of wastes in a residential neighborhood in Pittsburg. The citizen was concerned about exposure caused by trucks that were driving on the lot and kicking up contaminated dust. The waste originated from the McNally Foundry, a boiler-making plant operating in the early 1900's through the 1980's that had disposed of their foundry sand waste on the vacant lot in the 1950's and 60's. Prior to foundry operations, a lead and zinc smelter had also been present in the late 1800's, accounting for the co-existing presence of lead-contaminated smelter waste. Metso Minerals Industries, Inc. entered into various agreements with KDHE to investigate and cleanup the site.

Following several investigations and evaluation of potential alternatives to protect residents from exposure to the lead-contaminated dust, KDHE approved a plan to remove the source of the problem. In spring 2012, approximately 6,410 tons of foundry waste and lead-impacted soil were excavated and disposed at a permitted facility as non-hazardous special waste. The excavation area was backfilled and a layer of topsoil was spread and seeded with native grasses. The site has been cleaned up by removing lead-impacted soil, eliminating the potential risks to human health and the environment.



Upper left: Robarts site before cleanup.

Upper right: Robarts cleanup ongoing.

Left: Robarts Site once cleanup was completed.