

**Public Information Strategy
For
Former Girard Zinc Works Smelter Site – Wichita, Kansas**

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of the public relations strategy for the Former Girard Zinc Works Smelter Site (Site) in Girard, Kansas is to establish guidelines for planning, scheduling and implementing a Public Information Program (PIP). The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in cooperation with United States Steel Corporation (USS) will be responsible for implementation of the PIP.

2.0 Background

The Site was historically used for zinc smelting between the 1890's and 1901. The former smelter was constructed in the late 1880's and consisted of a blacksmith shop, a dry room for retorts with a furnace below, a pottery room used to make clay retorts, a flat roast kiln, a furnace building, a crusher and mining room, and a large boarding house for smelter workers. The furnaces were built along the drainageway. Operations ceased in 1901. While the Site is largely undeveloped and vegetated, visible smelter residues and assorted junk are scattered within the former smelter footprint. Lead, cadmium, arsenic, and zinc have been detected in groundwater and soil. In May 2007, KDHE and USS entered into a consent order to conduct a Comprehensive Investigation/Corrective Action Study at the Site.

3.0 Public Information Program Activities

KDHE will be responsible for providing a notice of availability of the Draft Corrective Action Decision (CAD) document and other supporting documentation that serves as the basis for the recommended corrective action. The notice, which announces the public comment period, will be published in the *Pittsburg Morning Sun*. The period allowed for oral and/or written public comment will be thirty days. During the public comment period, KDHE may conduct an availability session to discuss the Draft CAD.

KDHE will prepare written responses to comments received during the public comment period as part of the Final CAD. The Final CAD, as well as other supporting documentation, is available for public inspection pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act. A notice of the availability of the Final CAD may be published in the *Pittsburg Morning Sun* and/or the *Kansas Register*.

A news release to announce the successful remediation of the Site may be published in the *Pittsburg Morning Sun* upon KDHE approval of the Reclassification Plan.

4.0 Public Information Program Schedule

The following is a tentative PIP schedule for the Site. Specifically, upon completion of the Draft CAD, KDHE will publish a public notice of availability for this draft decision document and solicit oral and/or written comments during the 30-day public comment period. If an availability session is to be held during the public comment period, KDHE will make announcement of such in this same public notice. Through this process, the general public and other interested parties are given the requisite opportunity to provide input on the proposed corrective action strategy for the site before the CAD is finalized. As described in Section 3.0, the need for any additional news release(s) or availability session(s) related to this Site will be determined by KDHE.