Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Section

Site Assessment Program

Cherryvale Residential Yards Site

Background:

The Cherryvale Residential Yards site is located in the northern portion of Cherryvale, Montgomery County, Kansas. An assessment of residential yards followed an investigation conducted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE's) Site Assessment Program of the former National Zinc Company smelter facility. There was a concern that emissions and waste from the former smelter operation could have impacted a residential neighborhood adjacent to the former smelter. A Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) conducted by the Site Assessment Program confirmed that levels of lead, cadmium, and arsenic above residential risk-based standards were present in yards near the former smelter site.

A total of 35 residential yards and the Rodeo Grounds were impacted. KDHE began to research potentially responsible parties for the contamination. However, because there was immediate risk to residents through direct contact with the contaminated soil, KDHE referred the site to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete a time-critical removal action.

Heavy equipment removing contaminated residential soil at a yard in Cherryvale.

Site assessment personnel conducting XRF screening of residential yards for heavy metals.

Solution:

EPA completed its removal action between November 2001 and March 2002. More than 75,000 cubic yards of impacted soils were removed from the yards and Rodeo Grounds, clean soil was brought in, and the area was re-seeded. The yards and Rodeo Grounds now have contamination levels below residential risk-based standards and are safe for use. State and federal coordination and use of shared resources made this project a success.

Benefits:

- **Residential yards were assessed for heavy metals contamination and impacted yards were identified.**
- **Extensive use was made of x-ray fluorescence (XRF) field analysis, reducing time and costs of relying entirely on laboratory analysis.**
- **More than 75,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil removed.**
- **KDHE and EPA worked cooperatively and promptly to address residential yards through the removal of contaminated soils.**

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