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Lockport Soil Background Research Study

From December 8 - 11, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will conduct a study along rights-of-way throughout Lockport, New York to evaluate the levels of lead that naturally occur in soil. This study will help EPA establish a baseline for comparing lead contamination levels at the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site. EPA workers will use a hand-held tool called an auger to take soil samples at over forty different locations along roadways across the city.

EPA designed this study to sample soil in areas that do not have known or suspected releases of lead. EPA and its state and local partners intend to use the data to inform current and future environmental investigations. The data will be especially useful for restoration projects, particularly to restore the contaminated property at the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site to beneficial reuse.

Purpose of a Soil Background Study:

- **Establishing a Baseline:** The primary goal is to establish a baseline or reference point for comparing soil samples in a specific area or region.
- **Differentiating Natural from Contaminated:** It helps EPA tell the difference between naturally occurring levels of lead from those that may be due to human activities.
- **Risk Assessment:** Soil background data is crucial for conducting human health and ecological risk assessments, as it helps determine whether contamination levels at a site fall within acceptable ranges or present a potential risk.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Many regulatory agencies require soil background studies to help determine whether cleanup is necessary at contaminated sites.

For more information on the sample locations, collection, and methodology and a figure showing the study's sampling boundary, visit the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund website:

Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund Site Webpage:

www.epa.gov/superfund/eighteenmile-creek

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