

Press Release

Region 2 - New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

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EPA Begins Cleanup of Contaminated Properties in Depew, NY

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(New York, NY—May 27, 2009)—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that it has commenced cleanup work to address threats posed by lead-contaminated soil on residential properties in the Village of Depew, New York. EPA is committed to the second phase of cleanup activities at the site; the first phase was completed in 2006. The 66 properties that will be addressed in this second phase of the cleanup are located to the northwest and northeast of the Walden Avenue and Transit Road intersection on Tyler, Rumford, Brewster, and Lincoln streets as well as Harvard and Walden Avenue.

In 2003, at the behest of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), EPA took the lead at this site. NYSDEC provided EPA with soil sampling results that confirmed the presence of lead in surface and subsurface soil on the residential properties. Under EPA orders, NL Industries, Inc. conducted a cleanup of lead-contaminated soil at 36 homes. The cleanup was completed in 2006 and consisted of the removal and disposal of lead-contaminated soil, restoration of all remediated properties with clean backfill and topsoil, establishment of turf, as well as the replacement of landscaping. EPA continued its investigations and identified additional properties that had lead-contaminated soil at concentrations that warranted a cleanup. The second phase of EPA's cleanup efforts will address these newly-identified properties.

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While EPA begins the second phase of the cleanup work, the Agency will continue to pursue responsible parties linked to the site. Data collected to date suggest that facilities in the area of Depew, New York that produced large amounts of lead-contaminated waste could have contributed to the contamination found on the residential properties. EPA has notified four entities of their potential liability at the site. These entities include NL Industries, which conducted the first phase of the cleanup, Halliburton Company, Exide Technologies, and Gould Electronics, Inc.

Cleanup activities will include removal of lead-contaminated soil from the residential properties, removal of trees and shrubs, backfilling with topsoil and sod, replacement of landscaping, property restoration and off-site disposal of the contaminated soil.

For more information of EPA's Superfund program, including information on short-term cleanup activities, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/about.htm>.

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