



The EPA National Priorities List

The EPA is proposing to add the Historic Potteries site to the National Priorities List, or NPL, based on the results of an extensive investigation that began in 2018. This means that the site is eligible for federal funding to pay for extensive, long-term cleanup actions under the EPA's Superfund program.

Listing the site also allows for robust engagement with communities impacted by the lead contamination. Superfund gives the EPA strong authority to hold the polluters that will be identified as potentially responsible parties at this site responsible and accountable for the cleanup.

The National Priorities List, or NPL, is the EPA's list of hazardous waste sites in the U.S. eligible for long-term investigation and cleanup under the federal Superfund program. The EPA follows a formal process for assessing hazardous waste sites and placing them on the NPL. The EPA will examine the nature and extent of contamination and options for addressing the contamination by conducting a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. If the site is added to the NPL, the EPA will then propose cleanup methods, identify a cleanup plan, and clean up the site.

The EPA Wants to Hear from You!

The EPA is seeking public comment on its proposal to add the Historic Potteries site in Trenton, New Jersey, to the National Priorities List. The public comment period will open on September 5, 2024 and comments will be accepted until November 4, 2024.

You may submit comments online or by mail:

Online (preferred): Visit www.regulations.gov and search "Historic Potteries" or "EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0374"

Mail: Send comments to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center Superfund, EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0374, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460

Site Background

Since 2018, the EPA has been investigating residential properties in the East Trenton neighborhood in Trenton, New Jersey to find out if lead contamination in the soil is coming from former pottery manufacturers. The EPA sampled properties to determine if the soil in community members' yards is contaminated with lead from the historic pottery facilities. The results of the EPA's investigation showed significant lead contamination in the soil at residential properties, public schools, and parks in East Trenton.

The pottery manufacturers operated for over 100 years in East Trenton starting in the 1850s and used lead in their glazes. According to historic resources, an estimated 80 locations existed throughout the City of Trenton where ceramics manufacturing occurred and about 30 of those were located in East Trenton and Top Road. The waste and pollution from the pottery manufacturing left soil in East Trenton contaminated with lead.

The EPA will be taking actions in the short term to address soil contamination at properties where children under the age of seven, pregnant women, or gardeners use their yard. This fall, the EPA will install temporary soil covers at Sonny Vereen and Breunig Avenue Parks to protect community members visiting the parks from lead contamination found in the soil. The EPA has addressed lead contamination in soil at Ulysses S. Grant Intermediate School by installing temporary soil covers so that students may safely return to learn and play this fall.

Lead is a natural metal that can be found in air, water, and soil. When lead is released into the air, it may be transported long distances before it lands and stays on the ground. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body, particularly the nervous system. For more information about lead, visit: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf

Residential Property Soil Testing

The EPA is testing soil at residential properties in East Trenton for free.

If you would like the EPA to test the soil at your own property for free, please call Jon Byk at (347) 899-6210.

EPA Contact Information

Joel Waddell

Community Involvement
Coordinator
(929) 656-3416
waddell.joel@epa.gov

Joel Petty

Remedial Project
Manager
(212) 637-4399
Petty.joel@epa.gov

Jon Byk

On-Scene Coordinator
(347) 899-6210
Byk.jonathan@epa.gov

Kim Hong (Spanish)

On-Scene Coordinator
(732) 321-4352
Hong.kimberly@epa.gov

Blood Testing

Children under the age of 7 are most vulnerable to the impacts of lead. The Henry J. Austin Health Center offers healthcare including blood lead level testing for children in Trenton. For more information on their services, please contact the Henry J. Austin Health Center directly.

Henry J. Austin Health Center

321 N. Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08618

<https://henryj.austin.org/>

Phone: (609) 278-5900

Email: info@henryj.austin.org

National Lead Information Center

The National Lead Information Center provides information about lead, lead hazards, and their prevention. **You can** call and speak with a specialist Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time (except federal holidays) at 1 (800) 424-LEAD [5323].

