

FACT SHEET

Town of Pines Soil Sampling

BACKGROUND

At the end of 2014, NIPSCO, under the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and with the agency's oversight, conducted extensive soil sampling on nine properties within the Town of Pines as part of the ongoing investigation work in the community. The nine sites were selected by the EPA and Town representatives to serve as a comparison with soil samples previously taken from sites throughout the community to assess the presence of coal combustion byproducts (CCBs). Agreements were reached with the owners of nine properties to allow the sampling.

During the installation of municipal water service in 2003, soil samples were taken from a range of locations along the roadways throughout the community, including public rights-of-way in the yards of some residences. Results of the samples taken at that time did not show chemicals associated with CCBs above established EPA health guidelines.

Results received from the latest round of testing indicated that seven of the nine sampled properties have elevated levels of arsenic in the soil, likely stemming from the presence of CCBs.

NIPSCO has been in communication with each of those property owners regarding next steps.

HEALTH RISKS/CONCERNS

- For those properties with elevated levels, the EPA has confirmed that there is currently no immediate health threat given the levels shown and the time of year.
- Ongoing groundwater sampling results from the community continue to indicate that levels of arsenic in groundwater are below those necessitating action.
- For all health-related questions, residents may reach out to the regional office of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Mark Johnson, 312-886-0840.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- Because some of the properties were found to have elevated levels of arsenic, we believe it is necessary to expediently conduct additional sampling at the 37 other properties within Pines believed to include CCBs as fill material to determine whether or not they are above levels requiring action. NIPSCO has contacted the owners of these properties to inform them of the situation and to request access for the additional sampling.
- We will continue to provide timely communication and updates on the situation with Pines residents, key community leaders and elected officials moving forward.

OUR COMMITMENT

We are working closely with the EPA to quickly and safely address this issue. NIPSCO will continue to do what is right for the community and those individuals who are directly affected by this issue.

Questions

www.pinesupdate.com

Questions Regarding Sampling

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