



Soil Removal Activities to Begin

In this Pines Update....

This *Pines Update* provides information about the upcoming soil removal activities that are being conducted in the Pines Area of Investigation.

This and other past issues of the Pines Update newsletters can be found at:

www.pinesupdate.com.

Project Information Repository

The EPA maintains a project website at:

<http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cu/rsites/csinfo.cfm?id=0508071>

The public information repository is maintained at:

Michigan City Public Library
100 E. 4th St.
Michigan City, IN

Who can I contact with questions?

Jacob Hassan, EPA
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hassan.jacob@epa.gov

Bill Haswell, Haley & Aldrich
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Introduction

This edition of *Pines Update* (#25) is dedicated to providing information about the upcoming soil removal activities planned at selected residential properties in the Pines Area of Investigation, and the ongoing soil and well sampling programs.

Background

The Pines Area of Investigation is the subject of an environmental study under the Superfund Alternative Program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5. In the Area of Investigation, coal combustion by-products (CCBs) are present. CCBs were previously used as road base and fill material by the Town of Pines and property owners both in rights-of-way and on private properties.

In November 2014, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) and Brown Inc., under the authority of EPA and with the agency's oversight, instituted an extensive soil sampling program within the Town of Pines as part of the ongoing investigation work in the community to identify properties where CCBs were thought to be present. EPA and Town representatives initially selected nine properties for soil sampling to compare with soil samples previously collected from sites throughout the community.

Results of the testing on the nine sites indicated that seven of the properties have elevated levels of arsenic in the soil, likely stemming from the use of fly ash (a type of CCB) as fill material. NIPSCO reviewed the test results with EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and has contacted affected property owners regarding the results and the need to remove soils with elevated levels of arsenic under EPA's Removal Action program.

Additional Soil Sampling

Because several of the properties initially sampled were found to have elevated levels of arsenic, soil sampling was offered to all properties within the Area of Investigation and the Town of Pines. The sampling was done to determine whether these soils contain arsenic, lead, and/or thallium above levels that might require removal. Of the 104 properties sampled to date, 13 have been identified for removal activities.

Residents Can Request Private Property Sampling

We are still accepting requests for private property sampling. If requested and an access agreement is provided, properties are evaluated by conducting a visual inspection to determine if CCBs are present on the property. If they are, soil sampling will be conducted.

This sampling work is conducted with hand tools or by using small drilling rigs to minimize impacts to the properties being sampled. As needed, we will repair damage to lawns and landscaping when finished.

The constituents to be addressed by the soil sampling have been identified based on the results from the initial nine properties sampled and discussions with EPA. These constituents are: arsenic, thallium and lead.

Who do I contact to have my property evaluated for sampling?

Please contact Dr. Lisa Bradley of Haley & Aldrich, Inc. at 978-846-3463, or lbradley@haleyaldrich.com.

If you have questions about soil sampling, please contact:

Jacob Hassan, EPA
312-886-6864
hassan.jacob@epa.gov

Lisa Bradley, Haley & Aldrich
978-846-3463
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Properties Identified for Removal Activities

Owners whose properties were sampled will obtain a copy of the information specific to their property. The vast majority of additional properties that were sampled do not require any further action. Removal actions will be taken for those other properties where CCBs are present and arsenic, thallium, and/or lead levels require remediation, as directed by the EPA.

Where soil removal work is necessary, NIPSCO is discussing the cleanup process with individual property owners, including restoring, repairing or replacing property affected during the cleanup process. Please note that NIPSCO will pay for all of the removal and restoration work conducted on each property. The property owner will not be responsible for paying for any of the sampling or removal work.

Planning for the Removal Activities

The soil removal work will be conducted under a Removal Action Order administered by EPA Region 5. The Order requires that a work plan detailing the removal activities be prepared by NIPSCO and approved by EPA. All removal activities will be conducted to follow the requirements in the Removal Work Plan. The Removal Work Plan has been developed by Haley & Aldrich, a contractor to NIPSCO. The Work Plan will be available on EPA's website and at the public information repository (see page 1 of this Pines Update).

Residents Can Request Private Well Testing

The Area of Investigation sampling results have shown that there are no unacceptable risks associated with CCBs in the shallow aquifer used by area wells. NIPSCO and Brown Inc., therefore, will be discontinuing bottled water service at a time agreed upon with the EPA.

Before that happens, the EPA has asked NIPSCO and Brown Inc. to offer to sample the wells at the homes receiving bottled water, as well as at the homes of the eligible residents that elected not to receive bottled water, and to those who previously declined offers for municipal water service. We have contacted residents eligible for this sampling and have completed private well sampling at 39 homes. We are still accepting requests for private well sampling for those eligible.

Well testing results will be provided to each well owner.

Who do I contact to have my well tested?

Please contact Dr. Lisa Bradley of Haley & Aldrich, Inc. at 978-846-3463, or lbradley@haleyaldrich.com.

If you have questions about well testing, please contact:

Erik Hardin, USEPA
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lbradley@haleyaldrich.com

Steps in the Removal Process

As detailed in the Removal Work Plan, the following general steps will be followed for each removal area:

- Obtain property owner approval for pre-design survey work;
- Conduct subsurface utility survey;
- Conduct site topographic and property boundary survey;
- Conduct landscape inventory;
- Complete Design Drawings and obtain EPA approval;
- Obtain property owner approval for removal work;
- Photo document pre-excavation conditions;
- Conduct building condition survey, if applicable;
- Mobilize for construction;
- Install site security and access controls;
- Remove trees;
- Install erosion and sedimentation controls;
- Establish construction controls and facilities;
- Conduct excavation activities;
- Conduct confirmation sampling to evaluate if the cleanup goals have been met;
- Place a marker barrier in excavations where impacted materials remain in place, if necessary;
- Backfill excavation; and
- Complete landscape restoration, as required.

NIPSCO will be implementing the removal activities using local independent contractors approved by EPA. EPA representatives will be in the field to oversee all of the removal work.

Minimizing Impact on the Community

NIPSCO has worked with EPA on the Removal Work Plan to minimize impact on the community to the extent possible. This means:

- Limiting removal activities to between the hours of 7 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Work is not expected to be conducted on Saturday unless there are special circumstances to be approved by EPA. No work is scheduled for Sunday.
- Developing a traffic management plan to minimize impact on traffic in the community. This means routing trucks out of residential areas as quickly as possible, and managing potential conflicts with school buses. A Traffic Management Plan is included as part of the Removal Work Plan.
- Conducting air monitoring during soil digging and removal activities to measure and control dust that may be generated. An Air Monitoring Plan is included as part of the Removal Work Plan.
- Streets will be cleaned prior to starting work, and they will be monitored for material tracking from the removal areas; existing sediment on streets will be swept or wetted to control dust.
- Excavated material will be shipped off-site for disposal at a licensed landfill. Soils placed in dump trucks will be covered with tarps.
- The removal areas will be restored to original grade with clean imported backfill.
- Landscaping will be restored as discussed/agreed with each property owner.

Health and Safety

NIPSCO is committed to conducting this work as safely and as efficiently as possible.

- The entire work zone will be protected by temporary chain-link fence or construction fence until backfill activities have been completed.
- Precast concrete barriers or Jersey Barriers with reflective markers will be utilized along paved roads where necessary as a protection to accidental vehicle entry to excavations.
- Traffic signs/cones will be used to direct traffic in the construction area, as needed.
- In some locations, roads or portions of roads may be temporarily closed to serve as a staging area at removal areas where space is limited, however, access to public ways will be maintained.
- Construction access points will be locked outside of working hours to secure the work zone.
- Signage will be installed on exterior fencing to inform the public of the work and access restrictions. Contact information for inquiries and emergencies will also be provided on the sign(s). The sign(s) will clearly outline personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements and procedures for authorized visitors.
- The public will not be permitted access to the work zone, unless as pre-arranged with the property owner and NIPSCO.

If you have any questions about work activities, traffic, or safety during the course of the work, please contact Bill Haswell of Haley & Aldrich, or Jacob Hassan of EPA. Their contact information is on the first page of this update.

Schedule

It is anticipated that construction work will begin by mid-May. NIPSCO would like to start work at the Town Hall property on 1519 Delaware. Work on other properties will occur after that. The specific schedule depends on arranging for access with each property owner, and the amount of time to conduct the removal on each property. However, based on the current list of 13 properties, we anticipate completing the removal action by the end of 2016.

Safety is Our #1 Concern!



The removal activities described in this *Pines Update* will require the use of heavy trucks and equipment, and our workers will need to have enough room to conduct the work in a safe manner. Please follow the traffic directions, follow the directions and cautions on all signs, and follow directions provided by the field staff. Our goal is to conduct this work in a manner that is safe for the community and the workers, and we can only do that with your help.

Pines Update #25, April 2016

Communications Coordinator

720 W. US Hwy 20

Michigan City, IN 46360

Our Commitment....

NIPSCO and Brown are committed to keeping you informed on the progress of the investigation of the Pines Area of Investigation. Look for future *Pines Updates* to update you to our progress. We also have a website to provide continual updates on the project:

www.pinesupdate.com

Please contact the Communications Coordinator at the address listed below to be placed on the mailing list.

Communications Coordinator

Brown Inc.

720 W. US Hwy 20

Michigan City, IN 46360

If you have questions regarding the sampling discussed in this Pines Update, please contact:

Lisa Bradley, Haley & Aldrich

978-846-3463 or

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