



Former Ore Mill Site
Northwest of Speedway Blvd. and Silverbell Rd.
Revised 11/28/06

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, November 29, 2006
El Rio Neighborhood Center
1390 W. Speedway Blvd.
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Representatives of Environmental Services, Tucson Water, Parks & Recreation, Citizens Restoring Our Wash (CROW) and other local and state agencies will be available to provide updated information and answer your questions.

The City of Tucson Environmental Services (COT-ES) is investigating elevated metals concentrations in soil at a former tungsten ore mill site located northwest of Speedway Blvd. and Silverbell Rd. (see map). In June 2006, COT-ES investigated soil at this 29-acre site as part of a Parks and Recreation plan to develop the site as a natural resource park. Elevated levels of lead, arsenic and cadmium were detected in soil samples around the ore mill foundations. The City met with residents in the area on August 31, 2006 to notify them of the findings and the City's plans to conduct a complete environmental investigation of the site. A fence was installed around the site to reduce direct exposure to the soil until further investigation and cleanup are completed.

What recent activities have occurred?

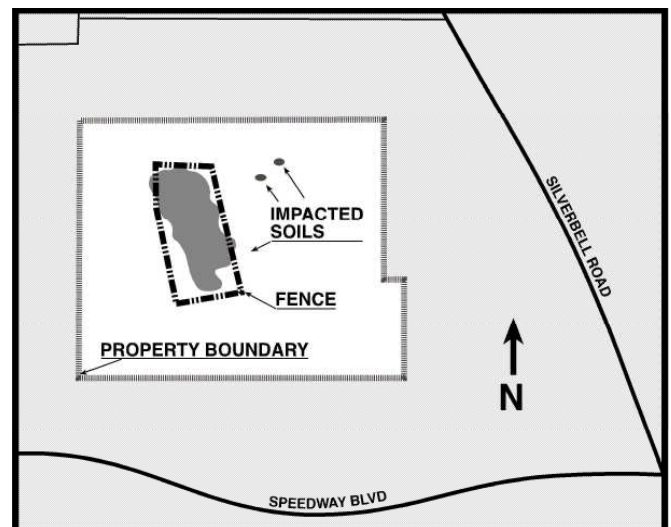
Since the preliminary testing, COT-ES has been coordinating the following activities:

Soil Testing

A second phase of environmental testing has just been completed. The purpose of this phase was to determine the extent of the metals at the soil surface. A total of 48 soil samples were analyzed by laboratory methods and an additional 93 samples site-wide were analyzed in the field using x-ray fluorescence (XRF). The recently completed investigation delineated the area where metals exceed residential soil remediation levels (shown on map).

Approximately 2 acres, out of the total 29 acres of the site, have concentrations of lead in surface soil that exceed the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) residential soil remediation levels. Most, but not all of the area, is within the fence. Additional fencing will be installed to prevent access to any area where impacts were identified. Samples collected in Anklam Wash and along the south, east, and west boundaries of the property did not have elevated metals concentrations; the impacted area appears to be confined to the central and northern portions of the property. The report of this investigation (and all reports related to the site) can be viewed at

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/ets/New.html>



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Groundwater Monitoring

COT-ES collected a groundwater sample from a monitoring well at El Rio Park just east of the site on September 27, 2006. Results indicate the groundwater here meets drinking water standards. In fact, lead, arsenic, and cadmium were not detected in this well. COT-ES plans to test a nearby capped, privately owned well soon.

Possible Air Quality Monitoring

COT-ES met with Pima County Department of Environmental Quality and has requested their assistance to determine whether air monitoring around the site would provide useful data for the investigation.

ADEQ Grant Application

COT-ES has applied to the ADEQ Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). ADEQ-VRP will review all work conducted by the City to ensure the soil cleanup is appropriate and that soil remediation levels are met so redevelopment can proceed. ADEQ-VRP has experience with investigation and cleanup at similar ore mill sites.

What's next?

Now that the impacted area has been delineated, COT-ES will next determine the depth of impacted soil. Then, the volume of impacted soil can be calculated and cleanup options can be discussed.

The City is applying to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for assessment and cleanup grants to help pay for the investigation and remediation at this site. The City will continue to provide updates to residents in the area through meetings and open houses as this project moves forward.

Is my drinking water impacted?

No. Tucson Water drinking water wells that serve the neighborhoods in the area are located in Avra Valley more than 10 miles west of Tucson. There are no Tucson Water supply wells in the neighborhood. There may be private wells in the area. Please contact Environmental Services at (520) 791-5414 if you have a private well located within ½ mile of the site and would like your well sampled.

Are there any immediate threats to human health or the environment? What steps have been taken to eliminate exposure?

When the initial site assessment results were received, the City immediately ordered fencing and signage to prevent public access and potential exposure. During the public meeting on August 31, 2006, the Pima County Health Department stressed that ingestion is the most likely route of exposure, and that children aged 3 and younger are most vulnerable to lead poisoning. Residents who are concerned about the health risks should contact the Pima County Health Department at (520) 740-3755.

Will the property be cleaned up?

Yes. After the investigation is complete, COT-ES will determine the best way to clean up the site. Residents will be notified of the clean-up plan and will have an opportunity to review and comment.

How will the property be used after the clean-up?

The City plans to re-develop the site as a natural resources park. The location provides unparalleled views of the City and the surrounding mountains, and will be a prized amenity for the community.

For more information please contact:

Environmental Services	(520) 791-5414
Tucson Water (water quality questions)	(520) 791-4331

Current information is available on the Environmental Services website at
www.tucsonaz.gov/ets/New.html