Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) Superfund Site

Quarterly Public Meeting
November 5, 2018
What is a Superfund Site?

1980 - Congress established the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

CERCLA is informally called Superfund.

CERCLA allows EPA to clean up contaminated sites.

EPA added VB/I-70 to the national list of Superfund Sites in 1999.
The Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 Superfund Site (VB/I-70)
Why is VB/I-70 a Superfund Site?

Smelters left behind heavy metal contamination in some area soils, groundwater, and sediments.

At VB/I-70, the primary contaminants of concern are lead and arsenic.

The Omaha & Grant Smelters, courtesy of Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, x-61414
Who is Involved?

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE)

VB/I-70 Community Advisory Group (CAG)
OU1 – What Have We Done?

Contaminants of concern – lead and arsenic in soils

Area - 4.5 square miles

Number of homes requiring sampling
approx. 4,500
(45 no access)

Number of homes requiring cleaned up
approx. 800
(10 no access)

Status – complete
OU1 – What Are We Doing?

EPA will soon be proposing to delete Operable Unit 1 (OU1), Residential Soils, from the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites.

All sampling and cleanup at residential properties in the VB/I70 boundaries is complete!
OU۰۱- What Are The Next Steps?

• EPA will publish a notice of intent to delete.

• EPA will also notify the public.

• EPA will accept public comments.

• EPA will make a final decision and respond to public comment.
Operable Unit 2 – What Have We Done?

- 1999 - NPL listing
- 2004/05 ASARCO Soil and Groundwater Investigation
- 2005/06 Sediment, Surface Water and Groundwater Investigations
- 2008/09 - Remedial Investigation and Report
- 2009 – EPA Baseline Human Health and Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment
- 2010 Feasibility Study
- Globeville Landing Outfall 2012 - 2014 – EPA Groundwater Studies
- 2015/16 – Environmental Conditions Investigations
Operable Unit 2 – What We Are Doing Today

- August 2017 – EPA requested an updated Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Report
  - Scoping document due in February 2019
- Compiling historical sampling data
- Analysis of data and assessment of data gaps
- Updating the Conceptual Site Model and risk assessment approach
Operable Unit 2 – What are the next steps?

- Submit Remedial Investigation scoping document (December 2018)
- Perform additional investigation (2019)
- Submit revised Remedial Investigation Report (2020)
- Submit revised Feasibility Study Report (2020)
OU3 – What Have We Done/What Are We Doing?

1992 - CDPHE began assessing for environmental contamination at the former Argo smelter.

2007 - EPA issued a remedial (environmental) investigation report and a proposed cleanup plan to the public for comment.

• Groundwater data was insufficient

• EPA began additional groundwater sampling before issuing a final cleanup decision.
OU3 - What Are The Next Steps?

- EPA will issue an amended remedial investigation report with updated groundwater information.
- EPA will issue a feasibility study report that evaluated cleanup alternatives.
- EPA will issue a Proposed Plan that selects a cleanup alternative.
- EPA will accept public comment on the Proposed Cleanup Plan.
Globeville Landing Outfall Project

Removal Action Update

November 5, 2018
Operable Unit 2 – Removal Action

• City and County of Denver worked with EPA in 2015 to implement removal action to construct a portion of the Globeville Landing Outfall (GLO) Project in OU2

• EPA oversaw the environmental components of the removal action to ensure protection of human health and the environment.
  - Management and handling of waste material encountered
  - Management, treatment, and disposal of dewatering liquid during construction
  - Design and construction of an impermeable barrier system
Removal Action – What was done?

Globeville Landing Outfall Project

• December 2016 through August 2018

• Excavation and installation of a 100-year flood stormwater conduit system

• Construction of an open stormwater channel and outfall in Globeville Landing Park

• Installation of a liner within the open channel to ensure groundwater and stormwater do not interact

Outcome

• 160,180 cubic yards of solid waste excavated and removed to construct the drainage system

• 30.3 million gallons of water treated
Removal Action – What are the next steps?

Globeville Landing Outfall Monitoring and Maintenance Plan

- Ensure liner in the open channel is protected
  - Land use restrictions
  - Visual and land surveys
  - Vegetation inspections
  - Groundwater level monitoring
  - Employee training

Construction Completion Report

- Due 11/29/18
- Summarizes the construction activities, performance standards, quality control / assurance verification, and final inspections
Summary
VB/I-70 Superfund Site:

**OU1**, Residential Soils (Cole, Clayton, Swansea/Elyria)
Issue: Lead and/or Arsenic in Some Residential Soils
Status: Sampling and Cleanups Complete
Public Comment Opportunity: Proposed Deletion from Superfund List in the next few months!

**OU2**, former Omaha& Grant Smelter Location (Denver Coliseum area)
Issue: Lead and Arsenic in some soils and groundwater
Status: Remedial Investigation Phase
Public Comment Opportunity: Proposed Cleanup Plan possibly in 2020

**OU3**, former Argo Smelter Location (NW Mousetrap area)
Issue: Lead and Arsenic in some soils and groundwater
Status: Remedial Investigation Phase
Public Comment Opportunity: Proposed Cleanup Plan possibly in 2019