



News Release

For Immediate Release:

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International Smelting and Refining Health Assessment Available for Public Comment

(Salt Lake City, UT) – A report outlining the possible health risks associated with elevated levels of lead, arsenic and cadmium in the soil near Tooele County's Pine Canyon has been issued by the Utah Department of Health (UDOH). The UDOH conducted a required public health assessment that offers detail about the International Smelting and Refining (ISR) site. The assessment is available for public review and comment.

The assessment was completed through a cooperative agreement between the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the UDOH. Since 1986, ATSDR has been required to conduct a public health assessment for each of the sites on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List. The aim of these evaluations is to find out if people are being exposed to hazardous substances and, if so, whether that exposure is harmful and should be stopped or reduced.

ISR is an old, reclaimed mine, mill and smelter located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Tooele, UT, near Lincoln. Copper and lead smelting was conducted between 1910 and 1972 that resulted in elevated levels of arsenic, lead and cadmium in the soil. Despite reclamation efforts in 1986, ISR's contaminant levels remained elevated and the site was proposed to be added to the EPA's National Priorities List for cleanup. The site is scheduled to be officially added to the National Priorities List on July 27, 2000.

The assessment provides specific soil composition readings, maps, conclusions, etc. The assessment also includes a public health action plan designed to mitigate and prevent adverse human health effects resulting from exposure to hazardous substances in the environment. Recommendations have been made for screenings, remediation, education and further monitoring. The report has been reviewed by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA.

The assessments are available at the Tooele City Library, the Tooele County Health Department and by request from the Utah Department of Health's (UDOH) Environmental Epidemiology Program at 801-538-6191. The public comment period runs until August 30, 2000. A public availability session has been scheduled where health experts will answer questions pertaining to the report. The session will be held on **August 3, 2000, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.** at the Tooele County Health Department, room 181. The Tooele County Health Department is located at 151 North Main Street in Tooele.

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