

Health Consultation

DOUBLE A METALS

CHICAGO, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

EPA FACILITY ID: ILD023352139

AUGUST 2, 2005

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Health Consultation: A Note of Explanation

An ATSDR health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. In order to prevent or mitigate exposures, a consultation may lead to specific actions, such as restricting use of or replacing water supplies; intensifying environmental sampling; restricting site access; or removing the contaminated material.

In addition, consultations may recommend additional public health actions, such as conducting health surveillance activities to evaluate exposure or trends in adverse health outcomes; conducting biological indicators of exposure studies to assess exposure; and providing health education for health care providers and community members. This concludes the health consultation process for this site, unless additional information is obtained by ATSDR which, in the Agency's opinion, indicates a need to revise or append the conclusions previously issued.

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HEALTH CONSULTATION

DOUBLE A METALS

CITY OF CHICAGO, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

EPA FACILITY ID: ILD023352139

Prepared by:

Illinois Department of Health
Under Cooperative Agreement with the
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Purpose

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) requested that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) prepare a health consultation for the Double A Metals site to update the status of the site since the release of the 1997 Double A Metals Health Consultation. This document will evaluate the current status of the site.

Background and Statement of Issues

The Double A Metals site is approximately four acres and is located at 3321 South Pulaski Road in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The area surrounding the site is a mix of industrial, commercial, and residential [1]. The site is bordered to the west by Pulaski Road and to the north by a rail line. A private truck roadway leading to a recycling center separates the site from the Commonwealth Edison power plant to the south, and to the east the site is bordered by a City of Chicago recycling center. The nearest residence is approximately 300 feet north of the site beyond the rail line (Attachment 1) [2].

In December 1997, ATSDR released a health consultation prepared by IDPH for the Double A Metals site [1]. The 1997 health consultation concluded that the conditions of the site posed a public health hazard. At that time there was an apparent fire or explosion hazard that existed because of combustible drum materials on the site. Surface soil was contaminated with chromium and lead, and the potential existed for adults and children to be exposed. A physical hazard also existed from the deteriorating conditions of the buildings on the site.

The recommendations for the Double A Metals site at that time were:

- To remove all drums and waste piles.
- To restrict access to the site due to the physical hazards from the deteriorating buildings and to prevent direct contact with the drums, waste piles, and any possible surface contamination that had not yet been identified.

Since the release of the 1997 health consultation, all drums and waste piles have been removed from the site and a new fence was constructed around the site restricting access to trespassers. All of the deteriorated buildings have been demolished and removed from the site. In 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) performed a time critical removal of contaminants on the site. The cleanup removed “all aluminum dross recycling wastes and all waste oil and flammable liquids [2].” Lead was used as an indicator to determine the depth of soil removal. The 1997 contaminant removal performed by the USEPA addressed all known sources of contamination that posed a threat to public health [2].

In 2002, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) was tasked by USEPA Region 5 to conduct an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) of the Double A Metals site. Based on the cleanup and removal activities performed on the site, Illinois EPA recommended in the APA that the site be considered for No Further Action.

Discussion

A hazardous chemical can affect people only if they contact it through an exposure pathway at a sufficient level to cause adverse health effects. This requires a source of exposure, an environmental transport medium, a route of exposure, and an exposed population (point of exposure). A pathway is complete if all of its components are present and exposure has occurred in the past, is occurring, or will occur in the future. If parts of the pathway are missing, data are insufficient to decide whether it is complete, or exposure may occur at some future time, then it is a potential exposure pathway. If part of a pathway is missing and will never exist, the pathway is incomplete and can be eliminated from further consideration.

At the Double A Metals site, all contamination and physical hazards have been removed. The removal of contamination has ended present and future exposure on the site. Past exposure to contaminated soil, groundwater, and waste piles was possible, but probably negligible. Currently, no chemicals exceed health-based comparison values at the site.

Child Health Considerations

IDPH recognizes that children are especially sensitive to some contaminants. Past exposure of children at the site probably was negligible. The removal of the contamination has eliminated the possibility of future exposure.

Conclusions

Double A Metals currently poses no public health hazard. Past exposure at the site probably was negligible and the removal of the contamination has eliminated the possibility of future exposure. IDPH concurs with the Illinois EPA decision for No Further Action at the site.

Recommendations and Public Health Action Plan

No further public health actions are needed for this site.

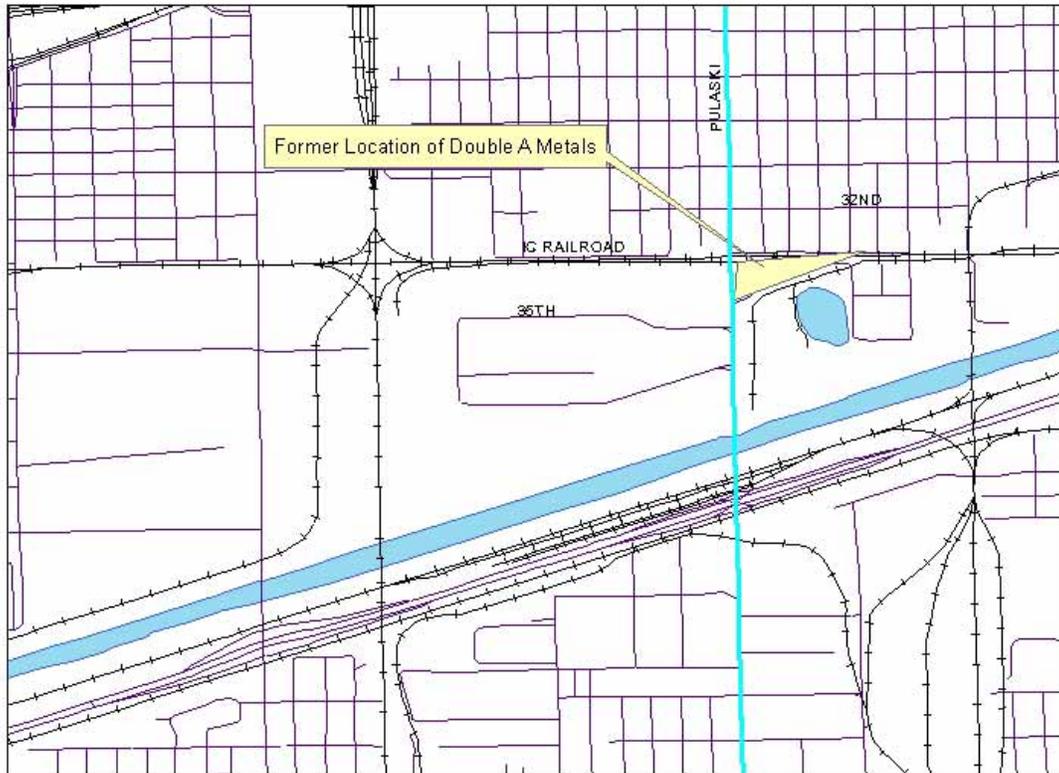
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References

1. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Health Consultation for Double A Metals, Chicago, Illinois. Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services; 1997.
2. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment of Double A Metals, Chicago, Illinois. Springfield; 2003.

Approximate Former Location of Double A Metals



Legend

- +— Rails
- Streets
- Surface Water

