

Leeds Metal Site

Draft Public Health Assessment Summary

Report Available for Public Comment – November 28, 2012 – Leeds, Maine
Public Comment Period Closes January 28, 2013

Purpose

This fact sheet gives information about the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR's) report on the Leeds Metal Site. The report evaluates whether the chemicals found at this site could affect the health of people nearby and recommends what actions are needed to protect public health.

Background

- The Leeds Metal Site was an automobile shredding and scrap metal recovery facility. Massive piles of *auto fluff*, the material left after metal recovery, remain on the site.
- High levels of chemicals—including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals—have been measured on the site. Also, chemicals called volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as trichloroethylene (TCE), have been found in private drinking water wells near the site.
- The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) supplied some private wells with carbon filters to remove TCE and is monitoring private wells in the area.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has added the site to their National Priorities List (NPL). ATSDR evaluated exposure of nearby residents to VOCs in private well water and of trespassers to contaminants in soil on the site.

ATSDR's Draft Findings

- People living near the site who use private well water are not at risk of harmful effects from TCE in the water. But private well water may contain harmful levels of arsenic, which is common in Maine and may not be related to the site.
- Exposure of trespassers to contaminants in on-site soil is unlikely to result in harmful health effects.
- Trespassing on the site is illegal and discouraged because the site contains physical hazards that could cause injury, such as steep and possibly unstable slopes, sharp pieces of metal and rebar, and at least one concrete pit containing standing water.
- Our evaluation is based on limited environmental test results from EPA's NPL listing process and reported current uses of the site. More information is needed to assess potential exposures to contaminants in sediment, surface water, and movement of VOCs from groundwater through soil and into homes (vapor intrusion).

Leeds Metal Site *(continued from front)*

ATSDR's Recommendations

- ME DEP should keep sampling all nearby private wells to ensure TCE-removing filters are operating properly and to evaluate if other wells need filters.
- Residents whose private wells contain arsenic above drinking water standards should consider installing a reverse osmosis treatment system or switching to another source of drinking water. Carbon filters will not remove arsenic from water.
- Site property owners or EPA should install effective fencing, gates, and warning signs to keep trespassers from entering the site.
- EPA should continue investigating contamination at the site.
- The site should not be used for other purposes without additional public health evaluation.

ATSDR will evaluate additional data collected by EPA and update the findings of this PHA, if necessary.

How to Review and Comment on ATSDR's Draft Findings

The ATSDR report on the Leeds Metal Site is available for review at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=ME>. A copy of the report is also available at the Leeds Town Office, 8 Community Drive, in Leeds.

Your comments will improve the quality of the report. Send comments **by January 28, 2013** to ATSDRRecordsCenter@cdc.gov, or mail to:

ATSDR Records Center Attn: Rolanda Morrison
RE: Leeds Metal Site, Leeds, ME
1600 Clifton Road, NE (MS F-09)
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Comments received during the public comment period, without the names of who submitted them, and ATSDR responses will appear in an appendix to the final PHA. If requested under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the names of those who submit comments may be releasable under FOIA rules.

About ATSDR

ATSDR stands for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. It is a federal public health agency and part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR promotes healthy and safe environments and prevents harmful exposures to toxic substances. Congress requires that ATSDR conduct public health activities at contaminated sites on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Priorities List (NPL).