

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

East 165th Street Soil Contamination Site Investigation

Office of Land Quality – Federal Programs Section – Site Investigation Program

(317) 232-8941 • (800) 451-6027 www.idem.IN.gov 100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Background Information:

- Past investigations by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) revealed the potential for concentrations of various metals in soils in residential areas in the general vicinity of East 165th Street in Hammond, Indiana. Contaminants of concern include lead and arsenic.
- These contaminants are utilized in various industrial processes.

Health and Environmental Impacts:

- Most metals easily settle or bind to soils once they enter the environment and can change forms depending on the conditions.
- Exposure to these contaminants of concern can cause stomach or lung irritation, liver or kidney damage, nervous system damage, learning disabilities and numerous other negative health effects.
- Lead and arsenic are considered by the U.S. EPA to be human carcinogens or probable cancer-causing substances.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- In the summer of 2018, IDEM's Site Investigation Program will screen soils in residential areas in the vicinity of East 165th Street, Hammond Indiana. Field screening will be conducted with an X-ray fluorescence instrument.
- IDEM staff may need to contact residents to request permission to collect field screening data from their private property.
 - Property owners who are asked to aid in this investigation will be asked to sign a property access agreement.
 - The screening will be conducted at no cost to the property owner.
 - IDEM will provide the property owners with their results.

Additional Information:

- The public may direct questions and concerns regarding IDEM's environmental investigation at the East 165th Street Soil Contamination Site, including information on sampling results to date and environmental impacts of metals, to Sam Stroebe, IDEM Project Manager, at (317) 232-8189; toll free at (800) 451-6027, press 0; or by e-mail at SStroebe@idem.IN.gov.
- Questions and concerns about health-related impacts should be directed to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences at 1-800-232-4636. ATSDR's website is <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>.
- The news media may contact IDEM's media office at (317) 232-8596; toll free at (800) 451-6027, press 0; or by e-mail at media@idem.IN.gov