



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Hurwich Iron Company

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Description:

- The Site Investigation Section of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), under a Cooperative Agreement with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), is conducting a site investigation of the Hurwich Iron Company, Incorporated (also known as the South Bend Smelting and Refinery Company) at 1610 W. Circle Avenue in South Bend, Indiana.
- The Hurwich Iron Company was a smelter that operated in the 1950s and 1960s. The purpose of the site investigation is to determine if operations at the smelter caused contamination that may pose a risk to human health and/or the environment.
- IDEM has identified lead as a possible contaminant of concern. Sources of smelter-related contamination are often from stack and fugitive air emissions from production processes.
- On September 14, 2010, IDEM staff will be in South Bend, near the Hurwich Iron Company to obtain soil samples from residential yards in the area.
- Representatives from IDEM may request access to your property to take a soil sample to accomplish this task. There is no charge associated with these samples and you will be provided with sample results from the analysis conducted on your property within 60 days. Participation in this sampling event is voluntary, but strongly encouraged.

Environmental Impacts:

- Lead is a toxic metal that can be emitted into the air from motor vehicles and industrial sources.
- The most likely way people can get lead into their bodies is through eating or swallowing contaminated dirt. Young children (under 6 years of age) are at the highest risk for getting lead into their bodies from soil. When a child repeatedly has exposure, the lead can build up in their body and may reach levels that can cause health problems.
- Lead may cause a range of health effects, from behavioral problems and learning disabilities, to seizures.

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.
- IDEM's Site Investigation Program works to assess potential environmental hazards and prioritize contaminated sites for further needed actions.
- By conducting this investigation, IDEM will be better able to determine if and what actions are needed to assure that the residents of South Bend are not impacted by lead levels that could be harmful to human health.
- IDEM's Site Investigations Program staff will be available to answer questions and address concerns of homeowners.

Citizen's Role:

- South Bend residents and businesses can assist the State of Indiana by allowing IDEM staff to take soil samples from their place of business or from their residence, if needed. The sample will consist of a small amount of soil that will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. The amount of soil will be negligible and will leave no noticeable trace of IDEM's sampling activity after staff leave.

More Information:

- For more information about IDEM's Site Investigations Program, please visit IDEM's website at www.idem.IN.gov/4143.htm.
- For questions and concerns about IDEM's environmental investigation, please contact Deirdre Wyatt, IDEM project manager, at (317) 234-6825, (800) 451-6027 ext. 4-6825 or, by e-mail at dwyatt@idem.IN.gov.

- For health-related questions, please contact:
 - Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), at (800) 621-8431, ext. 3-6086.
 - Environmental Epidemiology Division of the Indiana State Department of Health at (317) 351-7190, ext. 262.
 - St. Joseph County Health Department at (574) 235-9750.
- For media inquiries, please contact IDEM's Office of Media Relations, at (317) 232-8596, (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8596, or by email at bsneed@idem.IN.gov.