



# Lincoln Park Citizens' Update

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment



## PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

### Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Invite you to attend a meeting on the Remedial Action Plan (RAP)  
for the Superfund Cleanup of the Cotter Uranium Mill Site

**When: Thursday, February 10, 2005**

**Where: Cañon City Council Chambers  
128 Main Street**

**Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

This meeting will address Superfund issues only. Subjects to be discussed are described briefly in this newsletter. For more information, call:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Phil Stoffey, Project Manager 1-888-569-1831, x3452  
Marion Galant, Community Involvement Manager  
1-888-569-1831, x3304

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Rebecca Thomas, Project Manager (303) 312-6552  
Ted Linnert (303) 312-6119

## Feasibility Study for Cleanup of the Old Tailing Ponds Area

Following EPA Superfund guidance, Cotter Corporation has prepared a feasibility study for the Old Tailings Ponds area at the February 10 public meeting. Paul Rosasco of Engineering Management Support, Inc., will make a presentation on six alternatives for cleanup up of the contamination in the Old Ponds area.

The Remedial Action Plan (RAP), signed in 1988, required Cotter to perform pilot testing to evaluate the feasibility of flushing contamination from the soils that were under the Old Tailings Ponds. Cotter had previously tried three different pilot tests to address the issue, which included injection trenches and recovery wells,

injection wells and recovery trenches and 10-acre in-place flushing and fixation ponds. These methods did not demonstrate the ability to do an acceptable job. Rosasco's report is available in the Cañon City Public Library, and at the EPA and CDPHE Records Centers in Denver.

Those agencies would like public input on this Feasibility Study. Comments should be sent to Phil Stoffey by March 10, 2005 at the return address for this mailing, or email at [philip.stoffey@state.co.us](mailto:philip.stoffey@state.co.us). The chosen alternative will be incorporated into a revised Remedial Action Plan.

## ATSDR Review of Lead Study Information

At one of the “All Topics Considered” meetings hosted by the State and EPA last winter, EPA Cotter Mill Superfund Site Project Manager Rebecca Thomas offered to contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a branch of the U.S. Public Health Service, to evaluate the Lead Data Compilation Report EPA had commissioned (March 2004).

The Compilation Report accumulated all available data from various lead studies previously conducted in Cañon City, such as the cleanup of the College of the Canyons, to determine what information was available. As the preamble of the report states, “Following a 2003 lead sampling event, the Cañon City community was concerned that lead contamination might be a more wide-spread issue than previously believed.”

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA 1986) mandated a Public Health Assessment for every subsequent Superfund site. That requirement was not retroactive.

Urged by the concern of citizens about whether various health problems might be linked to lead dispersed in the environment, EPA and the state concluded that consolidation, evaluation and summarization of what is already known about lead levels in the Cañon City area from previous investigations needed to be done before considering further action. Evaluating this information, conceivably by ATSDR, would be appropriate to answer some of the public health questions posed by Lincoln Park residents. The Compilation Report accomplished this task.

ATSDR continues to work on the three issues in which EPA, the state and the community have requested assistance:

- 1) Lead—Clem Welsh, ATSDR Atlanta, was in Lincoln Park in late July to interview local citizens and gather information about lead in the community. ATSDR has also received blood lead data for Fremont County from CDPHE for the period 1996-2003. ATSDR expects to release a report describing the findings of those activities this year, according to Welsh. At this preliminary stage of the investigations, the available evidence has raised questions related to lead in dust in area homes. In response, ATSDR is discussing, with EPA and CDPHE, what next steps are appropriate to answer the questions about house dust contaminants.
- 2) Air Monitoring—EPA and the state have provided ATSDR with relevant air monitoring plans, recent quality assurance audits and monitoring results. ATSDR is evaluating this information to determine if they have any recommendations for improvements to the air-monitoring program.
- 3) Health Assessment—ATSDR is well aware of the community’s interest in performing some type of health assessment for Lincoln Park. Alternatives for proceeding with a focused assessment are under evaluation in ATSDR’s Atlanta office.

## National Resource Damages Phase I Work – Update

Work continues on projects approved by State Trustees for Phase I of the Cotter Natural Resource Damage Recovery Funds. The local work group made up of representatives from the Cañon City Area Recreation and Park District, Fremont County, City of Canon City and the Town of Brookside received approval for Phase I funding amounting to \$1,153,500 for local projects.

The District and City of Canon City are working towards the acquisitions of the final three parcels under Phase I funding for the extension of the Arkansas Riverwalk Trail System. Total property purchases completed to date amount to approximately 192 acres and totaling \$755,000 in NRD funding. The new regional sports park / county events center facility is in the final stages of design. Construction is expected to start this spring. Wildlife Enhancement Project work continues in John Griffin Regional Park and at the Nailor property. Recreation District crews have been busy removing invasive weeds and tree species such as Tamarisk and Russian Olive and removing unnatural debris from both sites. NRD funds have been utilized in three areas along the Arkansas River to provide riverbank stabilization. The Sell Avenue street improvement project has been completed. The new street has reduced dust and noise pollution in the area. Over thirty new trees have been planted along the street. Wood mulch landscaping has been completed along the new street and trail.

The completed property acquisitions and projects represent 89% of the approved NRD Phase I funding for the local trails and local contributions. Estimated local government contributions to date total \$150,000 in matching funds or in in-kind services. Additional approved matching grants funding to date totals \$1,029,200, including GOCO, CDOT, state trails and local contributions. Estimated local government contributions to date total \$150,000 in matching funds or in-kind services.

### CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP DESIREABLE, ACCORDING TO INTERVIEWS

Although the Community Involvement Plan Update is still being written, there was a lot of interest among the interviewees in establishing a Citizen's Advisory Group, or CAG, for the Lincoln Park site. EPA and the state are prepared to move forward with this idea.

Descriptive information and applications to participate will be available at the February 10 public meeting, or you may request an application by email from:

Ted Linnert at [Linnert.Ted@epa.gov](mailto:Linnert.Ted@epa.gov) or  
Marion Galant at [marion.galant@state.co.us](mailto:marion.galant@state.co.us)

EPA and the state would select five members, and those five would select the other members based on the applications. We hope to move forward by March 2005.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN FOR LINCOLN PARK SUPERFUND SITE

A revision of the 1998 Community Involvement Plan is being developed, according to Marion Galant of the state health department, the lead agency for this document. The report, based on citizen interviews conducted last winter, revisits issues related to communications, primarily where citizens prefer to meet, and how they prefer to get their information on the site, etc.

The interviews also point out where citizens believe the regulatory agencies could enhance their communication efforts with the community.

Copies of the report will be available immediately after its posting to the web site to all those who volunteered to be interviewed, and in the Cañon City Public Library, the EPA Records Center, and at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, or by calling Marion Galant at 1-888-569-1831, ext. 3304.

## Natural Resource Damage Funding: Phase II

You may recall that last year the Natural Resource Damage Trustees awarded \$1.2 million to restore or replace natural resources damaged by the Cotter Uranium Mill. It paid for land improvement for the extension of the local river walk, stream improvements and land purchase to protect wildlife, portions of which will be developed into a regional park and a bird sanctuary. This work is nearing completion, and it is time to allocate the remaining funds.

This year the trustees, designated by statute as: The Colorado Attorney General, the Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, or their designees, will award an additional \$1.1 to one or more worthwhile

projects suggested by a working group of local interested residents. Making up the working group for Phase I were representatives from Fremont County, Cañon City, Brookside, Cañon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District, Ron Cattany from the Department of Natural Resources, Jane Feldman from the Office of the Attorney General and Phil Stoffey from CDPHE. Representatives from these organizations have been asked to participate again in Phase II. Additional representation from Florence and Lincoln Park will join the group. They will review the submitted projects and make recommendations to the state Natural Resource Trustees.

### STATE, COTTER CORPORATION TO UPDATE REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

The State of Colorado has been meeting with Cotter Corporation to update the Remedial Action Plan, the document that defines and guides the cleanup of the Cotter (Lincoln Park) Superfund site.

"We have never deleted the completed work from the Remedial Action Plan," explained Phil Stoffey, State Project Manager, "and it's time we did." Phil continues to meet with Steve Landau, Cotter's Environmental Manager, to explain modifications to the Remedial Action Plan over the years, clarifying which projects have been successfully completed. "Sometime in 2005," Stoffey added, we will formally seek public input on the Remedial Action Plan modifications. In the meantime, we are continuing to work on the remaining projects. A summary will be presented at the February 10 meeting.