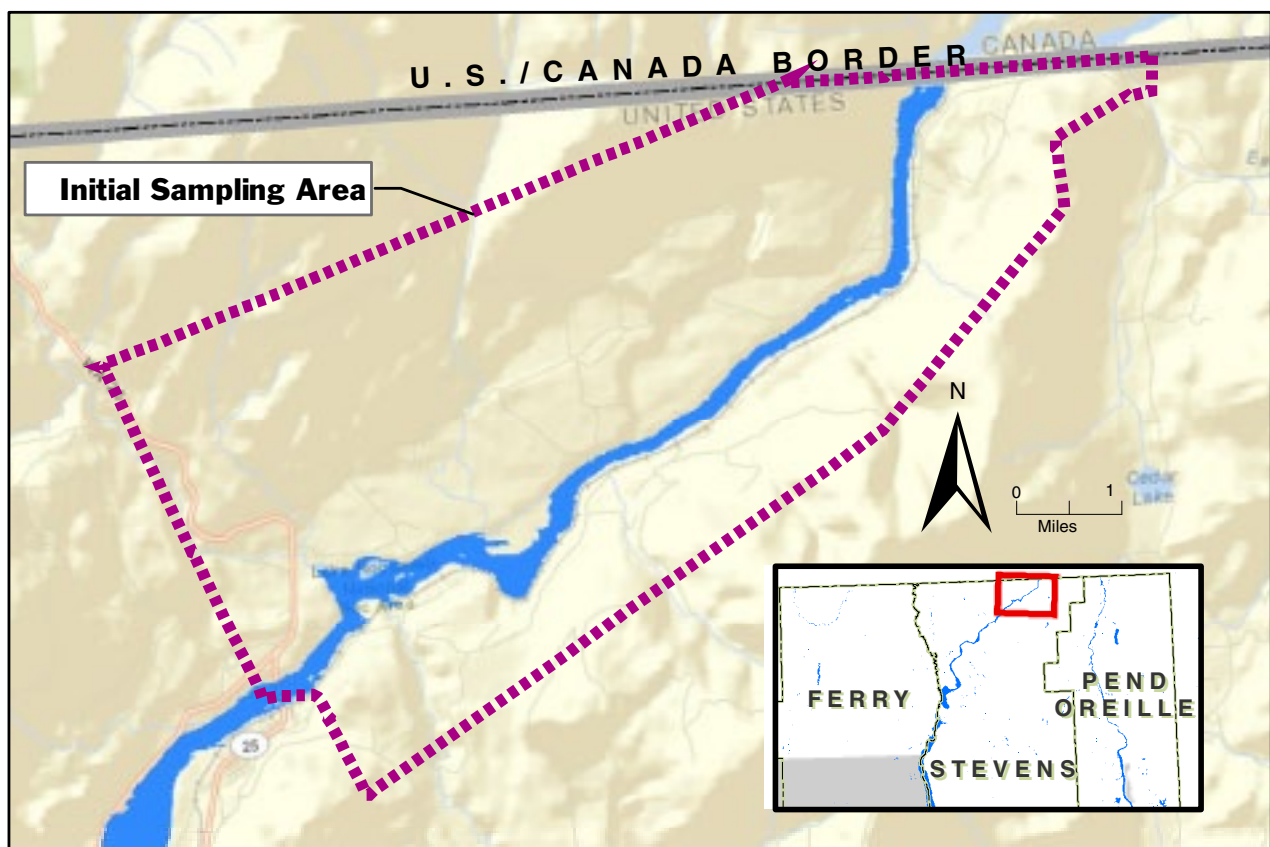


The EPA is studying metals contamination in the Columbia River from the U.S./Canada border to the Grand Coulee Dam and surrounding upland areas. The study is called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. As part of that study, we are looking at contaminants in soil. In the fall of 2012, the Washington Department of Ecology found some undisturbed soil samples that were contaminated with lead, arsenic and cadmium within two miles of the U.S./Canada border. Some of the concentrations found by Ecology in those samples would be a cause for concern if the samples had been located near a residence.

We need your help to conduct this portion of the study by allowing us to sample your property to see if there are elevated levels of lead or arsenic in your soil. The US EPA is requesting you volunteer for free soil sampling of your residence.



First Steps

All residential property owners within our initial study area (shown on the map) will be mailed an Access Agreement this winter from EPA. We need your signature on this agreement to allow us access onto your property to sample your soil. The Access Agreement will describe the location of your property and a general plan for sampling your soil. We will work with you to determine which areas of your property are most appropriate to sample.

If you do not get an Access Agreement in the mail and would like your property tested, call or email one of the EPA contacts below, or check with your landlord if you rent, to see if he or she has signed the Access Agreement.

Next Steps

In the spring of 2014, the EPA and our contractors will visit your home and work with you to determine the best locations to take soil samples. These locations are likely to be places close to your home, children's play areas, or produce gardens. We are especially interested in locations where children are most likely to be exposed to soil.

Once a sampling plan for your property is developed, EPA's contractors will sample your soil — we expect

sampling to take place in the summer and fall of 2014. Results will be mailed to you in a letter explaining the results. The mailing will also contain contact information for EPA staff who will answer any questions you may have.

Possible findings

We may or may not find levels of lead or arsenic in your soil above a level of concern. There are a range of things that might be done if levels of contamination are higher, all the way up to removing the contaminated soil and replacing it with clean soil. What happens at your residence will depend on the results of your soil sample.

Additional residential soil sampling

Our initial focus of residential soil sampling will be on properties identified in the map. This is the area we consider most likely to have soil contamination due to smelter operations.

If residential soil sampling shows metal contamination levels that potentially could harm people's health, then a broader sampling plan may be conducted outside the area indicated in the map.

For More Information


For more information, or to request soil testing of your property, call:

Project Managers:

- **Laura Buelow** (buelow.laura@epa.gov),
509-376-5466 or toll free at 1-800-424-4372
- **Matt Wilkening** (wilkening.matt@epa.gov),
208-378-5760 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

Community Involvement Coordinator:

- **Kay Morrison** (morrison.kay@epa.gov),
206-553-8321
or toll-free 1-800-424-4372 ext. 8321

 TDD or TTY users, please call 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Kay Morrison's phone number.

To learn more about the **Upper Columbia River Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study**:

- EPA's Upper Columbia River Study web site: <http://go.usa.gov/Z3eh>
- Teck America maintains a great deal of current information on the study at their website: www.ucr-rifs.com/
- To learn more about the **Washington Department of Ecology's efforts**, go to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/> and search for "Upper Columbia River"
- The **Washington Department of Ecology** provides helpful tips on how to protect your family from lead and arsenic in the soil: <http://go.usa.gov/Z3GR>



Region 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-086
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

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Residential soil sampling near the U.S. / Canada Border

Read inside for details