

Jacksonville Begins Remediation Program

The City of Jacksonville operated municipal waste incinerators from the 1910s until the 1960s at two locations; one at Forest Street and the other at 5th and Cleveland Street. Ash from the incinerators was disposed at these two facilities, and two offsite facilities known as Brown's Dump Site and at what is now Lonnie C. Miller Park. The ash, mixed with sand, was used by area residents as fill for potholes and low lying residential areas. Subsequent testing in the 1980s and 1990s showed that some of the ash had elevated lead levels. The City, under the direction of EPA, conducted Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies of these four sites to determine the extent of ash-lead contamination and to determine a remedy for the cleanup. The remedy will include excavation of up to two feet of ash-lead contaminated soil, followed by clean fill and landscaping. The City of Jacksonville has selected a program director team to oversee the project and is currently working on the selection of design-build teams to conduct the clean up.

Value Engineering and Additional Funding Sources

Because of the large quantities of clean fill, topsoil, and landscaping materials, the City will be investigating local sources that can supply these materials at an advantageous price. The City will pursue additional funding sources to facilitate neighborhood improvement while simultaneously conducting remediation. Possible additional funding sources may include Brownsfield grants as well as additional funding for road, drainage, and parks improvements. The results of these efforts will be incorporated into the Design Criteria Packages (DCP).

Design/Build Firm Selection

The City will be selecting several qualified design/build firms to prepare designs and implement them for the remediation of the contaminated sites. DCPs will include estimated quantities of ash-contaminated soil, clean fill, turf, and other landscaping requirements. Maps showing the extent, depth and thickness of ash-contaminated soil will also be included. Design criteria will also be included for river and creek bank stabilization, and drainage requirements for large areas that require cover only without excavation.

Neighborhood Beautification

The remedial action includes the removal of contaminated soil and the replacement with clean fill and attractive landscaping. The City expects that the remediation will offer an opportunity to beautify the landscaping in the affected neighborhoods.

Community Relations Support

Effective community relations are essential for the success of this program. The City is in the process of selecting a Public Outreach Consultant to support the City with this critical function. Community relations assistance may include conducting information workshops, preparation of fact sheets and, most importantly, and coordinating remedial construction activities with each affected property owner.

Incorporating Lessons Learned

The City recently conducted site visits to active residential lead-contaminated sites in Anniston, Alabama and Omaha, Nebraska to observe the remediation activities and to bring back lessons learned that can be applied to better manage the remediation of the Jacksonville sites. One of the valuable lessons learned included setting up one or more Public Information Centers at the sites where the affected residents can call or visit to obtain current information, including schedule information on the remediation of their property. Other valuable lessons learned include pre- and post remediation photographs to document property conditions, and pre-remediation survey with the affected residents to inform them of upcoming remediation activities. Lessons learned from other residential lead contaminated sites throughout the country will help make the Jacksonville Sites remediation quick and efficient, with minimal disruption to the local affected residents.