



BLACK LEAF CHEMICAL SITE
LOUISVILLE, KY
FACT SHEET



No. 4

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This Site information sheet summarizes the history of the Site, activities presently underway at the Site, and future activities planned for the Site.

If you have questions or comments about the Site, please contact us at the numbers listed below:

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Site Background

The Black Leaf Chemical Site is a former pesticide formulating facility located in the Louisville Industrial Park at 1391 Dixie Highway in Louisville, KY. The Site, which is located on a 29 acre property in the Park Hill neighborhood operated from the 1930s to the 1970s, and handled pesticides such as Black Leaf 40, DDT, Dieldrin, and Lindane.

Site investigations in 2010 and 2011 confirmed the presence of DDT and dieldrin in surface soils on the industrial property. Elevated levels of arsenic, lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were also discovered. Arsenic is known to cause cancer and DDT, dieldrin, and certain PAHs such as benzo(a)pyrene (BaP) are classified as probable human carcinogens.

In 2012, EPA and the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) collected soil samples at 69 residential properties adjacent to the Site. BaP was found at concentrations exceeding KDEP's screening levels at all 69 locations. In addition, there is evidence that arsenic, dieldrin, and lead have migrated from the industrial property into residential yards surrounding the Site.

At this time, the full extent of possible off-site contamination remains unknown. It is possible that not all of the BaP and lead discovered offsite is due to a release from the industrial property. These compounds are recognized to be commonly found in the environment at elevated levels due to fossil fuel combustion.

Current Status and Future Actions

EPA and KDEP are meeting with Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to reach agreement on which residential properties will undergo cleanup first. The emphasis is on targeting properties where releases from the Site can be confirmed, and which are the most heavily impacted. EPA and KDEP will plan a public availability session with residents and other interested parties once cleanup plans are finalized.