

# Additional Cleanup Activities Planned at Contaminated Site

**Bautsch-Gray Mine Site**  
Jo Daviess County, Illinois

October 2012

## You are invited

The EPA will be hosting a public meeting to explain the investigation and cleanup of the former mine site. At the meeting, the EPA and the Illinois EPA staff will provide an update on the ongoing work at the site.

**Date:** Tuesday, October 30

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Galena Middle School  
1230 N. Franklin St.  
Galena

For more information, or for special accommodations at the meeting, contact: **Cheryl Allen**, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431, Ext. 36196, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., [allen.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:allen.cheryl@epa.gov).

## National Priority Listing

The Bautsch Gray Mine site is being proposed for placement on the National Priorities List. The NPL is a list of the nation's hazardous waste sites eligible for investigation and cleanup under the EPA's Superfund program. Placement on the NPL may allow for additional funding and resources for the cleanup.

## Information repository

Review site documents at:

Galena Public Library  
601 S. Bench St.  
Galena

## Check out these websites:

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/bautsch](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/bautsch)  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts2.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts2.pdf)  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts13.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts13.pdf)



*Grading berm located along Blackjack Road.*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved additional funding to do more cleanup work at the Bautsch Gray Mine site. Located on Blackjack Road about four miles south of Galena, Ill., the site contains lead- and arsenic-contaminated tailings (waste from mining operations). The objective of the cleanup is to stabilize the mine tailings pile to prevent lead and arsenic contamination from moving off-site. The EPA previously cleaned up pollution that had moved off the site onto area residential properties.

The additional work will include:

- Planting grass on the part of the site west of Blackjack Road. Topsoil and biosolids will be added to the mine tailings in this area prior to planting the grass seed. Biosolids contain a natural nutrient-rich fertilizer that promotes plant growth. The grass, once established, will reduce erosion from heavy rainfall and reduce downstream migration of contaminated mine tailings.
- Grading and contouring parts of the main tailings pile to ensure proper stormwater drainage.
- Planting vegetation on the main tailings area to prevent erosion during heavy rainfall.
- Completing any necessary cleanup in road ditches adjacent to the site.
- Conducting air monitoring during the ongoing work.

## Previous cleanup work

The first phase of the site cleanup began in September 2010 and continued into summer 2011. During the first phase, four stormwater retention ponds were constructed on the mine tailings pile area. The ponds are designed to greatly reduce the chance of contaminated tailings moving off-site by slowing the flow of stormwater across the property during heavy rains. Also, cleanup of a residential property on Blackjack Road was completed in 2011.

## The next steps

The second phase of the cleanup is expected to be completed this year. This fall the EPA will work on contouring and planting grass on the horseshoe-shaped tailings area west of Blackjack Road. This will ensure proper storm water drainage, reduce dust around the site and reduce movement of the mine tailings into Smallpox Creek. Topsoil and biosolids will be added to the mine tailings to make it suitable for growing grass and other plants.



*Completed berm along Blackjack Road.*

## For more information

For more information about the site, you may contact:

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