

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN



Photo credit: Brendan Kearns, BrendanKearns.com

COLUMBIAN ENAMELING AND STAMPING COMPANY SUPERFUND SITE



December 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Describes the purpose of this Community Involvement Plan, presents EPA's community outreach objectives and provides an overview of the Superfund program.

The *Community Involvement Plan* is a working document that will evolve as the cleanup process continues and input is received from the community. It is intended to be flexible, adaptable and used as a guideline for our communication with the community.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency developed this **Community Involvement Plan**, or **CIP**, for the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Company facility, or Columbian Enameling Site, located at 1536 Beach Street, Terre Haute, Indiana. This plan provides information on site **cleanup** activities, the current site status, community demographics, community interviews and **community involvement** activities that have been and will continue to be conducted during the site investigation and cleanup.

EPA prepared this CIP to inform, engage and support the communities near the Columbian Enameling Site. Our community involvement effort is committed to promoting effective and meaningful communication between the public and EPA. We want to make sure that (1) members of the affected communities know and understand when and how they can participate in decision-making during the cleanup activities at this site and (2) the communities' concerns and information needs are considered and addressed as activities at the site progress.

This CIP supports environmental and cleanup activities at and near the Columbian Enameling Site. EPA used several information sources to develop this plan, including research, discussions with community members, insight gathered during community interviews and at a public meeting.

To prepare for the public meeting and community interviews, EPA mailed a postcard to local community members and officials on October 18, 2024, announcing the public meeting. EPA also worked with the mayor of Terre Haute and his staff to announce the meeting on their website. EPA conducted interviews at the public meeting on October 30, 2024, and used notes on questions asked at the meeting to prepare the community involvement interview summary. See the Community Interviews section on page 18 for details on these interviews.

Words in **bold** are defined in Appendix A.

EPA's Community Outreach Objectives:

- Assist the public in understanding the decision-making process and the community's role in that process during site investigation and cleanup.
- Give the public accessible, accurate, timely and understandable information about the project as it moves forward.
- Ensure adequate time and opportunity for the public to give informed and meaningful input.
- Respect and fully consider public input throughout the entire process.
- Reflect community concerns, questions and information needs.

If you are interested in submitting comments or have questions or suggestions concerning this CIP, please contact:

Meshach Padilla
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EPA Region 5
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Community Engagement in Superfund Cleanups

Ongoing input and involvement by the community are essential to providing effective **community engagement**. EPA's decision-making ability is enhanced by actively seeking input and information from the community. Community members need to be involved in all phases of the cleanup to address **contamination** in a way that protects people and the environment – now and in the future.

Residents, property owners, business owners, and local government officials provide valuable information and insight that can help EPA determine the best cleanup approach. Information can help determine the location of contamination, how people may be exposed to the contamination and possible sources of the contamination.

EPA conducted community interviews to better understand the community and their concerns about the Columbian Enameling Site. A summary of these interviews begins on page 18.

Superfund Overview

Superfund is an environmental cleanup program enabled by a federal law enacted in 1980 known as the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act**, or **CERCLA**. In 1986, another law, the **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act**, or **SARA**, reauthorized CERCLA to continue Superfund cleanup activities.

Removal responses are common at Superfund sites when the contamination poses an immediate threat to human health and the environment. Removals are classified as either emergency, time-critical, or non-time-critical depending on the extent and type of contamination. Once EPA has been made aware of a site by individuals, local and state agencies or others, EPA follows a step-by-step process to determine the best course of action to clean it up.

If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, EPA can intervene with an **emergency response action**. The Columbian Enameling Site is being investigated and cleaned up through a **time-critical removal action**. The goal of EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program is to protect the public and the environment from immediate threats posed by the release or discharge of **hazardous substances**.

The Superfund program encourages active dialogue between communities affected by the release of hazardous substances and all the agencies responsible for carrying out or overseeing cleanup actions. Community involvement is an important part of the Superfund program, and opportunities for community involvement occur throughout each step of the process. All community outreach work is further described in the Community Involvement Activities section beginning on page 22.

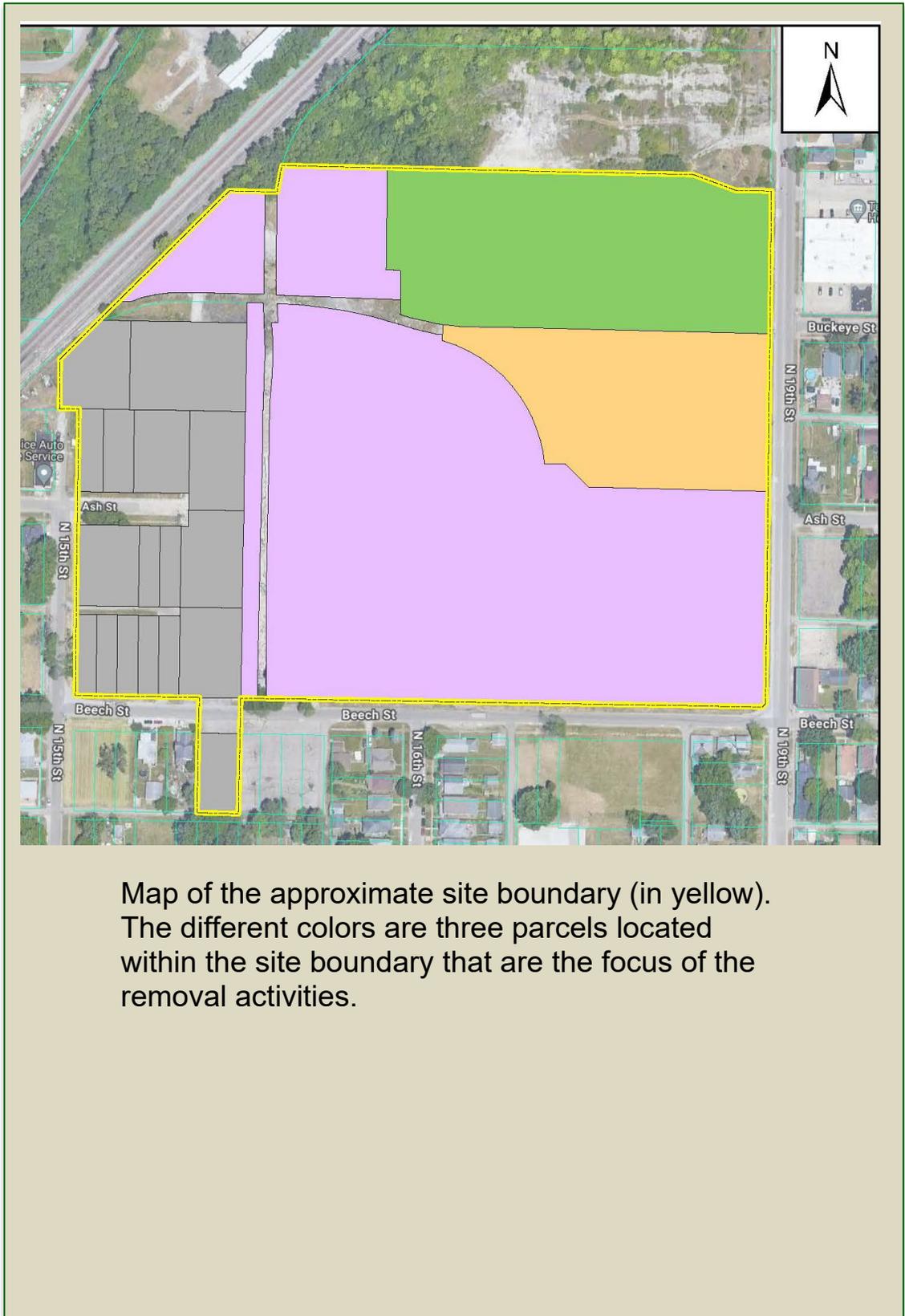
Visit these EPA websites for more information on the Superfund process.

Superfund: [Superfund | US EPA](#)

Cleanup Process: [Cleaning up Superfund Sites | US EPA](#)

Community Involvement: [Superfund Community Involvement | US EPA](#)

THE SITE



Map of the approximate site boundary (in yellow). The different colors are three parcels located within the site boundary that are the focus of the removal activities.

Site Description and History

The Columbian Enameling Site is located at 1536 Beach Street in Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana. The site is in a primarily residential area with a school, the Deming Early Learning Center, one block to the south. During active cleanup work, an air quality monitor is placed next to the playground of the Deming Early Learning Center to make sure that asbestos fibers are not leaving the cleanup area.



Deming Early Learning School located one block south of the site.

The Columbian Enameling and Stamping Company operated from 1902 until 1968 and produced enamel cookware. In 1968, General Housewares Corporation purchased the company and expanded warehousing at the site to include other houseware product lines.

In March of 1998, Columbian Home Products, LLC was incorporated in Illinois and authorized to conduct business in Indiana. The same month, General Housewares transferred site ownership to Columbian Home through a Special Warranty Deed. In 2005, Columbian Home agreed to a voluntary **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**, or **RCRA**, corrective action agreement to investigate, remediate, stabilize, and remove hazardous wastes from two on-site coal ash pits. Subsequent soil sample results indicated high concentrations of metals, including arsenic and antimony, and petroleum at shallow depths. In 2008, after the corrective action was completed, an environmental **restrictive covenant** was placed on the property deed to prohibit residential, recreational, or agricultural uses on site.

On October 16, 2019, Columbian Home announced the closure of the Terre Haute facility. In 2021, the current owner of the property, Complete Industrial Holdings, began demolishing site buildings and scavenging valuable building materials. Salvaging crews performed these operations without required permits. In April 2022, the Indiana Building Inspectors Office issued a cease work order before demolition was completed. An inspection letter and notice of violation from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, or IDEM, Office of Air Quality noted that the owner or operator of the demolition activities failed to submit a notice of demolition. The letter and notice also indicated that IDEM required that all demolition debris be inspected by an Indiana-licensed asbestos inspector.

During the winter of 2023, IDEM requested that EPA assist in conducting a removal assessment at the site. The assessment concluded that site conditions and the presence of **asbestos** and hazardous waste in drums posed a potential threat to human health and the environment.

Current Status

EPA is conducting the following activities to protect the health and well-being of community members:

- Spraying water to prevent dust from getting into the air.
- Conducting air monitoring and sampling to ensure asbestos fibers are not leaving the cleanup area.
- Repairing fencing around the property to prevent access to the hazardous cleanup area.
- Transporting wastes and asbestos debris to an EPA-approved disposal facility.
- Removing unstable structures such as building debris.
- Removing drums containing hazardous waste.

During the cleanup work, the community may notice these activities:

- Potential for increased traffic around the cleanup area.
- Noise from active removal work during normal work hours.
- Temporary fencing and closure of sidewalks around the work site.
- Crew members wearing respirators and personal protective equipment.



Orange fencing and sidewalk closed sign installed for the safety of the community.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has a fibrous form, making it a strong and heat-resistant material. It was historically used in many products and is still present in older homes and buildings. Asbestos is not water soluble, meaning it will not dissolve and move through the groundwater.

- Breathing in fibers from the breakdown or disposal of old asbestos products can cause harmful health effects.
- Potential health issues can include shortness of breath and a persistent cough.
- Long-term exposure is linked to mesothelioma and lung cancer. As a result, EPA has banned asbestos use in new construction projects.

For more information about asbestos, visit:
atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts61.pdf or scan the QR code.



Site Photos



The best way to stay safe is by keeping your distance and not entering the property. EPA advises community members to avoid entering this site. Entry may expose you to asbestos and you may carry this hazardous substance off-site on your clothes and shoes.



View from the center of the site looking southwest.



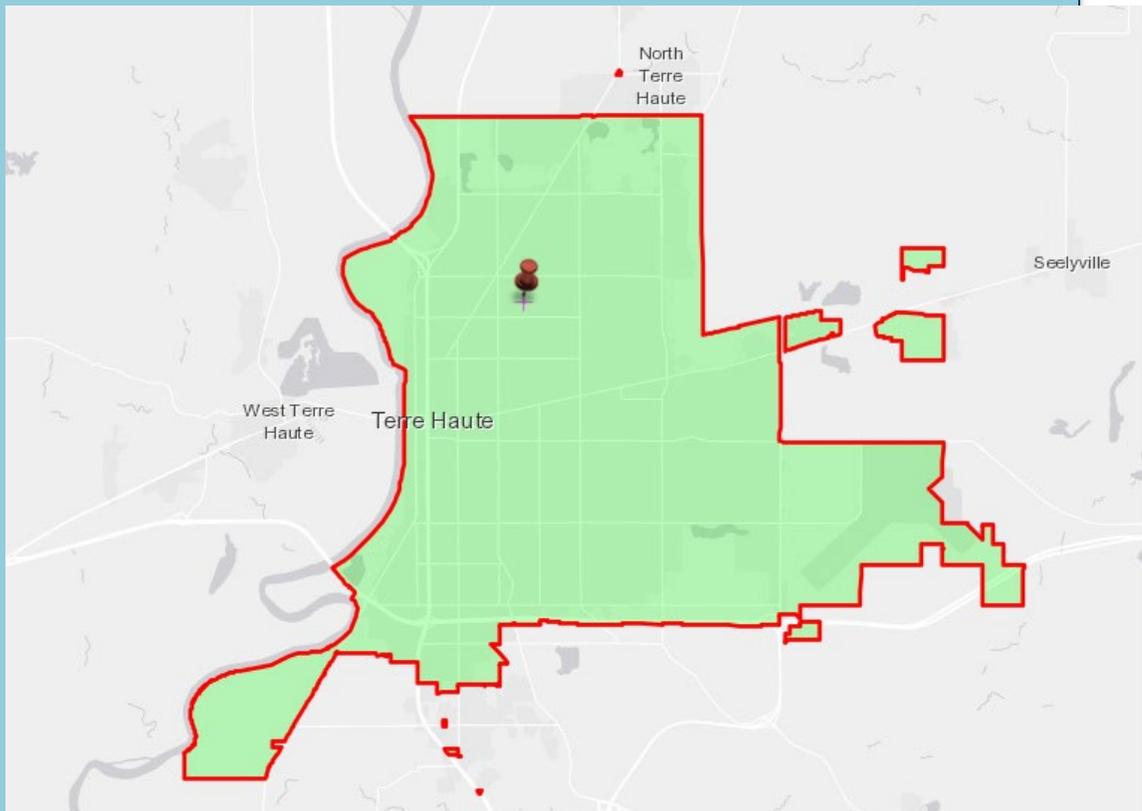
Asbestos-containing roofing material.



EPA contractors (in yellow protective suits) collecting waste samples from drums (contents unknown).

THE COMMUNITY

This section provides information about the Terre Haute community, including its history, government and demographics.



Map of Terre Haute. The red pin shows where the Columbian Enameling site is located.

Community History

Terre Haute is the county seat of Vigo County in Indiana and is located along the eastern bank of the Wabash River, about 75 miles west of Indianapolis. The name “Terre Haute” is a French phrase meaning “high land.” In 1811, William Henry Harrison established the first American settlement with the construction of Fort Harrison in what was previously Native American land.

In March 1818, Terre Haute became the county seat two months after Vigo County was organized. Before long, a courthouse and jail materialized, a ferry crisscrossed the Wabash River, and a post office was established. Terre Haute was incorporated as a town in 1832 and, in 1853, incorporated as a city (Source: [History of Terre Haute, Indiana](#)).

Early industry in Terre Haute included farming, milling and pork processing. The business and industrial expansion of Terre Haute prior to 1860 hinged on the evolution of a transportation system encompassing a river, highway, canal and railroad.

Increased access to transportation also brought in higher education institutions. St. Mary-of-the-Woods (1840), Indiana State Normal School (1870; now Indiana State University) and Rose Polytechnic Institute (1874; now Rose Hulman Institute of Technology) were established in the mid- to late-1800s and still operated in Terre Haute today.

The city's burgeoning labor market set in motion a growth in population, which expanded from 4,051 in 1850 to 36,673 by 1900.

The labor market offered many opportunities for forming labor unions. By 1900, 27 unions were active in Terre Haute. At the **Columbian Enameling and Stamping Company** plant, management's refusal to arbitrate with the new Federal Labor Union on a closed shop precipitated a strike on March 23, 1935. After four months of impasse, the city's unions announced a "labor holiday" for July 22. The general strike shut down all businesses except for critical services. Governor Paul V. McNutt declared martial law and dispatched troops to the city. After two days of violence and 185 arrests, the strike ended. Martial law, however, remained in effect for the next six months.

Afterward, the unions regrouped to restart the battle via the press and the courtroom. The Greater Terre Haute Movement, spearheaded by the newly formed Junior Chamber of Commerce, tried to improve relations by holding informal meetings with all sides represented. Difficulties persisted, nonetheless, in attracting new industry and in keeping established companies. The city government seemed unable to surmount the economic straits or curb the flourishing vice and gambling.

After World War II, manufacturing establishments declined; the community lost about 6,000 jobs between 1950 and 1960. However, civic groups stepped up and outlined what the city needed: leadership, civic planning, improved infrastructure and a sense of community. The development of the Fort Harrison Industrial Park spurred job growth throughout the 1970s. Despite increased jobs throughout the 1970s, the 1980 census showed a 13.1 percent population loss between 1970 and 1980.

Today, Terre Haute is a community with new downtown development, growing tourism assets and four higher education institutions. Visitors can explore multiple area museums, wildlife parks, restaurants and shops.

Government Structure

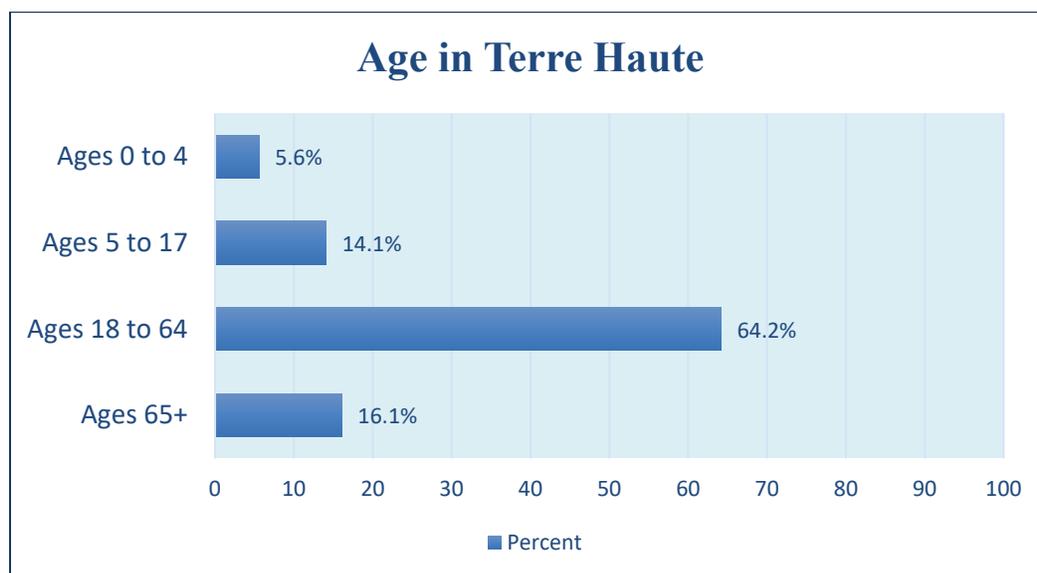
Terre Haute is governed by a mayor-council form of government, with a mayor, three councilmembers at large and six district councilmembers. The mayor and councilmembers serve 4-year terms with no term limit. City council meetings are held on the first and second Thursdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Courtroom. A contact list, including the current mayor and councilmembers, is included in Appendix B. Terre Haute also has its own YouTube channel at [City of Terre Haute - YouTube](#). City council meeting videos are typically posted within 5 business days of the meeting.

Community Demographics

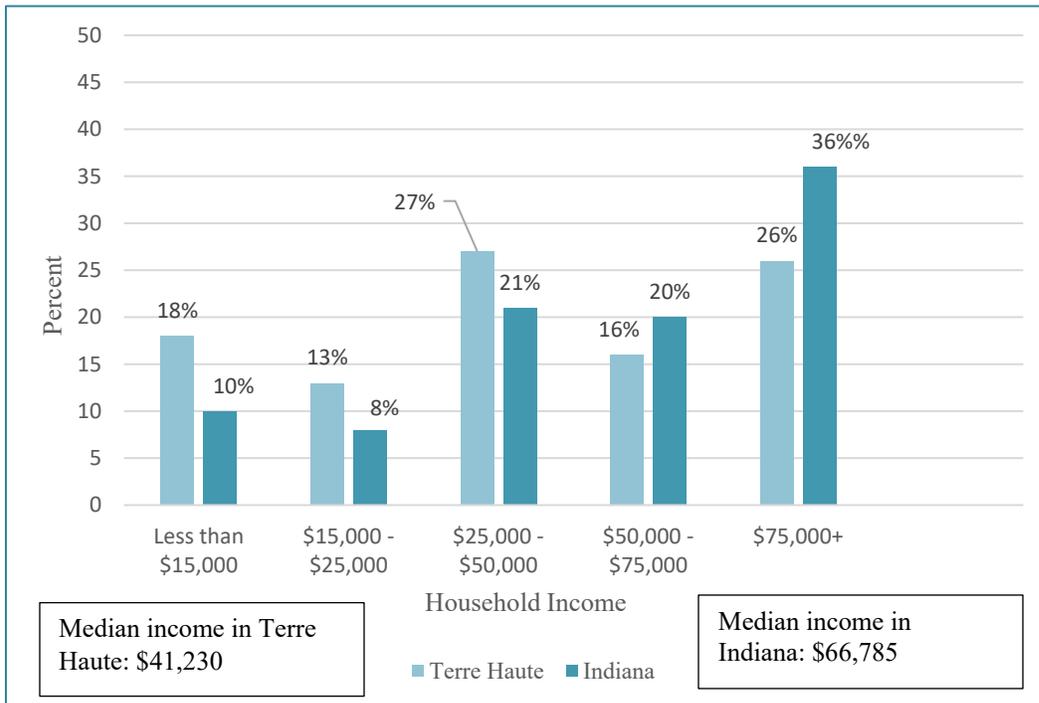
The following demographic information was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau data tables and an EPA mapping and screening tool called EJScreen. This tool provides users with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators. According to the American Community Survey 2022 report, 58,558 people live in 26,154 housing units in Terre Haute, Indiana. In Terre Haute, 94 percent speak only English. (Source: EJScreen ACS Summary Report 2022).

	Terre Haute
Median Age	38 years
One Race	95%
White	81%
Black	11%
American Indian	0%
Asian	2%
Pacific Islander	0%
Some Other Race	2%
Two or More Races	5%
Hispanic or Latino	4%

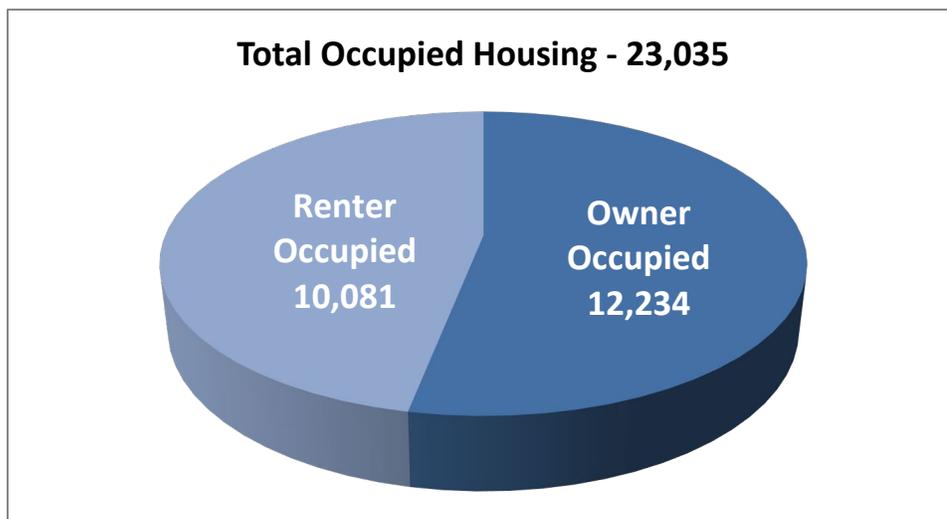
Breakdown by Age



Household Income

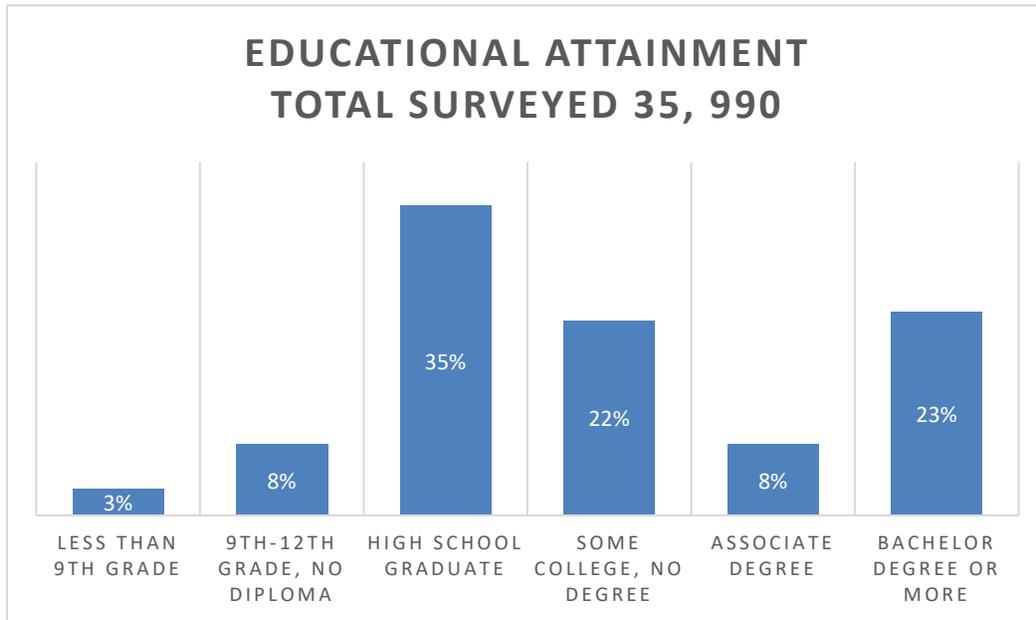


Housing in Terre Haute



Median Home Value: \$123,700

Education Levels (Aged 25+)



Aerial image of Indiana State University.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This section summarizes community interviews that occurred in October 2024 and highlights EPA’s goals, activities, and timeline to keep residents and local officials informed and involved.

Community involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaborating with community members. The goal of Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups.

When establishing the objectives for a site-specific community involvement program, we consider several factors, including federal requirements and EPA policy that assess the nature and extent of known or perceived site **contaminants** and known community concerns and requests.

Our community involvement program is designed to meet the community's need to know, give information in a timely manner and accommodate the community's interests and willingness to participate in decision-making processes. We must also share information in a language the public can understand.

The following objectives were made to meet communication and participation needs of community members, respond to information shared during community interviews, and fulfill federal community engagement requirements:

- Enlist the support, coordination, and involvement of the Terre Haute officials and community leaders.
- Monitor community interest in the site and respond accordingly.
- Keep the community well informed of ongoing and planned site activities.
- Explain technical site activities and findings in an understandable format for community members.
- Get public input on key decisions.
- Change planned activities, where warranted, based on community input.
- Update EPA's website regularly and provide useful information for the community.
- Update the Terre Haute officials periodically even if no activities are occurring at the site.
- Hold public meetings, when necessary, within the community to give all residents an opportunity to attend.

The following pages summarize community concerns, questions asked, and what the community told EPA during the public meeting and the October 2024 community interviews.

Community Interviews

To prepare for the Columbian Enameling community interviews, EPA mailed a postcard to community members on the site mailing list on October 17, 2024, announcing the October 30 public meeting. The public meeting format was a brief presentation of the site activities and an open question-and-answer period. EPA also spoke with community members at the meeting.

The mailing list includes residents and businesses from the neighborhoods surrounding the Columbian Enameling site and local, state and federal officials.

On October 29th and 30th, EPA **Community Involvement Coordinator**, or **CIC**, Meshach Padilla conducted interviews with nine area residents, which included one county employee, one city employee, two school district employees and five residents. During the public meeting, 10 residents presented questions to be addressed by the **On-scene Coordinator**, or **OSC** and other city officials. Responses to the full list of 24 interview questions were not received from all interviewees.

Basics

Of the nine people interviewed, eight participants reside in the Terre Haute area. Seven interviewees live within the county, and the majority live and work within the city limits. All interviewees have lived in the area for more than 10 years.

Most interviewees stated they had heard of the site before receiving EPA's factsheet, but the information and general understanding of the site's status are lacking. During the interviews, the interviewees shared insights about their community and described their concerns. A summary of what we heard is below.

Note: This summary intends to faithfully record and reflect the issues and concerns expressed to EPA by residents and officials interviewed during our community interviews. By necessity, this is a collection and summary of thoughts and observations, and, in some cases, opinions. Please be cautioned that the statements contained in this section may or may not be factual and that the opinions/concerns expressed may or may not be valid.

What We Heard

Comments/Concerns

Concerns or comments people expressed about the investigation and cleanup of the site during the community interviews include:

Communication

Most of those interviewed thought that mail would be the most effective way to pass information to the community, with social media being a secondary option. Two interviewees suggested that fact sheets be sent home with the children attending the school nearby. Others discussed that due to its location and history, the site and its status were unknown until recently. Other possible options for communicating with Terre Haute residents that were mentioned include:

- Local Facebook groups, including activism and neighborhood groups
- Marketing through the local library and businesses
- Mayor's office bulletin
- Blanket text messages sent to residents who have previously enrolled in this service
- Posting information at local businesses
- Local news stations
- Door knocking at nearby residential homes
- Community group newsletters

All the interviewees thought an in-person meeting would be more effective and were pleased to hear that EPA would be hosting a community outreach meeting for residents. All interviewees said they would attend a community meeting if their schedule permitted.

Most of those interviewed had never visited the EPA website but assumed there was a website associated with the EPA's work. Some respondents said that when they did search for information regarding the site, it was easy to locate via popular search engines.

Concerns

Many of the interviewees expressed the following concerns related to the site:

- Future EPA sampling and monitoring
- Site education
- Communication
- Community health
- Site reuse
- Remedial work
- Possible future vandalism/trespassing and arson

Common concerns mentioned by area residents are described in-depth below.

Education and Communication

Interviewees stated that information regarding the site had been nonexistent until the community meeting. Recent press coverage provided the community with a site update, and many interviewees felt that local press coverage was a viable way to spread information for future site work. Many residents thought the site had been abandoned once all structures were demolished and scrap had been taken. The majority said they had never received information about the site before receiving the EPA October 2024 fact sheet in the mail or from the CIC. All the interviewees showed interest in learning more about the EPA's work in the upcoming remedial action.

Health

A few residents asked about the health effects of living near the site. A local physician at the public meeting expressed concern for residents and said there could be many causes for illness but wondered if living near the site caused negative health effects. One resident commented, "Should the school and its students be concerned about the possible exposure they have been subject to over the years?"

Site Reuse

Many residents said they would like the site to become secured to prevent future trespassing. One resident informed EPA of a previous arson case that occurred on-site and expressed concern for a possible repeat occurrence. A few residents stated they would like the site infrastructure removed and the site to remain empty. Many raised concerns about the site becoming an industrial manufacturer once the previous facility infrastructure is removed. The majority agreed that a permanent closure of the site would benefit the community.

Contaminants and Remediation

Some residents asked about the future sampling and remediation efforts carried out by the EPA. One interviewee asked, “Is the EPA going to sample around the site to monitor the contaminants and see if the soil surrounding the area has been contaminated?” Another resident expressed concern for the asbestos materials on-site and said, “Once all the asbestos materials are moved, what will the EPA do to make sure those fibers don’t move off-site during transport?” Residents felt the previous company wasn’t being held responsible for the contamination it allowed. With the remedial efforts continuing, the community expressed that they would like to know about future updates. Residents also expressed an interest in knowing what monitoring systems were in place or planned to be installed and what areas of concern they would address.

Questions

The following questions were posed during the interviews:

Community Involvement

- How do I get on the mailing list for information?
- Will there be more community interviews in the future regarding the site's future?
- Will the mayor's office continue to be involved in the remedial process?
- Can I reach out with questions after reading about the site?

Remediation

- How deep will the EPA be taking soil samples?
- How will EPA monitor the air during the asbestos removal?
- Contamination in the soil will be removed to what depth?
- What does EPA's remedial update consist of?
- Will the site be closed off to the public and the fence line repaired?
- Where will the removed waste be taken?
- Will the contaminants be moved from one site to another area of hazardous contamination?
- Who is paying for the remediation?
- Will there be any cost recovery?
- When the trucks get washed down before leaving the site, where will the runoff water go?
- How does EPA plan to retain the water with known asbestos contamination?
- How does EPA address asbestos fibers within water? Can it be remediated and is it a hazard?
- Does the contaminated water have the potential to migrate off-site?
- Can groundwater be contaminated with asbestos?
- Are there plans to test the local groundwater?
- In the past, has groundwater sampling occurred?
- Is EPA planning to remove the concrete pads and structures?
- Who is the best person to contact when I have questions?
- Who is conducting the sampling?
- After sampling, are the results public?

- When will remedial work on-site likely begin?
- How long will the remedial work last?
- What happens once the weather changes? Will EPA be back in the spring to continue work?
- How frequently will testing occur for runoff or off-site migration of contaminants?

Columbian Enameling Site

- Is the EPA going to cover the cost of possible medical fees from residents living nearby with asbestos exposure?
- Is the government going to help the community with any future health problems due to their proximity to the hazardous materials?
- Is this a Superfund or Brownfields site?
- Are there any plans to conduct an NPL scoring in the future?
- When the asbestos is dry, is there a potential for off-site migration?
- What happens when asbestos catches on fire?
- What happens if another arson incident happens, and the remaining debris ignites yet again?
- Will crews water down the materials as waste gets moved?
- How do you transport asbestos waste?
- Has any consideration been taken for the fact that the company who previously occupied the lot has historically been damaging to the area?
- What will the site become once cleanup is complete?
- What makes the site contaminated?
- How soon can the site be redeveloped and what's the process?
- What do they plan on doing with the site?
- Will this property be developed for residential use?
- Will any of the materials found on-site be recycled?
- Is there anything of historical value in the rubble that a community group could preserve?
- Has the EPA spoken with the school near the site?
- Are the children who attend the local school nearby at risk?
- Will this site be turned into residential properties?

General Comments

Interviewees had the following comments during the interviews:

- I'm interested to see what an EPA clean-up looks like.
- I would like the results from the sampling that will be happening.
- I would love to see this site cleaned up and become less of an eyesore.
- I appreciate the EPA being open and communicative with the community.
- I would like this site to be cleaned up as soon as possible.
- I hope EPA works with the city/county on what to do with the site.
- I am concerned about the health effects this site had on the neighboring community.
- I want this cleanup to go better than another local EPA cleanup.
- I want the EPA to continue to inform the community about any updates and allow ample

time for members to voice their concerns.

- An activist group feels that the company should be held responsible and is displeased that they didn't disclose the hazards sooner.
- I want the EPA to be proactive and not reactive when it comes to environmental hazards put in place by industrial manufacturers.

What is special about Terre Haute?

Many interviewees were asked what is special to them about their community. Responses are below:

- Residents are very involved in each other's wellbeing.
- Great sense of community.
- Large enough city to have all the amenities while still feeling like a small community.
- Long history of hard-working community members and a good place to live and work when you are part of a union/blue-collar demographic.
- The current mayor has made the city a better place to live.



Photo of a Terre Haute postcard.

Community Involvement Activities

To meet federal requirements and address community concerns and questions described in the Community Interviews section, EPA has conducted (or will conduct) the activities described below. Through these activities, it is our goal to inform, involve and engage the community during site cleanup decisions and efforts. As the needs of the community change, we will modify the community involvement strategies to address them. The following plan is intended as an opportunity for communication between the community and EPA to address key concerns and questions raised during the discussions and community interviews conducted in October 2024.

Maintain a Point of Contact and Toll-free Number

CIC Meshach Padilla is the primary liaison between EPA and the community. He serves as the point of contact for community members and fields general questions about the site. For technical site issues, he coordinates with EPA's OSC for the site, Craig Thomas.

We will include current contact information for the project staff on all written and electronic information and will notify the community of any contact information changes.

EPA has designated the following people as primary site contacts for residents:

Meshach Padilla
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 5
312-886-1070; Toll-free Ext. 61070
padilla.meshach@epa.gov

Craig Thomas
On-Scene Coordinator
Region 5
313-886-5907; Toll-free Ext. 65907
thomas.craig@epa.gov

They can also be reached weekdays toll-free at 800-621-8431 from 9:00 am to 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Padilla and Mr. Thomas are in the EPA Region 5 Chicago office and can be reached using the toll-free number listed in the box above and using their respective extensions. Residents can call these numbers as questions or concerns arise instead of waiting for a public meeting or to receive written information. We will provide the toll-free number periodically in local newspaper advertisements and include the toll-free number in all fact sheets and all other communications with the public.

Share Information on the Internet

We will provide information on activities and post communications on the following EPA website. The website will be updated as events occur. www.response.epa.gov/columbianenameling

Community members interviewed recommended that EPA use email and local Facebook pages to reach people.

Update the Site Mailing List

We have established a mailing list of local community members, organizations, businesses and officials for the site. This list will be used for mailing fact sheets, site updates, invitations to public meetings and events and other site-related information mailed to the community. We will update the list regularly to reflect address changes and changes in elected officials as well as add new people interested in site activities. EPA also uses a site email list to stay in touch with community members.

We use the site mailing list to distribute written information such as fact sheets and meeting notifications. This is a way to ensure that those who do not have access to the internet or other information sources still have a way to receive information directly about the site and are notified about important meetings. The mailing list is for EPA use only and is not shared with outside entities. If a community member is interested in being placed on the mailing list, they can contact Meshach Padilla at his contact information provided above.

Prepare and Distribute Fact Sheets, News Releases and Public Notices

We will prepare and distribute fact sheets, letters and site updates to those on the site mailing list summarizing current information about the site and describing upcoming activities. These documents are written in non-technical language and are typically published to coincide with important site activities. These fact sheets and other communications will be posted on EPA's website.

EPA will prepare and release announcements to the local newspaper, such as the *Terre Haute Tribune Star*, to share information about events such as significant site investigation findings, **public comment periods**, public meetings and completion of major milestones, such as the proposal of a cleanup plan. We will also provide this information to the city officials for posting on the city website, as well as publishing in any community newsletters and social media platforms.

We use these types of documents to give the community detailed information in a relatively quick, simple and easy-to-understand manner. News releases allow us to reach large audiences quickly. In addition to being shared with individuals on the site mailing list, we also place the fact sheets, site updates, and news releases in the **information repository** and post them on EPA's website:

www.response.epa.gov/columbianenameling.

Establish and Maintain an Information Repository and Administrative Record

We have set up a local information repository for the site at the Vigo County Public Library, 680 Poplar Street, Terre Haute, Indiana and at the EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center in Chicago (see Appendix D) and on the website. The repository establishes public access to site information available for reading and printing. Documents include fact sheets, technical reports, the CIP, and other documents. EPA adds new documents about the site to the webpage as the documents become available. Information repositories give residents local access to site information if they need access to a computer or printer. Documents can also be viewed at home on the site's webpage www.response.epa.gov/columbianenameling from the *Site Documents & Data* tab.

A copy of the **administrative record** for the site can be found at the repository listed above, at the EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center in Chicago (see Appendix D) and on the website. We will update the administrative record as necessary. The administrative record gives residents a paper trail of all documents the EPA relied on or considered to reach decisions about the site cleanup.

Meet with the Public and Participate in Local Events

A **public meeting** is an opportunity for EPA to present specific information and a proposed course of action. Meetings may either be held in person or virtually. EPA staff is available to share information and answer questions. A public meeting is not a formal public hearing where testimony is received. Instead, it might be a meeting to exchange information or comments. In addition, EPA may hold an informal open-house style meeting, called an availability session, where residents can meet EPA experts one-on-one to discuss the activities at the site. Either type of meeting allows community members an opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions of EPA, state or local government officials. Public meetings or availability sessions can be held at various times throughout the cleanup process. We typically schedule a meeting when



A community meeting was held on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at the Terre Haute City Courthouse.

there are technical milestones or when the community has expressed an interest in having a meeting.

A public hearing is a formal meeting where we hear the public's views and concerns about an EPA action or proposal. There are specific regulations about when the EPA is required to consider such comments when evaluating its actions. Public hearings are recorded by a professional transcriber and become part of the administrative record. The comments are also posted on the internet.

EPA will consider conducting additional meetings at different times and locations throughout the community to give all residents an opportunity to attend as needed. Residents provided a variety of locations EPA can host a public meeting; these locations are listed in Appendix C.

On occasion, neighborhood or community groups will request EPA's participation in events to provide site information and respond to resident concerns. EPA considers invitations and offers to speak to community groups based on the event's ability to meaningfully reach members of the public.

Activity	Status
Establish and maintain a point of contact: Meshach Padilla: 312-886-1070 or padilla.meshach@epa.gov	Completed
Establish a toll-free number for residents to ask questions and receive information: 800-621-8431	Completed
Maintain communication with local officials, agencies and the community	Ongoing
Share information on the internet: www.response.epa.gov/columbianenameling	Ongoing
Create, update and maintain the site mailing list	Ongoing
Prepare and distribute fact sheets and site updates	Ongoing
Establish and maintain a site-specific information repository	Completed/Ongoing
Establish and maintain a site-specific administrative record	Completed/Ongoing
Conduct public meetings, hearings and information sessions	As needed/Ongoing
Participate in local events	As appropriate
Prepare site videos	As appropriate
Provide additional tools for communities	As needed/Ongoing
Write and distribute news releases and public notices	Ongoing
Evaluate community involvement and outreach efforts and adjust	As needed

