



City of Omaha  
Mike Fahey, Mayor

Office of the Mayor  
1819 Farnam Street, Suite 300  
Omaha, Nebraska 68183-0300  
(402) 444-5000  
FAX: (402) 444-6059

Monday, November 1, 2004

Ms. Debbie Kring  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. EPA, Region VII  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2907

Subject: City of Omaha Comments on EPA's Proposed Plan for the Omaha Lead Site, Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Ms. Kring:

Upon review of the *Proposed Plan Residential Yard Soils, Omaha Lead Site* (dated July 16, 2004), the City of Omaha requests that EPA Region VII revise the Preferred Alternative to include a comprehensive approach to address all sources of lead exposure at the Omaha Lead Site. This request is consistent with the letter from our office to Regional Administrator Gulliford, dated Tuesday, June 1, 2004.

Our previous letter encouraged the EPA to be protective of children's health by identifying a comprehensive approach at the Omaha Lead Site. We are concerned we will not achieve the desired blood lead reductions within our community without the implementation of a comprehensive program. Local management is one key aspect of a comprehensive program. There is no better resolution for the potential health issues here in Omaha than a community-based remedy.

Specifically, the City of Omaha requests that the site's comprehensive program include the following components:

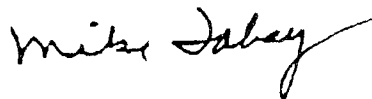
- A public awareness and outreach program designed for the various cultural and ethnic groups within the site to educate the public on the sources of lead (including interior and exterior lead-based paint hazards, interior dust, water, soil contamination, and occupational exposure to lead) and the health risks associated with lead poisoning;
- A blood lead screening and monitoring program that tests pregnant and nursing mothers, as well as children less than seven years of age;
- An in-home consultation program for families with children with elevated blood lead concentrations to identify potential lead hazards within the child's living environment;
- An in-home testing and cleaning program to identify interior lead sources and provide education, HEPA-VACs, and interior cleaning for homes with children with elevated blood lead concentrations; and
- Appropriate actions to remediate identified lead hazards, including interior and exterior lead-based paint hazards, interior dust, water, and soil contamination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to EPA's Proposed Plan. Please include this letter and the City's letter of June 1, 2004 in the administrative record for the site remedy selection.

It is paramount that EPA Region VII adopt a comprehensive program to include these requested components to direct as much funding as possible toward a comprehensive clean-up for the citizens of Omaha.

The City looks forward to working with your staff to implement a successful program to overcome childhood lead poisoning in Omaha.

Sincerely,



Mike Fahey, Mayor  
City of Omaha

Cc: Mrs. Brenda Council, CAG Facilitator