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RE: EPA Community Meeting
Exide Technologies Superfund Site

TO: Berks County Planning Commission Board

FROM: Michelle D. Franklin
Planner III

DATE: April 28, 2026

On Wednesday, April 22, the EPA held its second quarterly information meeting to update the community about the ongoing Remedial Investigation at the former Exide Technologies Superfund Site at the Muhlenberg Township building.

EPA representatives Thomas Smith, Project Manager, and Katie Page, Community Involvement Coordinator were present for the presentation.

Mr. Smith recapped the various phases of the process EPA follows for the Remedial Investigation. Assessment of the area began in 2022 with sampling. Inspection phase ranked the area as a Superfund in 2024. Currently in the Characterization stage to determine what contamination is present – lead is the major contaminate. Process will take 4-5 years to investigate, but cleanup process will begin in the next year or 2; cleanup will not wait for the final report to be published.

The EPA is looking at 1-mile radius to initiate testing; it will expand that radius if necessary. It was noted that the testing is being concentrated on the western side of the Superfund Site because of the cleanup that Exide performed in 2000 was on the eastern side of the site but anyone within the mile radius is eligible for soil testing.

The baseline for the cleanup Exide performed was a value of 650 ppm determined by the average of 5 samples taken from each property. The EPA testing consists of a grid system of property where 50 incremental samples are taken then averages the totals of the samples. The EPA will meet with each owner to get the cleanup as close to original as possible. Cleanup consists of the remove contaminated soil and replace with new soil and grass.

Baseline residential screening level is 200 ppm, if above yard will get cleaned up. The baseline for the lead levels is based on an average of soil samples taken in other municipalities around county. The average lead contamination of the properties tested is 561 ppm.

Removal Management level of 600 ppm, if above, the residence is placed at the top of list for cleanup.

Residence receive a demographic survey that the EPA uses to determine the priority of the cleanup sites. The EPA is in the process of getting approval for emergency soil removal (within the year or next year) for properties where infants and expectant mothers are living.

Tom Smith stressed that consent is needed for sampling the soil and ownership consent is needed for soil removal.

The EPA will continue to accept applications for sampling and cleanup until the project is removed from the EPA's website. (Projects typically remain on website for 10-15 years).

The EPA will be performing ground water monitoring also be taking samples along creek/stream beds, water table, parks, greenspace, and Bernharts.

The EPA will publish the Remedial Investigation Report when the investigation is complete. The report will provide a list of alternatives on how to clean up the sites.

A prospective purchaser of the former Exide facility will fulfill outstanding cleanup obligations at the property under Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (PADEP) voluntary cleanup program.

Webpage for project is www.epa.gov/superfund/Exide-Laureldale.