

**Miami News Record**  
**9-19-02**

**Next wave of yards slated for Superfund work**

By Randy Petersen  
Miami News-Record

The next phase of yard remediation in the Tar Creek Superfund Site is expected to begin in November.

With 457 yards in five towns remaining is the cleanup effort, EPA project manager Mike McAteer said the work will be conducted by two subcontractors working under CH2MHILL, the EPA contractor tasked with overseeing remediation efforts.

McAteer said hiring two subcontractors is a break from normal practice, but should speed up progress in removing lead-contaminated soil from yards in Picher, Cardin, Quapaw, Commerce and North Miami.

"We've been in these people's towns for way too long," he said.

Work is expected to last at least a year. With good weather, McAteer said it might not be too much longer.

"We're assuming we can work through the winter," he said.

CH2MHILL project manager Ted Telisak said the work was able to continue through last winter with little down time and there is no reason to think the upcoming season will be different.

The first subcontractor is expected to start in Picher in November and the second company will start in Commerce or North Miami a month later.

McAteer said starting with the 67 yards in Picher is an effort to finish the town's yards as soon as possible.

McAteer said a public meeting is being set up for October to discuss the upcoming work.

During that meeting, he said he expects to talk with residents and city officials about the proposed cleanup and how contractors will be instructed to avoid damage to recently repaired roads in the towns and northern county district.