

Miami News Record
10/7/2002?

EPA to discuss plan for new yard phase

By Randy Petersen
Miami News-Record

Northern Ottawa County residents will have a chance to ask questions about the next phase of yard remediation work in the Superfund site Monday.

Environmental Protection Agency officials, as well as Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and local health department personnel, will be on hand Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Commerce Middle School.

The meeting will be conducted as a come-and-go event. No formal presentations are planned.

Mike McAteer, the EPA project manager, said the informal nature of the meeting has worked well in the past and is intended to allow residents a chance to ask questions and get personalized answers.

The meeting comes as work is planned to replace lead-contaminated soil in 457 yards in the Superfund site.

The list includes four yards in Cardin, eight yards in North Miami, 67 yards in Picher, 93 yards in Quapaw and 285 yards in Commerce.

Work is expected to begin in November, according to McAteer.

The work will be sped up by employing two subcontractors working under CH2MHILL, the EPA contractor overseeing remediation efforts.

McAteer said hiring two subcontractors is a break from normal practice, but is in line with the goal to finish as soon as possible.

"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 than a full year.

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

CH2MHILL project manager Ted Telisak said the work continued 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.