

Colorado Smelter

Draft Meeting Summary for April 14, 2020

Please note: This summary is not a detailed transcript of the meeting, but rather is the facilitator's summation of discussions and decisions that occurred at the meeting. It is not intended to summarize government policy. The facilitator is not an EPA employee.

On April 14, 2020, the Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group (CAG) and members of the public met for a virtual meeting by internet and phone. Although the CAG typically meets in person at NeighborWorks located at 1241 East Routt Avenue on the second Tuesday of every month, due to COVID-19, this meeting was held via a Microsoft Teams meeting.

The key topics covered during the meeting included:

- Sampling and cleanup update
- New facilitator update
- Revitalization update
- Outreach efforts about the Superfund site
- Gardening tips and reminders

Copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the meeting can be found at the back of this document, including:

- Attachment A: The agenda for the April 14, 2020 CAG meeting
- Attachment B: Facilitator's tracking sheet as of April 29, 2020
- Attachment C: Meeting attendance at the April 14, 2020 CAG meeting
- Attachment D: EPA April 2020 Monthly Update
- Attachment E: US Army Corps of Engineers PowerPoint on Remedial Action Updates

A wide variety of documents and background about the site can be found on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) website at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/cosmelt/CAG>.

Sampling and Cleanup Update

Sabrina Forrest (EPA), Jamie Miller (EPA) and Julie Babcock (Army Corps of Engineers) provided updates on April sampling and cleanup efforts. Detailed information can be found in Attachment D at the end of this document. Sabrina noted sampling and cleanup operations were shut down from 3/19/2020 until 4/3/2020 due to COVID-19 related concerns. Operations resumed on 4/3/2020 with new COVID-19 protocols that are based on strict adherence to COVID-19 guidance from the State of Colorado and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Indoor dust cleanups are currently on hold under the new COVID-19 protocols. Jamie gave specific updates about soil sampling and how it is continuing under these new protocols. The site team is committed to ensuring homeowners and staff are all comfortable and moving things along while also keeping everyone as safe as possible. Julie explained some of the specific procedures the cleanup teams are using to ensure safety and adherence to COVID-19 protocols. Her presentation with photos illustrating some of these techniques is in Attachment E. Kathleen Romalia (Aptim) explained the office protocols the site team is following at the site office to ensure the project can continue to move forward. The office building is not currently open to the public, though staff are available by phone for any resident questions. Julie emphasized that they appreciated the community's assistance and wanted to work with folks to keep the cleanups going.

All three presenters responded to questions raised during this meeting, including:

- Residents wanted to clarify that not all communications with residents are occurring online and by phone. In some cases, property coordinators are coming to our houses. The site team may want to be clear about that when they discuss protocols and options with the community. **Army Corps and EPA response:** Correct, for some things like creating the restoration plan for an outdoor cleanup, the property coordinators are coming to the house to meet with homeowners. But overall, they want to maintain social distancing protocols and honor any concerns of the residents.
- Can the walk through be in person and the paperwork by email? **Army Corps response:** Yes, in many cases signature and completion of paperwork can happen by email. But not everyone has that capability. We are trying to be flexible and figure out how to make it happen in the easiest way possible.
- With the current COVID-19 situation, what is the procedure established to follow-up with completed cleanups and things that need to be resolved [punch list items]? **Army Corps and Aptim response:** These items are continuing and are being prioritized in the same way that they were before COVID-19.
- Community members emphasized the importance of sticking with schedules and showing up at scheduled times with owners. **Army Corps and Aptim response:** If we say we will be there it is important that we are there. We will follow-up with the property coordinators to ensure this is happening.

Facilitator Update

Jennifer Harrison (EPA) provided an update on the selection of the new facilitator. She explained they wanted to ensure whoever was selected had the CAG's needs at heart. She explained that Ryan Golten met all the criteria developed for the selection process with input from the CAG Steering Committee, and that she believes the new facilitator will be a great asset to the CAG. Jeannine Natterman (CDPHE) encouraged the CAG members to take a bit of time and get to know the new facilitator and added that she thinks the CAG will be pleased.

Revitalization Efforts

Scott Hobson (City of Pueblo Planning & Community Development Department) gave an update on the revitalization plans and efforts. He indicated that they are working on ways to hold public meetings and conduct outreach efforts to the community. They are currently working on putting together an information sheet that will summarize their tentative schedule of trying to prepare materials and figure out how to get information out to residents. After that they expect that from May into June they will be able to promote the dispersion of materials and information on when, where and how they will collect community input. A question was raised about Spanish translations of the materials and Alexis Romero (PDPHE) raised the concern about Spanish translations and discussed PDPHE providing translation support.

Scott expects that by June they will be conducting meetings or gathering information. By August he hopes to be able to present findings to the Pueblo City Council. They will likely prepare an online survey/questionnaire. He indicated that he will provide a more refined schedule to the CAG/Revitalization group but they are waiting until after 4/25/2020 to see what the Governor says about public meetings.

Outreach efforts about the Superfund Site

Jennifer Harrison (EPA) thanked everyone for their input on the new map and trifold brochure that will be used for outreach efforts. Treat Suomi (Skeo) is working on finalizing the map and brochure. Jennifer explained that the door to door outreach effort is on hold due to COVID-19 and asked folks to send her any ideas they might have on alternative outreach ideas during this time of social distancing.

Gardening Tips and Reminders

Charlie Partridge (EPA) gave some reminders about best management practices to consider and use while gardening. He indicated that container gardening and gardening in raised beds is often a good idea. In general, it is good to use gardening gloves and to wash and peel all fruits, vegetables and root crops raised on your property. EPA is updating the handout that has gardening tips and it will be made available on both EPA's and CDPHE's websites.

Monica Dupler (PDPHE) said folks can reach out to PDPHE for information about gardening both within and outside the site. She also indicated that they have gardening gloves available. Velma Campbell also indicated that she is available and happy to help with issues related to gardening. Several folks got excited talking about partnerships and possibly having joint meetings of different organizations such as PDPHE and Sierra Club to discuss gardening in soils with heavy metals (in general not just Colorado Smelter specific). They thought it would be great if "growing out of Superfund, there could be a blossoming of information about gardening in these types of soils." PDPHE wants to encourage healthy gardening.

Next Meeting Dates

CAG meetings generally occur the second Tuesday of each month at Neighborworks, which is located at 1241 East Routt in Pueblo. Due to the continued closure to the public of Neighborworks during COVID-19, the May 12th meeting will occur virtually. The 2020 CAG meeting dates include:

- May 12 – Virtual meeting participants are able to join via phone or online
- June 9
- July 14
- August 11 (No August Meeting?)
- September 8
- October 13
- November 10
- No December Meeting

Attachment A: The agenda for the April 14, 2020 CAG meeting

Community Advisory Group for the Colorado Smelter



AGENDA

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Conference Call via Microsoft Teams

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 347-966-4474](#) United States, New York City (Toll)

[\(833\) 676-8347](#) United States (Toll-free)

Conference ID: 593 726 624#

Please note: CAG meetings are focused on improving the cleanup process for the overall community. Questions about sampling, cleanup or restoration of an individual property are best dealt with one-on-one with staff by calling or visiting the project office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Staff can pull the detailed information on your property and provide specific answers. The office is located at 200 South Santa Fe, 5th floor. The phone number is: 719-299-4468. Out of respect for other community members' time, please do not raise concerns about an individual property during CAG meetings unless you are certain that it is a more general problem impacting many houses.

- 5:30 p.m. **Introductions, Agenda Review, and Logistics**
Treat Suomi, Interim Facilitator and TASC/CAG Technical Advisor
- 5:40 p.m. **Field Highs and Lows of the Month (5 minutes)**
Sabrina Forrest, EPA
- 5:45 p.m. **Status of Sampling and Cleanup Operations (20 minutes)**
Sabrina Forrest, EPA, Jamie Miller, EPA and Julie Babcock, Army Corps of Engineers
- Question Period (20 minutes)
- 6:25 p.m. **Status of the New Facilitator (5 minutes)**
Jennifer Harrison, EPA
- Question Period (10 minutes)
- 6:40 p.m. **Revitalization Update (10 minutes)**
Scott Hobson, City of Pueblo
- Question Period (10 minutes)
- 7:00 p.m. **Contingency Outreach Activities (5 Minutes)**
Jennifer Harrison, EPA
- Question Period (5 minutes)

- 7:10 p.m. **Gardening Tips and Reminders (5 minutes)**
Charlie Partridge, PhD, EPA
- Question Period (5 minutes)
 - For additional information visit the Pueblo County Master Gardeners website at <https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/gardening-resources/> or call (719) 583-6566
- 7:20 p.m. **Announcements, Public Comments, and Next Steps**
 2020 Meeting Dates (second Tuesday of each Month)
- May12
 - June 9
 - July 14
 - No August Meeting?
 - September 8
 - October 13
 - November 10
 - No December Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Please note that times on the agenda are intended as guidelines and may be adjusted to meet the needs of the CAG and/or the community. If you would like to make a public comment and cannot stay until the end of the meeting, please hand a note to the facilitator ASAP stating your name and topic.

Cleanup levels in Interim Record of Decision (i-ROD)

	Lead (PPM)	Arsenic (PPM)
Background	71	13
Indoor dust cleanup	275	61
Outdoor soil cleanup	350	61
Recreation soil cleanup	1710	273
Not To Exceed level	1918	1000

Attachment B: Facilitator's tracking sheet as of April 29, 2020

Colorado Smelter Facilitator's Tracking Document
 Outstanding items as of March 30, 2020
 (New Items are in GRAY)

Date	CAG Input/Decision	Response	Task Completed
4/14/2020	Gardening Can the Agencies please provide the link to the gardening handout.	In Progress: EPA is working to update the handout and will then make it available on EPA and CDPHE websites.	
3/10/20	Air Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How role will air monitoring data have in determining the final remedy selection for the slag pile? • How much would it cost to add 2 to 3 more monitors? Did any of the small monitors used during site cleanup show contaminants being airborne?	Topic is partially on hold: It is too soon to know what role air monitoring will have in determining the final remedy selection for the slag pile. EPA does not see risk such that additional monitors are needed. As such, funding will not be approved for additional activity. If additional risk was found that was driving the need for additional monitoring, costs are estimated to be about \$80k per year per monitor, plus about 3-3.5% inflation per year if monitoring for a few years. This could total upwards of \$240K. APTIM air monitoring is showing no releases from OU1 soil excavation work.	Partially On Hold

3/10/20	<p>Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the government team develop an approach for informing homeowners when their home will be cleaned up—appreciating the challenge of needing to adjust in order to address high priority homes with kids? 	<p>In progress: The site team is working to better communicate the upcoming schedule. Considering COVID-19, this is currently more challenging. There are currently five crews spread throughout the neighborhoods to ease traffic and large equipment impacts. Properties needing a soil cleanup are tentatively scheduled through December 2020 based on the block-by-block approach for efficiency. Property Coordinators can provide a rough estimate when a property may be completed but cannot be specific due to range of crew production rates and priority-properties being scheduled. Interiors will be scheduled once CDC and State restrictions have been lifted, and approved plans and procedures are in place to protect crew members and homeowners.</p>	
3/10/20	<p>Grass replacement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the government team please offer community members the option of sod? Can the team ask the CSU extension whether it is recommended that grass be watered every month, even in the winter? 	<p>Complete: Property Owners are given the option to place their own sod as detailed in the Cleanup Expectations and Guidelines Letter and Restoration Plan Acknowledgement Form. EPA will reimburse the property owner the price per square foot, excluding labor, that it would cost to hydro-seed the same area. Seeded lawns that have not germinated do not need to be watered in winter. Homeowners should follow the watering and other</p>	

		<p>guidelines provided in the Lawn Care Brochure. There's also a link in the brochure to CSU's full Lawn Care page. Their Lawn Care Fact Sheet 7.202 recommends the following: "During extended dry periods from late fall to spring, it may be necessary to water every four to six weeks if the ground is thawed and will accept water." They also have a fact sheet for Fall and Winter Watering that should be used as a guide.</p>	
10/8/19	<p>Human Health Risk Assessment</p> <p>2. Request to change the blood lead level from 6.24 ug/dL to 5.0 ug/dL.</p>		
9/10/19	<p>Alleys:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would it be possible to compare the correlation between alleys and yards for just dirtiest alleys south of the smelter? 2. Can EPA look at this data to ensure that hot spots are not being averaged out? 3. Can EPA do this correlation analysis for more than just the top inch of soil? <p>11/11/19</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Correlation data for Eilers and the Grove. 2. Will EPA remedy the damage to the alleys from all the trucks? 3. High levels of dust contamination in homes next to highly contaminated alleys? <p>3/10/20</p>	<p>EPA provided a memo on March 5 addressing the 9/10 and 11/11 questions. In regard to the 3/10/20 question, EPA is not able to spend additional resources on alley research given that no data to date shows that there is a recontamination problem.</p>	Done

	<p>1. 1. Do we know if homes right next to alleys have high levels of contaminated dust?</p>		
6/12/19	<p>Institutional controls: Topics for EPA and the City of Pueblo to consider when discussing institutional controls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who does/pays for future work in contaminated areas after EPA has left, including: public utilities, sidewalks, alley ways. How will emergencies be handled? • If EPA determines that a house doesn't need a cleanup at this time, could it still have an institutional control required? • I want to keep the roses on my property. Can I dig them up and replant them into clean dirt and then put them back. EPA Response: Let us talk about this internally before you do this. Generally, we don't want to encourage community members to dig in soil that might be contaminated. • How will the interim Record of Decision be converted to the final Record of Decision? <p>Will the institutional control discussions be public conversations?</p>	In coming months/years, EPA and the City of Pueblo will develop agreements on how to address a number of issues such as this.	
4/2018	<p>PDPHE Follow-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDPHE will send the CAG information on the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Workshop when available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDPHE received funding for the RRP Workshop. PDPHE is working on scheduling this workshop in March of 2020. (I do not have an update for this as of 3/30/20) 	

2/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAG asked what information will be filed on public housing records when properties are sampled and after cleanup.	EPA and CDPHE will work with the City of Pueblo to determine whether and how this will happen.	Ongoing
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**Attachment C: Meeting attendance at the March 10, 2020 CAG meeting
Attendance at April 14, 2020**

CAG

Name	4/14/2020
Archer, Beth	x
Ashenafi, Sisay	
Aviles, Jesse	
Babcock, Julie	x
Brown, Ed	x
Campbell, Velma	x
Cirian, Mike	
Close, Doug	
Coomes, Merrill	
Costanzi, Fran	
Dupler, Monica	x
Flores, Dennis	
Flynn, Richard	x
Finger, John	x
Fitzgerald, Doug	x
Forrest, Sabrina	x
Gallagher, Brian	
Garcia, Cathy	X
Harrison, Jennifer	X
Hart, Terry	x
Kocman, Joe	x
Kocman, Pam	
Lamberg, Alan	X

Marston, Erika	x
Martinez, Aaron	
Meier, Steven	
Miller, Jamie	X
Natterman, Jeannine	x
Nicoll, Chris	
O'Neal, Kenneth	
Otero, Catherine	
O'Reilly, Maureen	X
Partridge, Charlie	X
Renfree, Paul	
Romalia, Kathleen	x
Romero, Alexis	x
Romero, Richard	x
Rothrock, Briana	
Suomi, Treat	x
Tarbert, Jason	
Taylor, Renee	x
Vander Valk, Harric	
Von Stein, Ruth	
Wharton, Steve	

Guests:

Mike McDonald, Alby Sanstevan, Chris Wardell, Scott Hobson, Sam Vigel, Tom Simmons.

Attachment D: EPA April 2020 Monthly Update

Colorado Smelter Site Monthly Update



COLORADO
Hazardous Materials
& Waste Management Division
Department of Public Health & Environment



General Site Update with Evolving COVID-19 Situation

As we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 situation, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, state partners, and contractors as the priority. Decisions about continuing on-site activities are being made on a case-by-case basis.

In consultation with our partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) and the Pueblo Department of Public Health & Environment (PDPHE), and based on federal and state guidance for COVID-19, EPA resumed outdoor field work at the Colorado Smelter Superfund site April 3. Indoor dust sampling and indoor dust cleanups will remain paused until further notice. EPA maintains its ability to respond to environmental emergencies at Superfund sites, or in any situation where we are called upon to protect human health and the environment by responding to releases of chemical, oil, radiological, biological, and other hazardous materials.

Outdoor soil sampling and soil cleanups will be conducted at the Colorado Smelter site based on strict adherence to COVID-19 guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as new COVID-19-related construction requirements from the State of Colorado. EPA will monitor the developing COVID-19 situation and field work on a daily basis at the site to determine any need to modify or stop work. EPA will continue to collaborate closely with our local and state partners.

EPA and its partners will work with individual property owners to schedule outdoor sampling and outdoor cleanups, and will accommodate any requests to delay work to a later date. If any residents or property owners have questions or concerns about EPA's cleanup, please contact Jennifer Harrison at EPA, 720-480-2792 or Jeannine Natterman at CDPHE at 303-921-2208. Questions about local health concerns should be directed to PDPHE at 719-583-4444.

April 14 Community Advisory Group to Meet Via Conference Call

The in-person April 14 Community Advisory Group Meeting will not occur at NeighborWorks due to COVID-19. A conference call is planned at the regularly scheduled time of 5:30 p.m. If you would like to participate please contact EPA's Jennifer Harrison at 720-480-2792 or harrison.jennifer@epa.gov

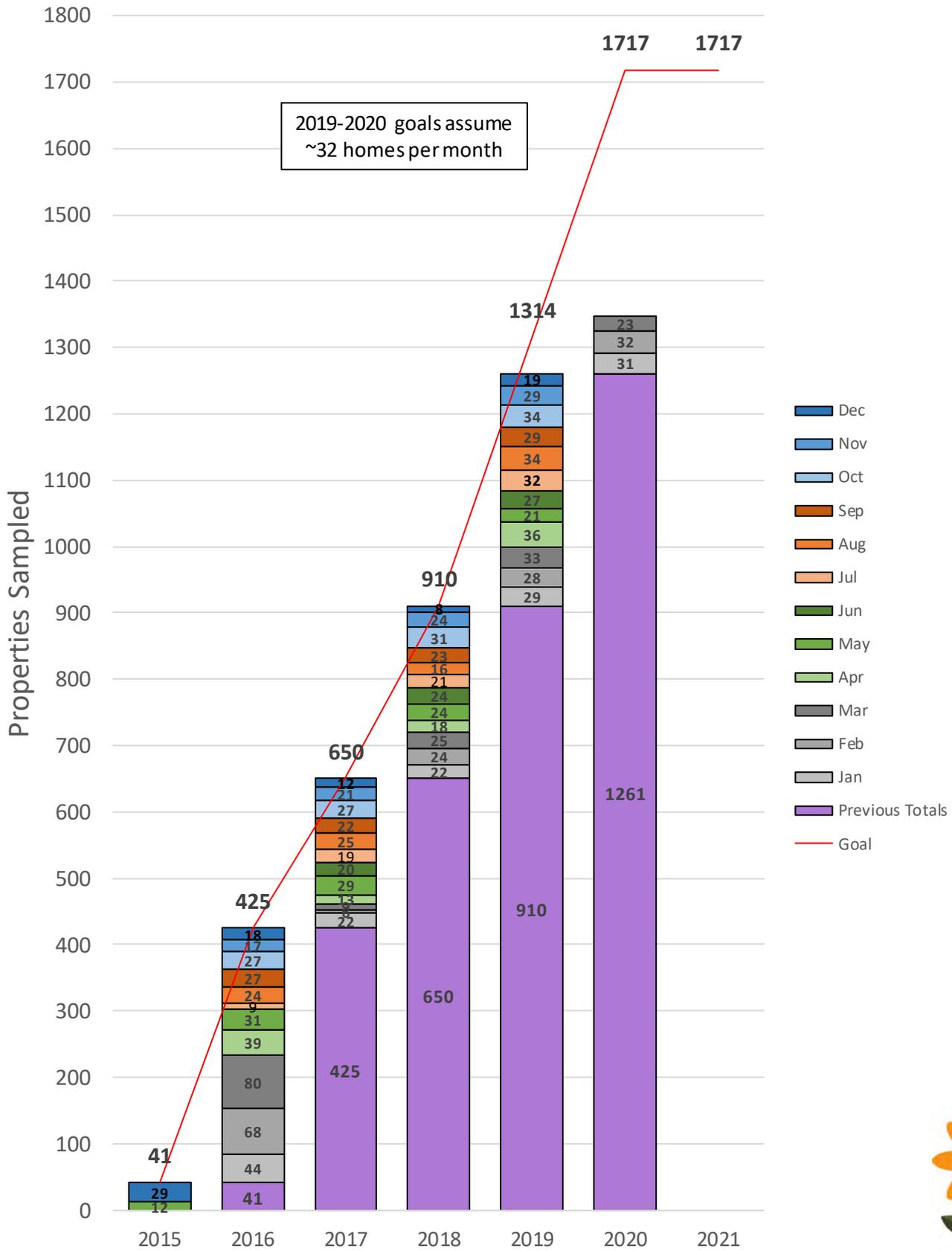
EPA Drop-in Sessions Suspended due to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 situation, EPA has temporarily closed the Pueblo Project Office to the general public and suspended monthly drop-in sessions. Our team is still available to talk by phone to residents and property owners who have questions about sampling and cleanup; please call the office at **719-299-4468**; voice messages are monitored daily.

Sampling and cleanup field work was suspended due to COVID-19 March 19 to April 3.

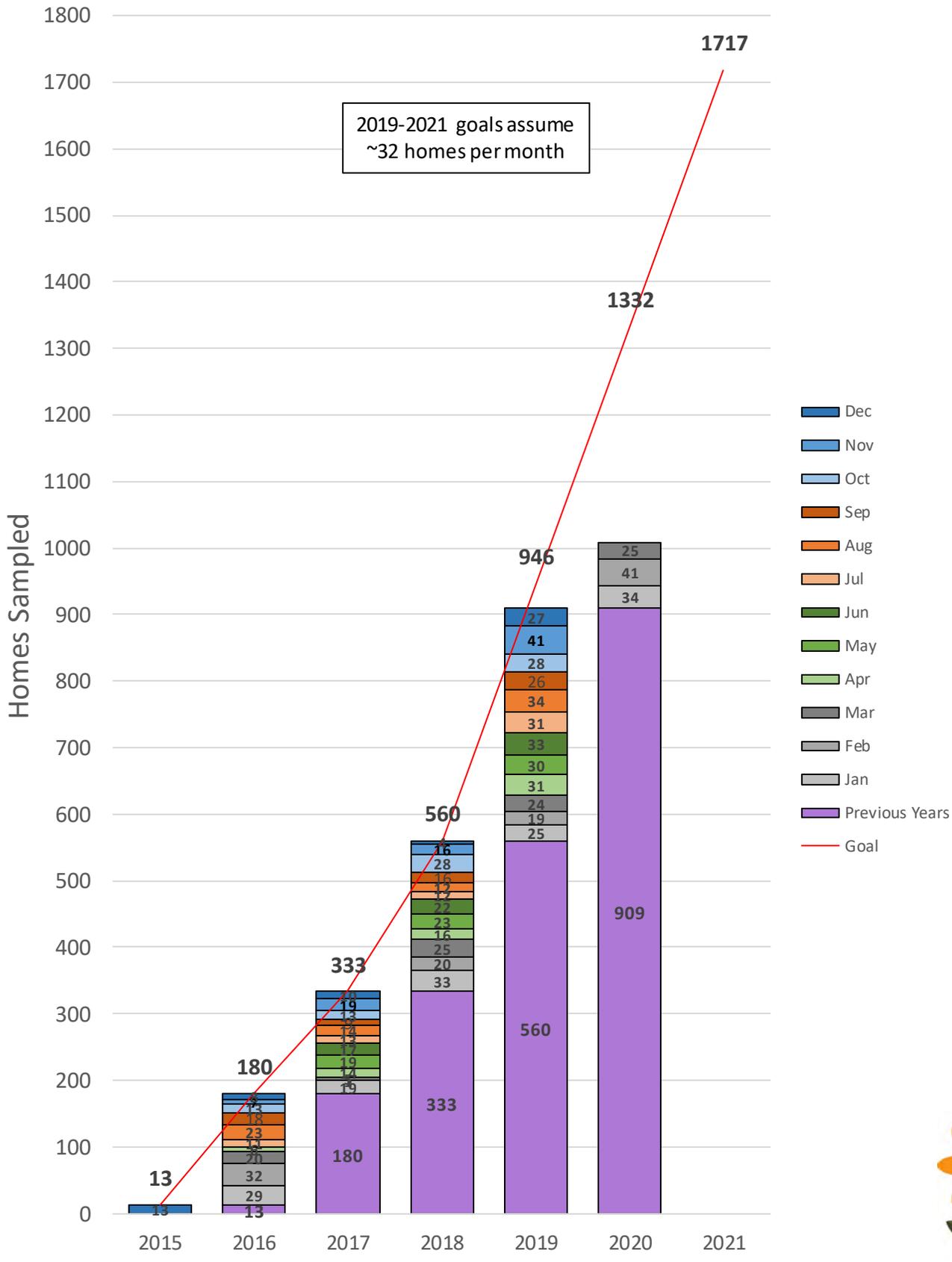
- Soil sampling was completed at 23 properties and indoor dust sampling was completed at 25 properties.
- Cleanup and restoration was completed at 15 properties.
- Indoor dust cleanups were completed at 5 properties.

Soil Properties Sampled By Year (and Month)



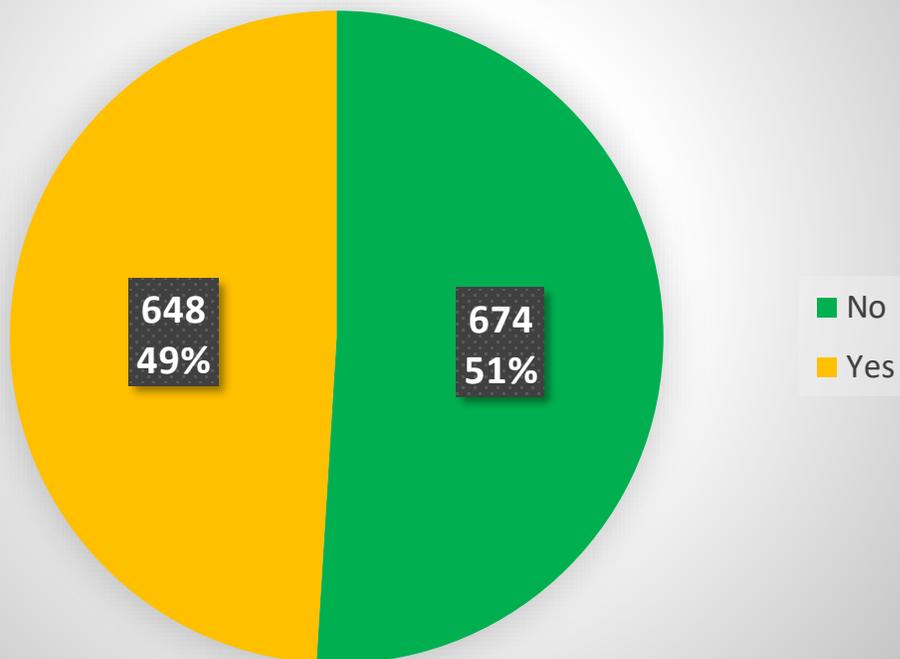
Totals	41	425	650	910	1314	1347	Goal 1717
							(Will change based on sampling percentages)

Dust Homes Sampled By Year (and Month)



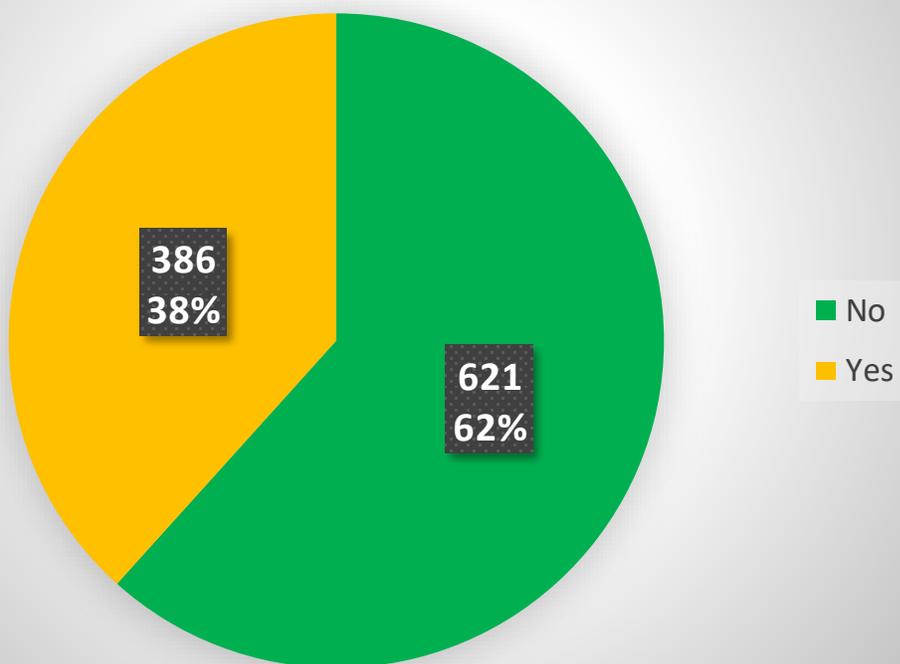
Totals	13	180	333	560	946	1009	Goal 1717
							(Will change based on sampling percentages)

Percent of Sampled Residential Properties Needing Soil Cleanup



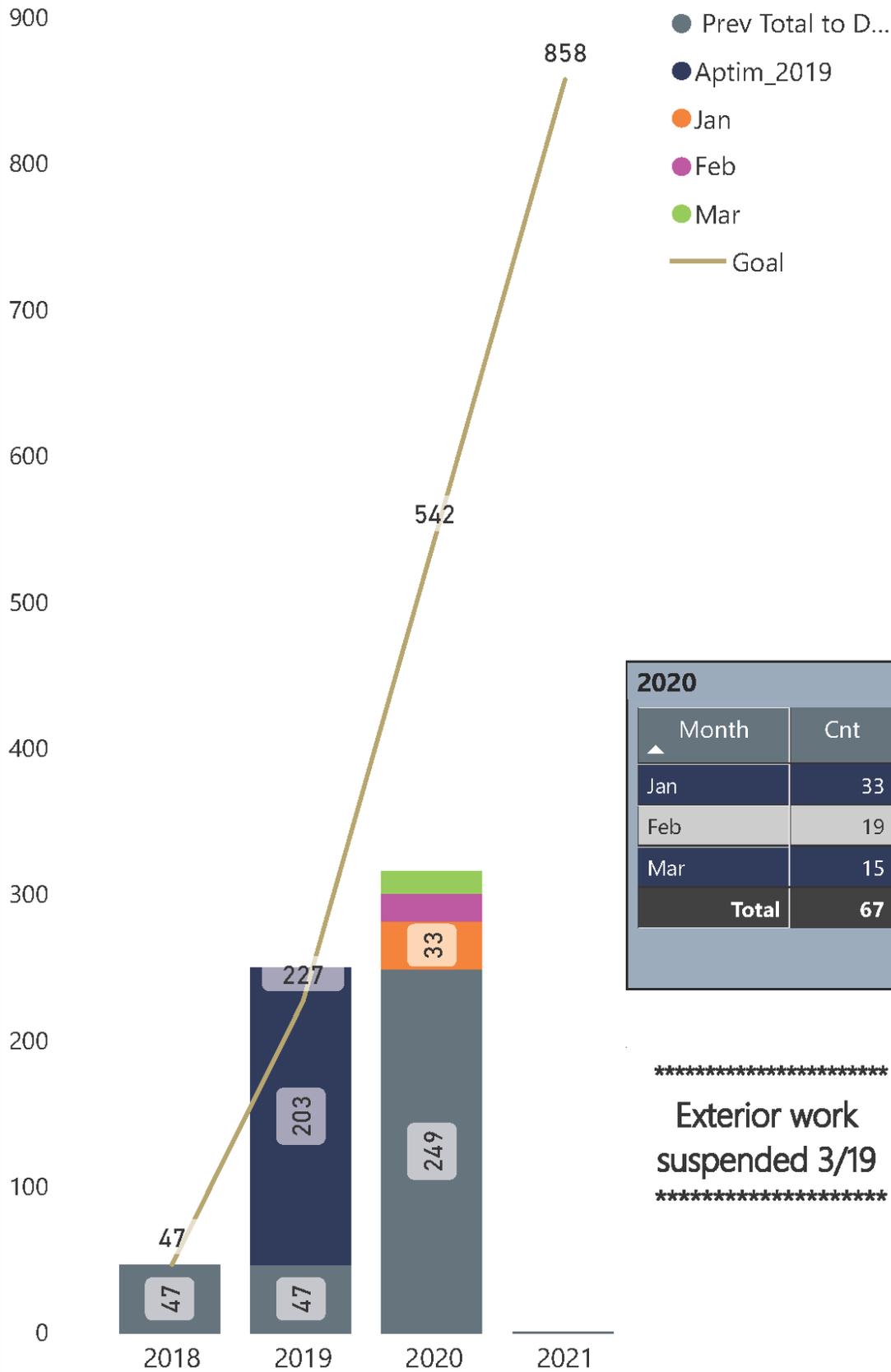
Soil sampling as of 3/20/2020 and dust sampling as of 3/202020

Percent of Sampled Residential Properties Needing Dust Cleanup



**Pie chart totals are based on validated data and may be different than the sampling totals.*

Soil Properties Cleaned and Restored

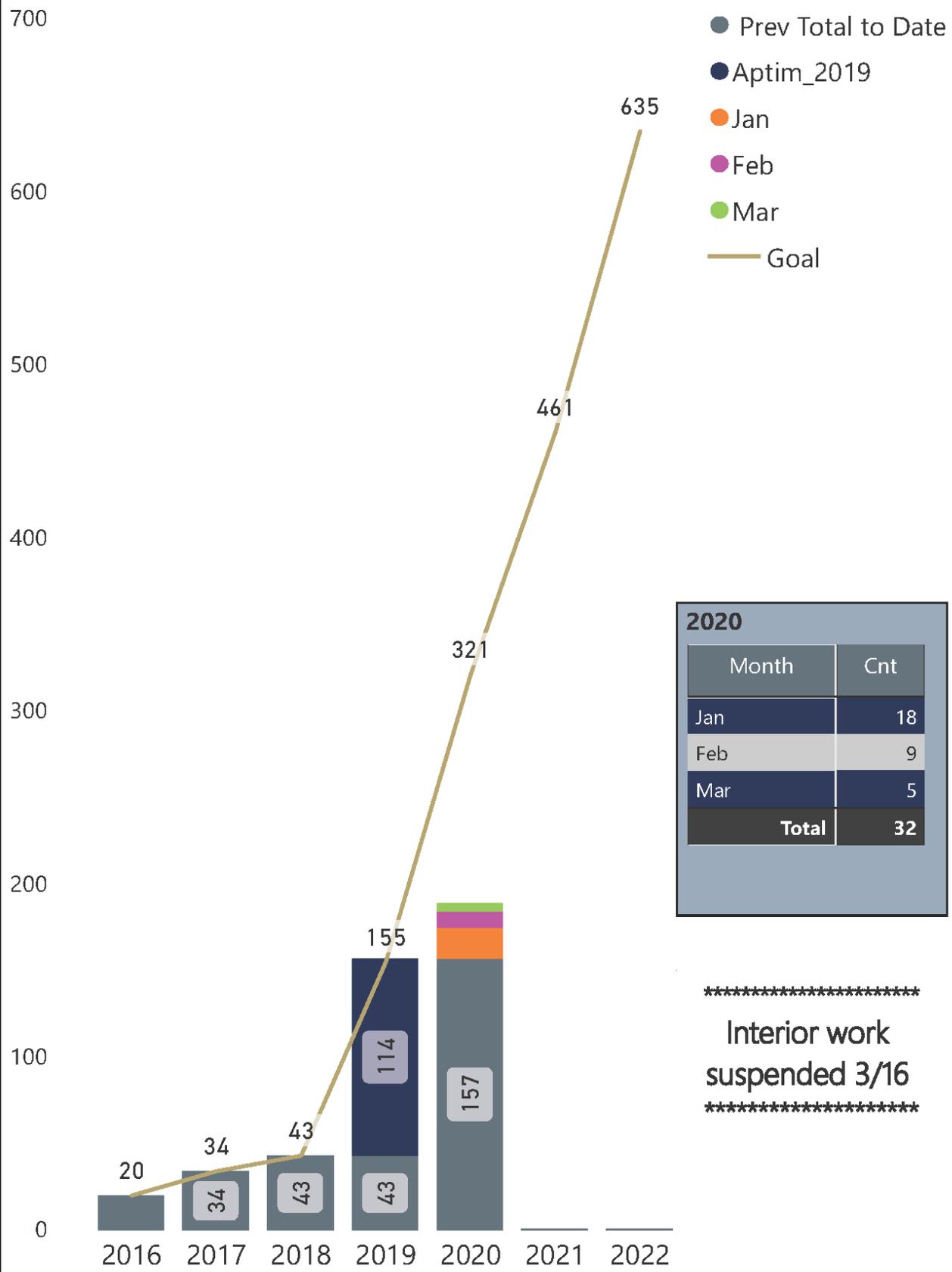


 Exterior work
 suspended 3/19

Totals	47	249	298	Goal 858
				(Subject to change based on sampling consent and completions)



Dust Properties Cleaned



2020	
Month	Cnt
Jan	18
Feb	9
Mar	5
Total	32

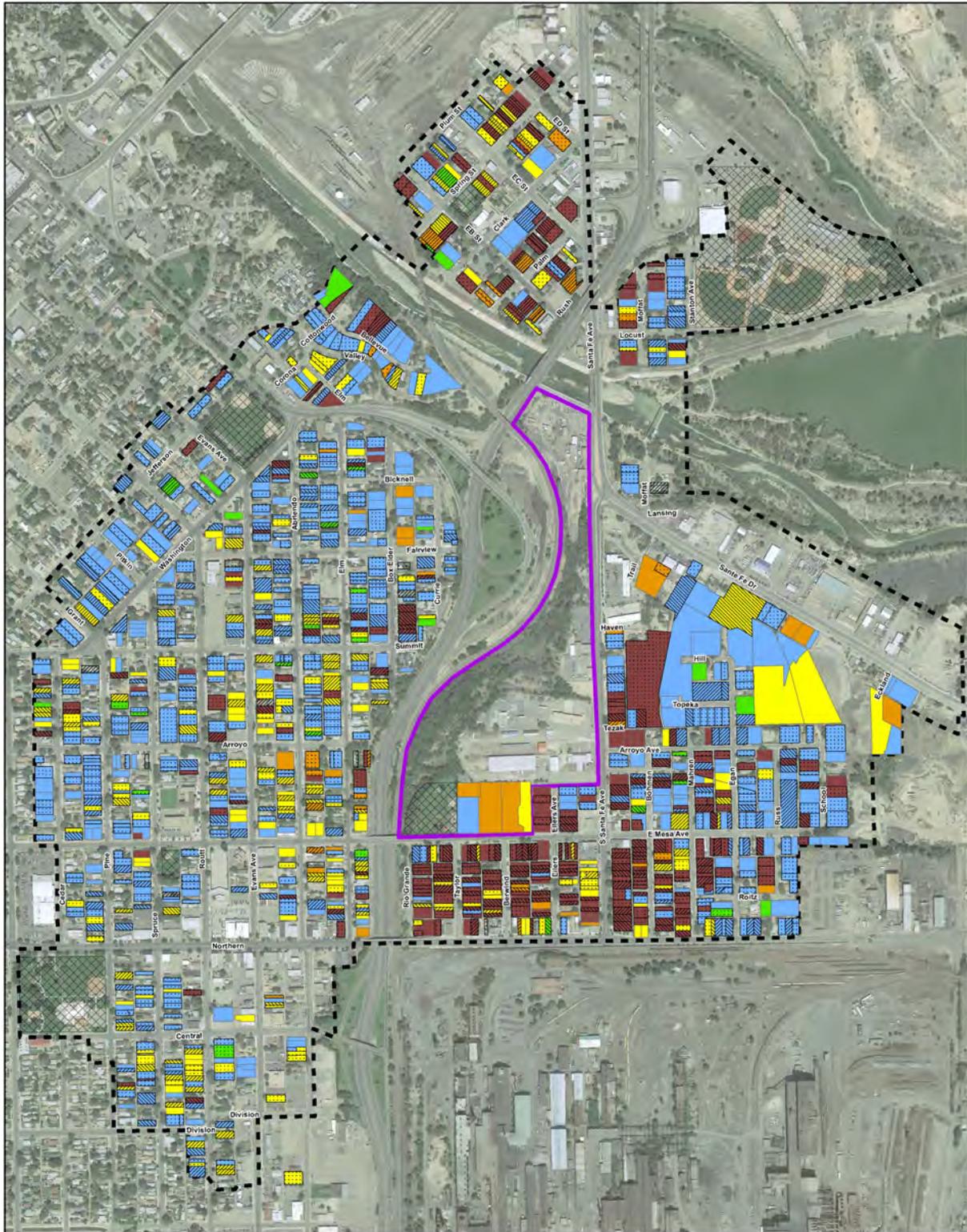
 Interior work
 suspended 3/16



Totals	20	34	43	157	189

Goal 635

(Subject to change based on sampling consent and completions)

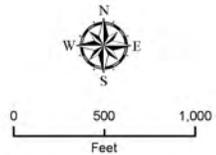


Legend

- Properties Not Requiring Cleanup
- Yards with Removal to 12"
- Yards with Removal to 18"
- Play Area/Garden Areas needing cleanup only
- Yards Already Cleaned Up

- Dust Properties Not Requiring Cleanup
- Properties Requiring Dust Cleanup
- Dust Properties Already Cleaned Up
- Parks Sampled
- Smelter Site Boundary
- Preliminary Study Area

Sampled Properties
March 20, 2020



NAD 1983 StatePlane Colorado South FIPS 0503 Feet
Imagery Google Earth dated August 2013



Map Created: 03/25/2020
Map Created By: DM

EPA Drop-in Session's at Pueblo Project Office are Currently Suspended due to COVID-19!

EPA has temporarily closed the Pueblo Project Office to the general public and suspended monthly drop-in sessions. Our team is still available to talk by phone to residents and property owners who have questions about sampling and cleanup; please call the office at **719-299-4468**; voice messages are monitored daily.

Colorado Smelter Site Activities

2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Community Advisory Group meetings (monthly)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sampling—Residential (OU1)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cleanups (OU1) (ongoing)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sampling—Phase I (OU2)												
Sampling—Phase I report (OU2)												

- Operable Unit 1 (OU1) includes about 1,900 residential and commercial properties that are located within about half a mile of the former smelter area.
- Operable Unit 2 (OU2) includes a former silver and lead smelter and stack that operated in the Eilers and Bessemer neighborhoods from 1883 to 1908.

QUESTIONS?

For general questions, contact the Community Involvement Coordinators:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Jennifer Harrison
 800-227-8917 ext. 312-6813
 harrison.jennifer@epa.gov

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)

Jeannine Natterman
 888-569-1831 ext. 3303
 jeannine.natterman@state.co.us

For questions about cleanup at your property, call or visit our Pueblo project office, 200 S. Santa Fe, 5th Floor, 719-299-4468. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment at 719-583-4307 for lead program information, free blood lead testing or healthy home screening.

¿Habla español? Puede llamar a Jesse Aviles al 800-227-8917 ext. 312-6287.

For ongoing updates, like EPA Region 8's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/eparegion8/>

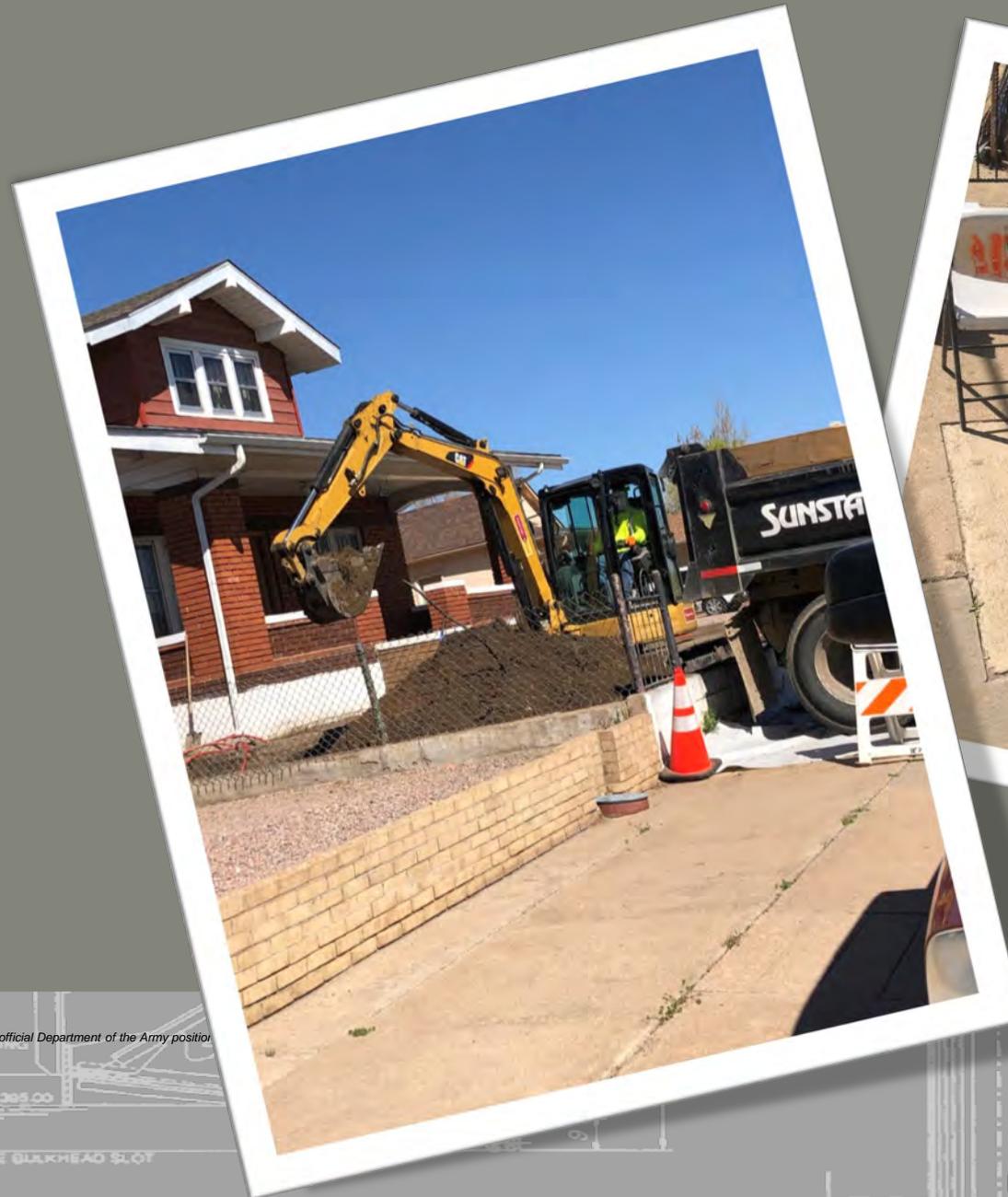
Attachment E: US Army Corps of Engineers PowerPoint on Remedial Action Updates

COLORADO SMELTER REMEDIAL ACTION

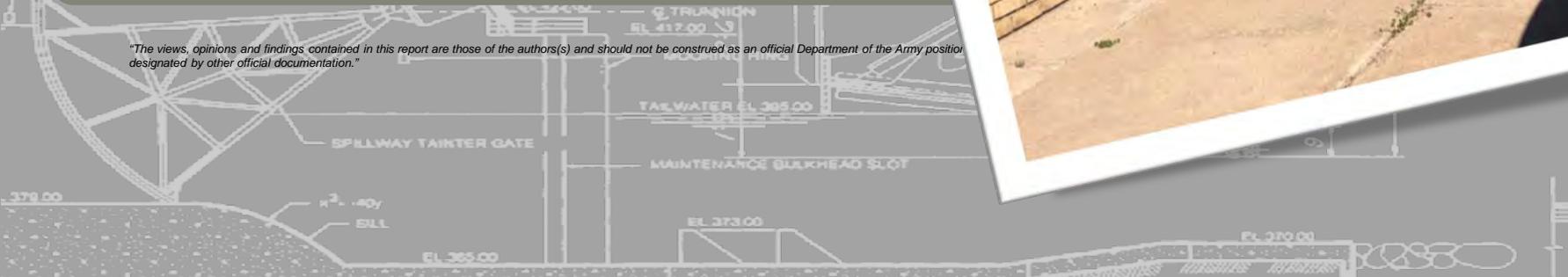
April 14, 2020

CAG Update

USACE Omaha District



"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position designated by other official documentation."



NOTE:
TANKER GATE



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



MORNING MEETINGS-SOCIAL DISTANCING

Crews are meeting separately in small groups.



*The view
designat

position, policy or decision, unless so



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



CLEANING/DECONTAMINATING TOOLS & WASH STATIONS

Wash Stations



"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as official documentation."



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



SOCIAL DISTANCING- MAINTAINING 6FT



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"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."



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