

## 2ND AND SMELTER SUPERFUND SITE FACT SHEET

### PITTSBURG, CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS – EPA REGION 7

AUGUST 2023

### About the 2nd and Smelter Superfund Site

The 2nd and Smelter Superfund Site (site) consists of portions of two vacant lots owned by Watco Companies LLC (Watco) in Pittsburg, Crawford County, Kansas. The property is the location of the former Robert Lanyon Zinc Works. This zinc smelter ceased operations in the early 1900s.

Multiple rounds of environmental sampling have identified multiple piles of smelter waste and widespread heavy metals (most notably lead) contamination in the soil at the site.

In 2019, Watco and EPA entered into a settlement agreement obligating Watco to address the site's heavy metals contamination.

Watco and EPA have since agreed to a plan to manage the smelter waste and impacted soil to facilitate future industrial development, while protecting human health and the environment.

This plan proposes to cover smelter waste and contaminated soil with a minimum of 16 inches of clean soil. Once the contamination has been covered, a deed restriction will be placed on the property to ensure that it is only used for industrial purposes.

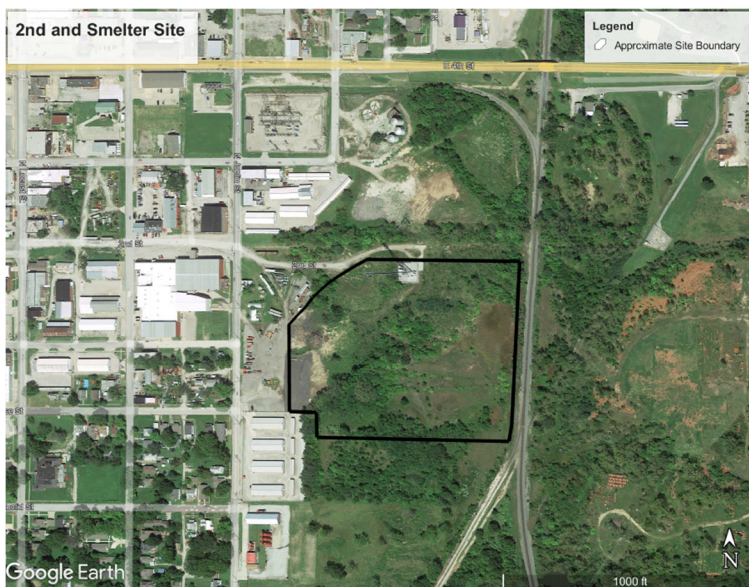
Work is scheduled to begin in August 2023 and continue through January 2024.

### What is Superfund?

Superfund is a common name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and often governs EPA's cleanup process at hazardous waste sites. This federal law authorizes EPA to clean up or oversee the cleanup of contaminated sites.

### What is Lead?

Lead contamination presents a threat to human health and the environment. Lead is a naturally



Approximate boundary of 2nd and Smelter Site in Pittsburg, Kansas.

occurring element. However, most lead found in the environment is due to human activity. Lead can be harmful to humans, especially children, if people come in contact with it. A person can come in contact with lead by ingesting (eating or drinking) something with lead in it or by inhaling (breathing) lead dust.

For more information about lead, please visit: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a series of summaries about contaminants, called ToxFAQs. You can find ToxFAQs on lead at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq).

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