

# LINCOLN PARK NEWS

Community Newsletter

April 2016

## Lincoln Park Superfund Site: What is it?

The Lincoln Park Superfund site occupies a former uranium mill and the contaminated surrounding areas. At the site, beginning in 1958, Cotter Corporation produced yellowcake, a uranium product. The work at the mill and disposal of byproducts left behind chemical contamination in the area's soil and groundwater, and in the sediments of Sand Creek. Waste products are now stored in two lined ponds on the site.

## What's being done to help?

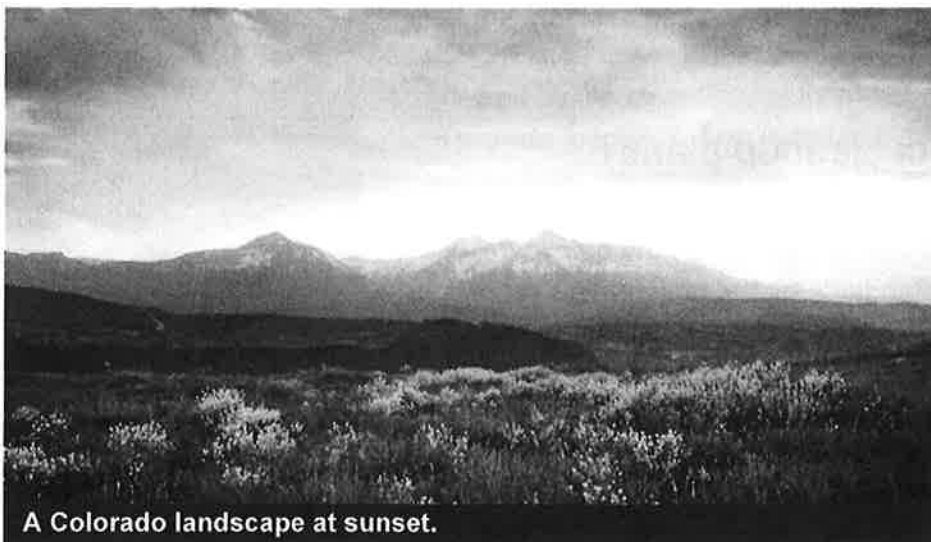
Cotter Corporation (Cotter), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) are working together to clean up the Lincoln Park Superfund site. In July 2014, an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was signed to do a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) for the site. Read on to learn more about the AOC and RI/FS.

## Why am I receiving this newsletter?

You are receiving this newsletter because you live near the Lincoln Park Superfund site. EPA wants to make sure that anyone who might be affected by activities at the site is aware of what's going on, and knows who to call with any questions.

## What is Superfund?

*Superfund is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's program for cleaning up some of America's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills and natural disasters.*



A Colorado landscape at sunset.

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CAG members share recommendations during the 2015 reuse workshop.

## What is an AOC?

*An Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) is a legally binding agreement that defines the roles and obligations of Cotter, EPA and CDPHE in the cleanup of the Lincoln Park Superfund site. The first phase of the cleanup will be a comprehensive remedial investigation and feasibility study.*

## Annual Meeting Recap

The Annual Superfund Public Meeting for the Lincoln Park site was held in October 2015. Information on site-related activities was presented by representatives from Cotter, EPA and CDPHE, as well as the technical advisor to the Community Advisory Group (CAG), who has been brought in under EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities program (TASC).

### In case you missed it...

CDPHE talked about the history of the Lincoln Park site, the events that led to the contamination, the different regulatory authorities involved, and governing documents for the cleanup. The settlement agreement, signed in July 2014, requires Cotter to follow Superfund law to clean up the site, and sets up milestones in the cleanup process.

### What's the next step?

Since the meeting, the agencies have been reviewing several important quality-control documents that will determine how data is collected and evaluated to ensure that future cleanup activities are protective of human health and the environment.

### How will the data affect cleanup plans?

EPA informed meeting attendees that Cotter will summarize historical data collected to date. EPA and CDPHE will review the data to ensure it meets the quality assurance standards for the project. This process is called the Data Summary Technical Assessment (DSTA). When the DSTA is finished, a plan will be made to collect any additional data needed to develop cleanup alternatives.



## What is an RI/FS?

*After placement on the Superfund list, a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS), or site characterization, is completed. The RI collects data needed to determine the nature of the contamination, cost and any health risks for the cleanup. The FS helps develop, screen and evaluate possible cleanup actions.*



### Planning for the future...

EPA reviewed the Future Use Workshop and Planning Meetings held in August 2015. Residents were asked how they'd like see the site used after it is cleaned up. Although Cotter owns the property, exploring possible future uses of the site helps inform cleanup decisions. Over 60 people attended the meetings and brainstormed about different possibilities including open space and natural habitat, recreation and trails, and solar energy production.

### What else do you need?

Prior to the meeting, the CAG's technical advisor asked community members what information they need about the site. This process is called a Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA). Residents are interested in learning more about the cleanup process, the contamination, long-term health effects and real estate disclosure. The technical advisor recommended workshops, fact sheets and meetings on the topics raised to help residents better understand the information.

### Keeping you informed...

CDPHE staff reviewed their plan for making sure that the residents affected by the cleanup stay informed about site activities and are able to provide feedback. This is called the Community Involvement Plan and includes information taken from interviews with residents. The plan includes feedback on how residents feel about their relationship with EPA, CDPHE and Cotter, their current level of site knowledge, health concerns, and how they want to receive information. CDPHE outlined the document review process, which includes opportunities for residents to make comments about site decisions.

For more information about the Annual Meeting and other documents visit: <http://recycle4colorado.ipower.com/Cotter/cagindex.htm>.



**Doni Angell** After beginning her career as a state wildlife enforcement officer, Doni spent over a decade teaching environmental education. Before retiring three years ago from teaching 8th grade science, Doni earned a master's degree in secondary education with a concentration in science, as well as national board certification in middle grades science. She enjoys hiking, wildlife watching and everything outdoors.



**Sharyn Cunningham** With a strong belief in the democratic process, environmental justice and our inherent right to a clean environment, Sharyn joined with community efforts to form the CAG in 2002. She has been a CAG member since the first meeting in 2005. Sharyn graduated summa cum laude from Regis University in Denver with a bachelor's of science degree. With her family, she has been a local business owner and longtime resident of the Superfund site in Lincoln Park.



**Carol L. Dunn** Born in Cañon City, Carol is a mother of two children and grandmother of three. Carol is co-owner of Hilltop Market with her husband, Raymond, and has been a successful businesswoman for 44 years in Lincoln Park near the Superfund site. She is a breast cancer survivor and 45-year member of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha service organization. Carol has been involved with Colorado Citizens Against Waste (CCAT) for 14 years, and was a member of the committee that oversaw a \$50,000 EPA technical assistance grant.



**Patricia Freda** Longtime resident of Cañon City, Pat earned degrees in social sciences and social work as well as a teaching certificate. Pat worked for the Department of Human Services for 30 years, retiring in 2003 from El Paso County. She served on the Cañon City council from 2008-2016. Pat is involved in numerous community activities and organizations, and is a mother of three and grandmother of six. Pat enjoys traveling, gardening and reading.



**Jeri Fry** Jeri and other Fremont County citizens formed CCAT Inc. in 2002. CCAT helped get legislation passed reforming uranium processing in Colorado. Jeri has attended CAG meetings since helping form the CAG in 2005. She grew up in Lincoln Park and her father, Lynn Boughton, was the whistle blower at the Cotter uranium processing mill. Today, Jeri owns The Cup and Cone, a successful small business and employer in Cañon City.



**Kay M. Hawkle** Kay has a master's degree in counseling from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and has enjoyed working to pass legislation that promotes proper environmental cleanup and care of her beautiful state and county.

## Site Partners

### CAG

The purpose of the CAG is to give residents a forum to discuss their concerns related to the Superfund process, and for EPA and partners to listen and respond to these concerns. The CAG is made up of community members from varying backgrounds and interests. The CAG generally meets on the third Thursday of the month. Community members are encouraged to attend.

### COTTER CORP.

Cotter is the responsible party leading site cleanup activities. Cotter operates multiple mines in Colorado and is headquartered in Denver.

### CDPHE

CDPHE is the lead agency overseeing site activities. CDPHE's mission is to protect and improve the health of Colorado's people and the quality of its environment.

### EPA

EPA supports CDPHE in overseeing cleanup work at the site. EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment.



**Tim Payne** Born in Cañon City, Tim and his wife, Julie, have been married 38 years and have two sons. Tim worked at Mountain View Core Knowledge School as the director of maintenance. Prior to that, he was employed at the First National Bank of Cañon City. Tim has served as county commissioner and a member of the Cañon City Recreation District Board. Boards Tim is associated with include: Cañon City Fire Protection District Board, Star Point Board, Gold Belt Board and the Arkansas River Roundtable.



**Mary Shorter-King** Born in upstate New York in 1955, Mary received an associate's degree in civil engineering/surveying technology 1985, bachelor's in psychology in 1995 and a masters degree in social work in 2014. She moved to Fremont County in 1997 and worked as land surveyor, later started King Properties Inc. and is currently building a private practice as a registered psychotherapist in the state of Colorado. Mary loves the land and all of the wildlife it protects.



**Mike Stiehl** A 48-year resident of Southern Colorado, Mike has lived in Lincoln Park since 2001. He graduated from Colorado College in biology, with concentrations in water quality and availability. He performed soil sampling at the Cotter Uranium Mill in 1974 and again in 2003. Mike worked with the EPA inspector general to start the CAG in 2003. To further influence mill activities and cleanup, Mike ran for Fremont County commissioner and served two terms, retiring in 2013.



**Emily Tracy** Emily is a faculty member for Colorado Mountain College in the sustainability studies program. She co-leads the Conflict Resolution Coalition of Summit County. She has a degree in humanities and a degree in public administration with an emphasis in environmental management. She has worked in child and adult protective services, the courts, a police department and nonprofits. Emily also served as a city council member in Cañon City and has been a candidate for the Colorado State Legislature. Emily maintains homes in Breckenridge and Cañon City.



**Donna Murphy** A resident of Fremont County since 1978, Donna worked for the Colorado Department of Corrections for 21 years. She has a master's degree in public administration and was a Fremont County commissioner in 1996. She is a member of CCAT and the Sangre de Cristo group of Sierra Club, and is the chair of the Museum of Colorado Prisons. She was a founding member of the area's recycling program.

**Bill Matthews (not pictured)** Bill has worked on environmental and geo-technical construction for 46 years on projects that include water quality, heavy metal clean-up and reclamations at mine and mill sites, mine closures, dam construction projects, including the Rocky Flats pipeline closure. He has completed projects in several municipalities and 15 states. Bill has worked for several engineering and mining companies, the EPA, Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers. Post retirement he continues to serve as an advisor to the state of Colorado and private corporations.

**Cathe Meyrick (not pictured)** Has had many exciting and challenging jobs. While living in Switzerland she was a video librarian for the United States Information Service and later the protocol secretary and executive assistant to the U.S. ambassador. In Glenwood Springs, Cathe was a clerk in the Garfield County Combined Courts, and in Centennial, she worked for the Littleton School District as a paraprofessional. Cathe is on the boards of several nonprofit organizations and enjoys being home in the mountains of Fremont County.

**CAG Members not listed: Paul Carestia, Marvin Eller, James Meacham, John Sporleder.**





**Jennifer Opila** Jennifer has worked for the state for 22 years and currently serves as the radiation program manager. She oversees 20 staff members in the areas of radioactive materials regulation, radiation machine registration and certification, radon education and uranium facilities regulation. Jennifer and her husband, Pete, enjoy spending time outdoors with their three children, camping, hiking, fishing and travelling to national parks.



**Alissa Schultz** Alissa has worked in the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division – Remediation Programs Unit since 2009 and is a State Superfund Project Manager on three Superfund sites. Previously she worked in the private sector as an environmental consultant. She has a bachelors in environmental chemistry and a masters in environmental science. Outside of work she enjoys hiking/backpacking, rock/ice climbing, antiques and exploring with her two hound dogs.



**Monica D. Sheets** Monica has been with the state for 24 years. Her educational background is in law and policy. She currently works as remedial program manager for the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division of CDPHE. Monica is married with two sons. In her spare time she loves to run, race, dine out, watch the Broncos, and sit on white sandy beaches.



**Warren W. Smith** Is the community involvement manager for CDPHE and manages a three-person staff responsible for public participation and media relations. Warren has over 30 years of experience as a public/community relations counselor, marketing communicator, journalist, video producer and radio announcer, he has written extensively about science, engineering, energy, medicine and the environment. He and his wife, Terri, collect Asian art and are certified benefit auctioneers; they have conducted fundraising auctions for a variety of nonprofit organizations.



**Shiya Wang** Shiya joined the radiation program at the CDPHE in 2012. Shiya is a license reviewer and compliance inspector primarily for uranium recovery licenses. She has a Ph.D. in astronomy, where she researched the infancy of distant stars through ground-based and space observatories. When Shiya is not working or entertaining her toddler daughter, she enjoys reading detective and wuxia fictions and playing the guzheng, a traditional Chinese string instrument.

## EPA, REGION 8



**Mark Aguilar** Mark has been with EPA for 23 years and currently serves as a remedial program manager for the Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation. Mark graduated from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1990. He is a petroleum engineer and a captain with the U.S. Public Health Service. Mark also works on the Black Hills Army Depot, 700 South 1600 East PCE Plume as a co-remedial project manager and FE Warren Air Force Base sites.



**Jasmin Guerra** Jasmin currently works in EPA Region 8's Office of Communications and Public Involvement as a community involvement coordinator. Previously she worked on EPA community technical assistance programs, in the grants offices and as the Hispanic employment program manager. She enjoys jewelry making, painting and hiking.

**Rob Stites (not pictured)** Rob started EPA as a remedial project manager for the Superfund Program, later became team leader for the regional federal facilities team, and is now a unit chief. Rob primarily works with large military installations, including the Rocky Flats Plant and Monticello Mill Site properties. Rob earned degrees in geological engineering and geology. He has worked as an environmental geologist and environmental engineering evaluator on groundwater pollution abatement.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES



**Marcus Griswold** Marcus is a Skeo Solutions employee who provides technical assistance to communities across the country through EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities program. He currently supports the Lincoln

Park CAG to review and interpret complex scientific and technical documents for cleanup efforts at Lincoln Park. Previously Marcus advised non-profit organizations on science and policy issues related to threats to water quality and availability and climate change. He enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, kayaking and photography.



**Joseph P. McMahon, Jr.** Joe has degrees in law and engineering. He works in facilitation, conflict transformation and dispute resolution. His experience is in various fields including but not limited to public policy, environmental, construction,

transportation, real estate, water, water rights, medical practice, inter-personal disputes. Joe works to expand the narrow definition of alternative dispute resolution into a broader more systemic concept of conflict management and transformation.

## COTTER CORPORATION



**Jim Cain** Jim has been the environmental coordinator/radiation safety officer for the Cañon City Milling Facility since 1980. In 1969, he graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a bachelor's degree in engineering and served five

years active duty. He received a master's in radiation biology from Colorado State University Fort Collins in 1979. He and his wife, Eileen, just celebrated their 45th anniversary. In his spare time, Jim enjoys exercising and following running sports and soccer.



**Stephen J. Cohen** Stephen has nearly 29 years of experience in the environmental industry, including: hazardous and radioactive waste management and remediation, stream restoration, wetland restoration, watershed planning and

analysis, and the regulation of the uranium recovery industry. Stephen has worked on Superfund, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action and radioactive waste sites, such as the True Temper Sports Superfund site and the Bert Avenue Low-Level Radioactive Waste Site (now a park).



EPA and CDPHE are honored to support cleanup efforts in this vibrant community. Guidance from local CAG members makes all the difference in project success.

Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center—Lincoln Park Information Repository Location. March 2016

## How can I get involved?

If you would like to learn more about site activities, or have any questions, concerns, or thoughts about the information in this newsletter please contact the following people:

### EPA

Jasmin Guerra  
*Community Involvement  
Coordinator*  
guerra.jasmin@epa.gov  
(303) 312-6508  
Toll free: (800) 227-8917  
(Ext. 6508)

### CDPHE

Warren Smith  
*Community Involvement  
Manager*  
warren.smith@state.co.us  
(303) 692-3373  
Toll free: (888) 569-1831  
(Ext. 3373)

More information is available on the CDPHE's Lincoln Park site website at:

<http://recycle4colorado.ipower.com/Cotter/index.htm>

including:

- Site maps and frequently asked questions
- CAG meeting documents and documents available for public review and comment
- Current governing documents and quarterly reports and historical documents

## When is the Next CAG Meeting?

A great way to get involved in site activities is by attending the monthly CAG meetings:

Third Thursday every month  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

201 N. Sixth St.  
Department of Health  
Garden Park Building

### SAVE THE DATE

Evening CAG meeting  
July 21— 6p—9p

Annual Meeting  
Oct 19 — 6p—9p

To receive email updates about site activities, please contact Warren Smith at [warren.smith@state.co.us](mailto:warren.smith@state.co.us)