



# Bingham –Magna Ditch Soils Investigation

Salt Lake County, Utah



UDEQ

JUNE 2007

EPA-Region 8

## AVAILABILITY SESSIONS SET FOR JUNE

### WEST JORDAN

**Thursday, June 7, 2007**  
**Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**  
**West Jordan City Hall**  
**8000 Redwood Rd**  
**West Jordan, Utah**

### WEST VALLEY

**Wednesday, June 13, 2007**  
**Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**  
**West Valley Family Fitness**  
**Center**  
**5415 West 3100 South**  
**West Valley City, Utah**

The UDEQ and EPA will hold public availability sessions to update residents on the investigation of the Bingham-Magna Ditch. Representatives and technical experts will be on hand to answer questions and provide information to the community from:

*Utah Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. EPA Region 8, Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation, and Salt Lake Valley Health Department*

You will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the efforts being made to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.

## Bingham - Magna Ditch Soils Investigation

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are conducting an investigation of arsenic contaminated soil sediments associated with the former Bingham-Magna Ditch, a historic mining drainage canal located in western Salt Lake County.

### Addressing Potential Risks

UDEQ and EPA are working with Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation to develop a comprehensive site characterization plan so agencies can begin an evaluation of the risk posed by soils associated with the Bingham-Magna Ditch. The former canal is 17-miles in length, approximately 15-feet wide and is buried two-to-four feet beneath the ground. The only potential risks to human health and the environment are areas where the Bingham-Magna Ditch may have become uncovered, primarily through construction development where direct contact with arsenic soils may occur.

Recent sampling indicates a thin layer of soil lining the bottom of the canal containing elevated concentrations of arsenic. The concentrations of arsenic exceed EPA and UDEQ residential standards. Until the Bingham-Magna Ditch soils are fully evaluated it is recommended that residents keep children and pets away from any exposed orange-colored dirt. Ingestion or swallowing arsenic-contaminated soils is the most likely exposure route that may cause detrimental effects to health, including gastrointestinal irritation. Long term exposure through ingestion may increase cancer risk.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in the Earth's crust and is primarily produced as a byproduct of copper and lead smelting operations.

## Requesting Access to Sample Yards

Neighborhoods located along the 17-mile Bingham-Magna Ditch will be targeted for sampling in a phased approach. Every home within the alignment of the ditch will be offered sampling. Soil sampling will be conducted initially for highly populated areas and new construction developments as immediate areas of concern. UDEQ and EPA will be requesting access to property owners within areas of impact to sample soils. This sampling will be at no cost to you. Kennecott Utah Copper has offered to assist with the cleanup of impacted soil.

### Site History

The canal was used by the Utah Copper Corporation (a predecessor of Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation) to transport waste water from the Bingham Mine to mining mills in Magna during the 1930's. The canal was abandoned and filled with top soil by 1940. The historic ditch originated west of Copperton, ran east to about 7000 West, then north through what are now West Jordan, West Valley, Kearns and Magna. It ended at the Utah and Salt Lake Canal northwest of Magna.

### Contacts:

If you have questions please contact:

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