UTAH DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

To: Treasure Mountain Middle Teachers and Administrators
From: Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Date: November 18, 2022

We understand that there are concerns related to excavation activities related to a Park City School District project located near or at Treasure Mountain Middle School. We have prepared an update to address some of those concerns with the information that we as the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have at this time.

Please note that we cannot speak to anything prior to our becoming aware of the project on September 15, 2022, after which our role has been limited to advising on best management practices at the site. Any questions related to management of the site prior to our involvement should be directed to the Park City School District, and any questions related to individual health should be directed to your health care professional.

Efforts to Address Exposure at Treasure Mountain Middle School

Due to historic mining activities in Park City and surrounding areas, heavy metal contamination (primarily lead and arsenic) may be present in soils. A city wide soils ordinance is in place to ensure that residents who live in these areas where lead and arsenic may be present are not exposed to these soils when covered by roads, buildings, sidewalks and vegetated areas.

The piles of soil located behind Treasure Mountain Middle School were identified to have had a mixture of trash and mining waste. Sampling indicated that the soils in those piles exceeded screening levels used to determine if the amount of heavy metals present in the soil are unhealthy for humans if exposed.

After receiving guidance from DEQ, these piles have been covered with clean soil or "capped" to prevent exposure. There is a possibility of the cap being compromised if digging or erosion takes place, and we have advised the school on measures to take to ensure that this does not happen.

The most likely exposure to the public from these soil piles is the possibility of incidental ingestion that could occur if the current cap is compromised by digging or erosion. "Incidental ingestion" means ingestion through hand-to-mouth contact. The average daily amount of soil that is consumed incidentally by children and adults is 200 mg/day. This is a very small amount, approximately 1/5th of an artificial sweetener packet which weighs a gram (1000 mg). Children

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are more likely to eat this amount of soil due to increased hand to mouth activities. DEQ is working with the school to have the piles removed.

Surface Soil Sample Results

On Tuesday November 15, 2022, DEQ staff conducted a site visit to Treasure Mountain Middle School and collected surface soil samples to gather preliminary screening data using a handheld x-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyzer.

Samples were collected at 18 locations across the two soil piles that have been covered or "capped" with clean soil to prevent human exposure. At 17 of the 18 locations soil lead was detected below the 200 mg lead/kg soil screening level, or level used to determine if contamination is present, required by Park City Municipal Code (Section 11-15-2, B).

At the location where soil lead was above 200 mg/kg it was very near the Park City screening level, and well below the EPA screening level of 400 mg lead/kg of soil. These samples indicate that the cap on soils at the site is protective of human health, though additional laboratory confirmation sampling is needed to verify these results.

Resources and Contact Information

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us by emailing deqinfo@utah.gov. We will plan to provide another update after the Thanksgiving holiday if additional information becomes available.

Thank you,

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality