



May 19, 2016

Dear Property Owner,

Public Health-Seattle and King County in partnership with Washington State Department of Ecology are offering **free home soil testing for arsenic and lead**. You received this letter because you expressed interest in testing the soil in your yard.

For almost 100 years, the Asarco Company operated a copper smelter in Ruston, Washington. Air pollution from the smelter settled on the surface soil over a large portion of the Puget Sound basin. Arsenic and lead are metals still in the soil as a result of this pollution. The extent of contamination is called the Tacoma Smelter Plume and covers parts of Pierce, King, Thurston, and Kitsap counties. While your home is within this plume, there is no immediate health concern from the arsenic and lead levels in your area.

Arsenic and lead can pose a health risk if you or your children accidentally swallow or breathe in contaminated soil over a long period of time. The Home Soil Testing Program measures the amount of arsenic or lead in areas in your yard. Knowing these levels can guide you on how you can protect yourself and your family while working or playing in the soil.

Next Steps

1. Fill out and sign the enclosed access agreement. Mail it back in the postage paid envelope.
2. Staff from GeoEngineers, the sampling company, will call you to set up a time to collect soil samples. It is best for you to be home to ask questions and explain what areas of the yard you use the most.
3. The sampler will take 4-6 soil samples from one or two areas of your yard. They will dig small holes about six inches deep, take the samples, and refill the holes.
4. Once the lab results are ready, you will receive a letter explaining your sample results and actions you can take.

If you have questions, please contact me at (206)447.3478 or dirtalert@kingcounty.gov.

Thank you for your interest!



Denise Tung Sharify
King County Dirt Alert
Public Health – Seattle & King County



Property Access Agreement for Soil Sampling

Owner Name _____
Last First

Street Address _____
Street City State Zip

Mailing Address _____
Street/PO Box City State Zip

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

E-mail address _____

Property Access (circle one): Sample anytime/Schedule an appointment: _____
Best time(s) / Day(s)

Dogs: Yes/No Locked Gates: Yes/No Septic: Yes/No Underground Utilities: Yes/No

Safety Hazards: Are there any unsafe areas we should stay away from? Please describe:

This section describes what you are agreeing to if you sign this form. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns (contact information at bottom of the page).

Agreement Language

I am the **owner** of the property identified above, and give my permission for representatives (deleted Agents) of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to enter the property and take soil samples to analyze for **arsenic** and **lead**. Please note: if you are not the property owner, your landlord must provide a signed access agreement to allow Ecology and its representatives to collect a soil sample from the property listed above.

I understand that the data collected from my property are subject to requests for public disclosure under the Public Record Act or the Freedom of Information Act. If requested, Ecology must provide the data, including my name and address. However, my name and address will not be published in any report generated by Ecology or its representatives. I understand that I may have to disclose data collected from my property on Form 17 (Real Property Transfer Disclosure Statement) at time of sale.

I agree to hold harmless Ecology, its employees, and representatives from any and all liability arising directly or indirectly from the sampling, testing, evaluation, and disclosure related to the subject project.

Property owner signature Date

Please return your completed form in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to Jessica Smith, GeoEngineers, 8410 154th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98052, or email it to jasmith@geoengineers.com.