

Celebrating 25 Years

Davenport & Flagstaff Smelter Superfund Site

The site is located about 15 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, Utah, in a residential area at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. The Davenport and Flagstaff Smelters were constructed around 1870 at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Both smelters processed lead and silver ore from mines near Alta, Utah. Operators decommissioned and dismantled both smelters by 1879. Subsequently, site use was mostly agricultural until the 1970s and 1980s when a restaurant and a residential community began to develop.

The site consisted of three areas, referred to as operable units (OUs). OU1 addressed 26 residential properties with lead and arsenic contamination in surface and subsurface soils. OU2 covered about 29 acres and consisted of a mixture of commercial and undeveloped land. OU3 addressed agricultural land proposed for future residential use near the Flagstaff Smelter.

OU1 cleanup began in 2004 and finished in 2008. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) oversaw cleanup that removed the contaminated soils and restored 26 properties. About 33,000 cubic yards of lead- and arsenic-impacted soils were removed and taken off site for disposal.

OU2 cleanup began in August 2011 and finished in December 2011. About 7,100 tons of contaminated soil was excavated and disposed offsite with 6,600 tons of soil treated prior to disposal.

OU3 included excavation and treatment of contaminated soil on 49 acres of undeveloped property. A private entity cleaned up OU3 in 2006 with DEQ's oversight. About 77,000 tons of contaminated soil was excavated, treated and disposed offsite. The site reached the Superfund milestone "construction complete" in August 2012.



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