



# Northwestern States Portland Cement Company Superfund Site

Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

## Community Involvement Plan

June 2020

### SECTION 1

#### Overview of the Community Involvement Plan

This Community Involvement Plan, or CIP, has been developed for the Northwestern States Portland Cement Company Superfund Site, located in Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a Five-Year Review. EPA is conducting activities at the site under the guidelines of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, a federal law passed in 1980 and commonly called Superfund; the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, or SARA, enacted in 1986; and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, or NCP, revised in 1990.

Superfund is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills, and natural disasters. To protect public health and the environment, the Superfund program focuses on ensuring that people can live and work in healthy, vibrant places. Removal actions are generally short-term actions to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to human health and welfare or the environment. Removals can be triggered by fires, leaks, explosions, or other releases or threats of releases of hazardous substances. Removal responses may be conducted as emergency or time-critical situations if the release or threat of a release poses a threat to public health, welfare, or the environment. Remedial activities are conducted on sites that have been placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). The Northwestern States Portland Cement Company Site was placed on the NPL in August 1990. Following completion of remedial activities, EPA removed the site from the NPL in 1995.

#### Site Contacts:

<b>Pamela Houston</b> Community Involvement Coordinator Phone: (913) 551-7699 Email: <a href="mailto:Houston.Pamela@epa.gov">Houston.Pamela@epa.gov</a> Office of Public Affairs U.S. EPA Region 7 11201 Renner Boulevard Lenexa, KS 66219	<b>Amer Safadi</b> Remedial Project Manager Phone: (913) 551-7825 Email: <a href="mailto:Safadi.Amer@epa.gov">Safadi.Amer@epa.gov</a> Superfund & Emergency Management U.S. EPA Region 7 11201 Renner Boulevard Lenexa, KS 66219
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This CIP is intended to:

- Encourage community interest and participation throughout EPA's involvement at the site.
- Initiate and support two-way communication between EPA and the community.
- Help ensure that community members understand the Superfund process and the opportunities it presents them to participate in the decision-making process regarding site cleanup.

## SECTION 2 Site Background

### Site Description

The Northwestern States Portland Cement Company Site consists of an area within the LafargeHolcim Inc. former cement manufacturing facility, located just north of Mason City near the intersection of 25th Street and U.S. Highway 65. Cement was manufactured at the site from 1908 until 2009. The area referred to as the West Quarry was mined for limestone, a raw material for cement production, until 1950. The West Quarry had reached a depth of approximately 40 feet and covered an area of about 150 acres. In 1969, the company began using the West Quarry for the disposal of waste cement kiln dust (CKD). When disposal activities ceased in 1985, approximately 2 million tons of CKD had been placed in the quarry and the quarry's unfilled area had been reduced to approximately 40 acres. The open portion of the quarry, filled with approximately 420 million gallons of water, was known as the West Quarry pond. (A site map is included as Appendix D.)

### Site History and EPA Actions to Date

EPA has conducted five Five-Year Reviews of the site's remedy. These reviews evaluate whether the remedies put in place protect public health and the environment and function as intended by site decision documents.

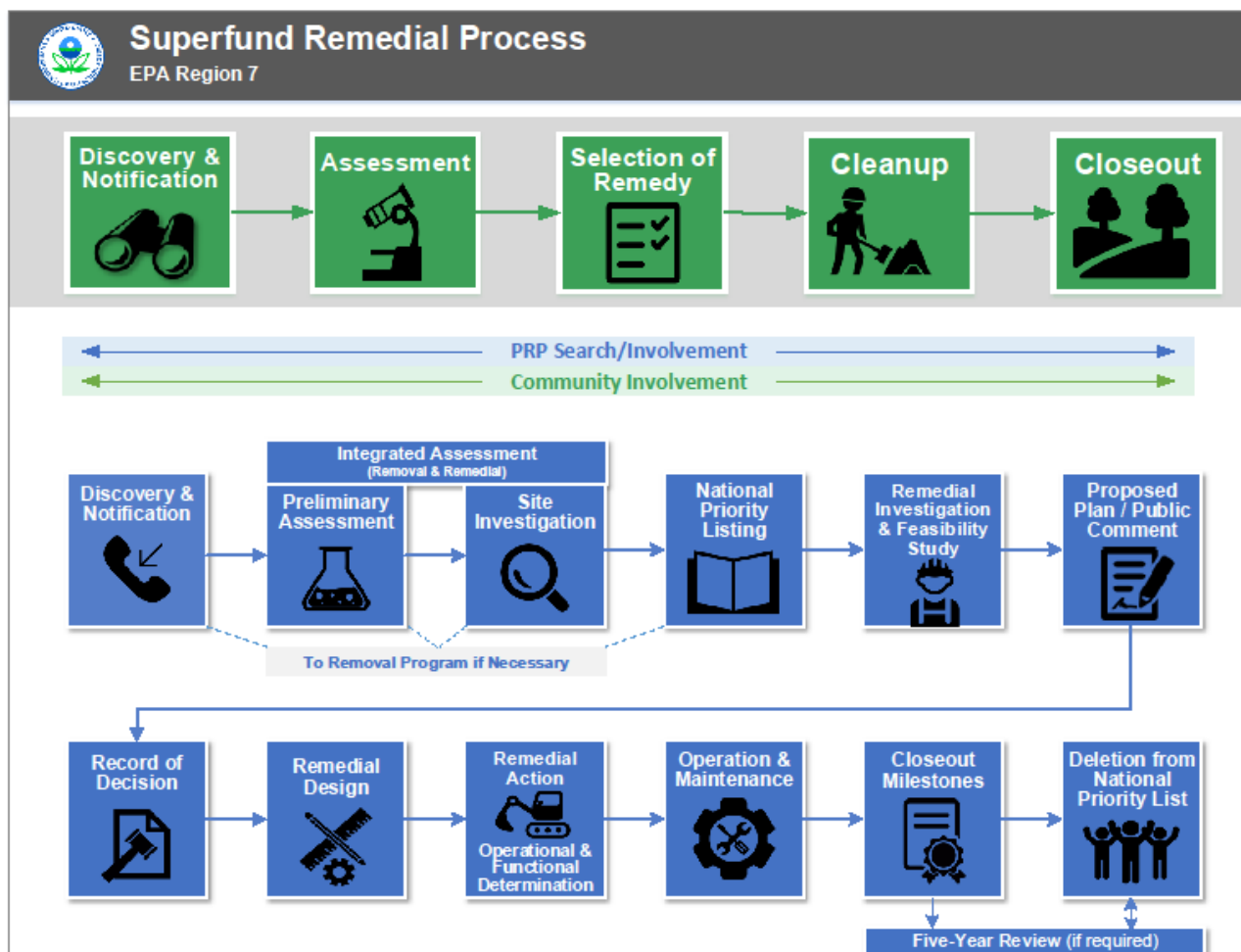
### Site Contamination

The major concerns at the site were contaminated surface water and groundwater, resulting from contact with CKD in the West Quarry. CKD is composed of a primary cement component, calcium oxide, which reacts with water and releases hydroxide ions into solution. The hydroxide ion concentration directly controls the pH level of an aqueous solution. Local groundwater and surface water were impacted by high pH levels, and by an increase in total dissolved solids content. Heavy metals and phenol have also been detected sporadically. Additional information about these contaminants of concern can be found at: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs).



\* Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

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### SECTION 3

#### Community Involvement Plan Objectives

EPA endeavors to keep community members informed of and involved in the site cleanup process. To promote community involvement, EPA may utilize a variety of tools and techniques. The specific community involvement tools and techniques utilized will be based on the level of community interest, identified issues and concerns, and the complexity and duration of the site investigation and cleanup. A list of community involvement activities conducted by EPA may include:

- Providing timely, site-specific information to community members so they are able to participate in, or closely follow, site-related activities to the maximum extent they desire, and the process allows.
- Providing a direct contact for community members by identifying a Superfund Project Manager who will share information about the site.
- Enhancing communications between EPA and local officials to help ensure those officials are informed of site-related activities, and that EPA benefits from the officials' insights regarding the community and its concerns, the site and its history, and local regulatory issues. (Appendix A contains a list of local, state and federal officials.)
- Enhancing communications between EPA and the media, as appropriate, to help ensure reporters are provided timely information about site-related activities and events and are aware of pertinent site-related topics.

EPA encourages those who want a greater level of participation to consider forming a Community Advisory Group and/or applying for Technical Assistance Plan funding. For additional details, community members are encouraged to view the Superfund Community Involvement Toolkit files available online at: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/community-involvement-tools-and-resources>, or you may contact the Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) or Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for the site (listed on Page 1 of this CIP).

#### Site Information Repository

EPA has developed publicly available websites that serve as site information repositories. The repositories include documents such as this CIP and other site-related documents. The website address to the site information repositories for this site is:

[www.epa.gov/superfund/portlandcementco](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/portlandcementco).

## SECTION 4

### Community Background

- Community Profile

Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, Demographics

Per the United States Census Quick Facts website:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>:

*Population: 42,450*

*County: Cerro Gordo*

*Median Household Income: \$52,902*

*Median Age: 44.5*

- Environmental Justice (EJ)

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work

EPA prepared an EJSCREEN for this site in April 2020. None of the indicators were above the level for which EPA would classify this site as having potential EJ concerns. EJSCREEN is a tool that can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. (See Appendix C for EJSCREEN Map.)

- Community Interests and Concerns

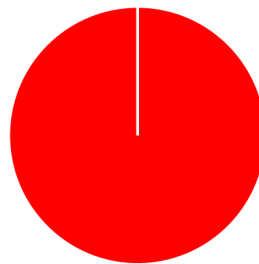
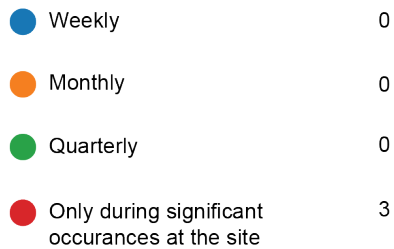
Community interviews have been conducted for this site. Community concerns were focused on human health and groundwater. The interviewees were satisfied with EPA actions at the site.

## SECTION 5 Community Interest & Concerns

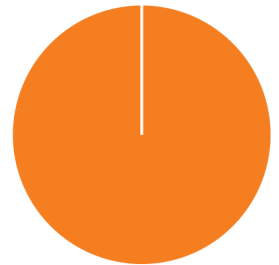
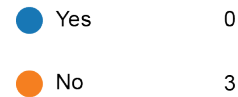
### • Response to Community Concerns

On May 11, 2020, EPA conducted interviews with community members. Interviewees appeared to be satisfied with recent EPA actions at the site. The interview process also provided EPA an opportunity to update the community on activities at the site.

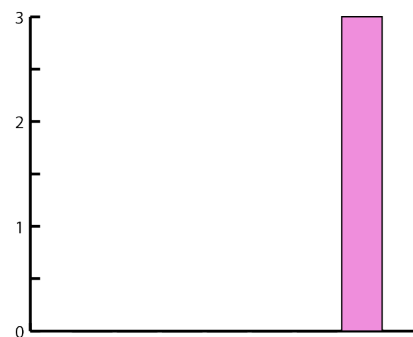
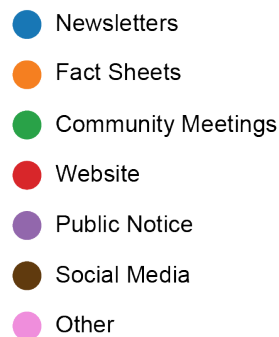
How often do you prefer to receive information about the site?



Are you aware of the information repository for the site?



What is your preferred method to receive information regarding the site?



**Appendix A**  
List of Contacts

**A.1** Federal Elected Officials:

Chuck Grassley, U.S. Senator  
721 Federal Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: (515) 288-1145

Joni Ernst, U.S. Senator  
733 Federal Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: (515) 284-4937

Abby Finkenauer, U.S. Representative  
308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
Phone (319) 364-2288

David Loebsack, U.S. Representative  
209 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, #104  
Davenport, IA 52801  
Phone: (563) 323-5988

Cynthia Axne, State U.S. Representative  
400 East Court Ave, Suite 346  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: (515) 400-8180

Steve King, State U.S. Representative  
1421 S Bell Avenue, Suite 102  
Ames, IA 50010  
Phone: (515) 232-2885

**A.2** State Elected Officials:

<http://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>

Waylon Brown, State Senator  
Phone: (515) 281-3371  
Email: [waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:waylon.brown@legis.iowa.gov)

Sharon S. Steckman, State Representative  
Phone: (515) 281-3221  
Email: [steckman3@hotmail.com](mailto:steckman3@hotmail.com)

Amanda Ragan, State Senator  
Phone: (641) 424-2316  
Email: [amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:amanda.ragan@legis.iowa.gov)

Linda L. Upmeyer, State Representative  
Phone: (515) 281-3221  
Email: [linda.upmeyer@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:linda.upmeyer@legis.iowa.gov)

Todd Prichard, State Representative  
Phone: (515) 281-3221  
Email: [todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:todd.prichard@legis.iowa.gov)

<https://governor.iowa.gov>

Kim Reynolds, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
1007 East Grand Ave  
Des Moines, IA  
Phone: (515) 281-5211

**A.3** City/Local Officials:

<https://www.masoncity.net>

Bill Schickel, Mayor  
10 First Street NW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
Phone: (641) 512-4502  
Email: [mayor@masoncity.net](mailto:mayor@masoncity.net)

City Hall  
10 First Street NW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
Phone: (641) 421-3600



## Appendix B

### Information Repositories and Potential Meeting Locations

**B.1**    Access to Online Repository: [www.epa.gov/superfund/portlandcementco](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/portlandcementco)

Records Center  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7  
11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, KS 66219  
Phone: (800) 223-0425  
Hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mason City Public Library (by internet connection)  
225 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE  
Mason City, IA 50401  
Phone: (641) 421-3668  
<https://masoncity.lib.ia.us>

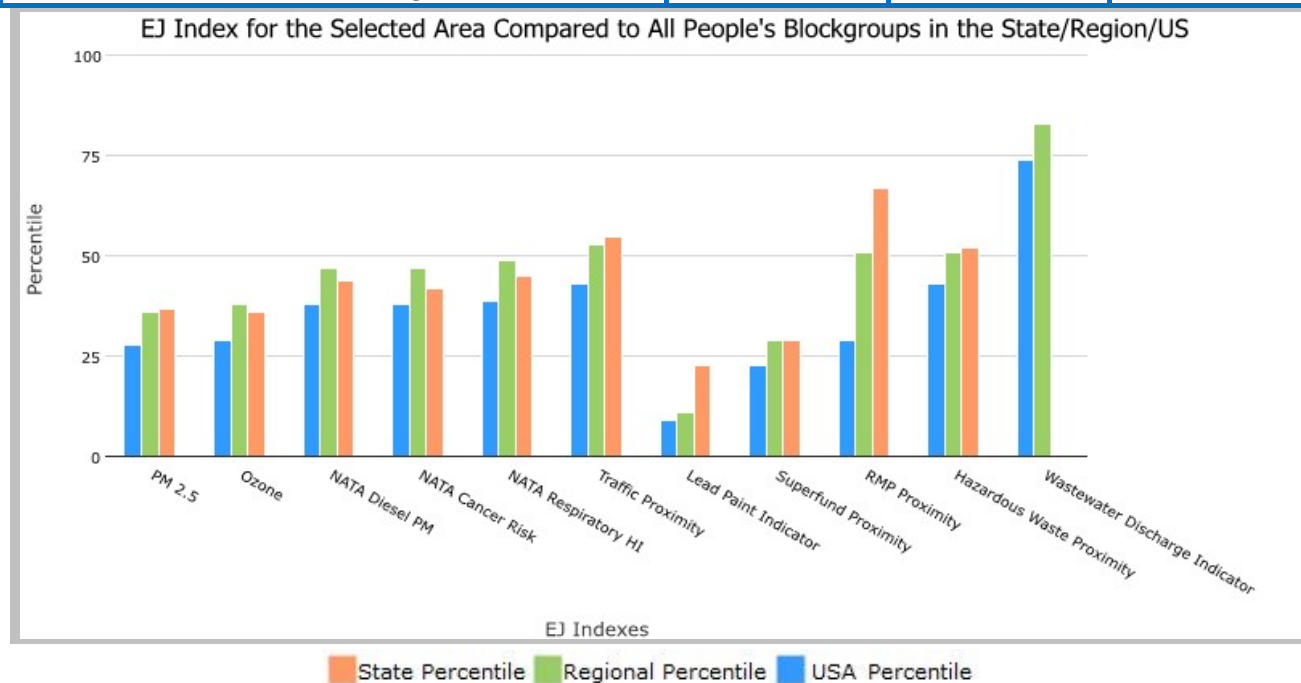
**B.2**    Local Media Information:

Globe Gazette  
<https://www.globegazette.com/>  
300 N. Washington  
Mason City, IA 50402  
Phone: (641) 421-0500

## Appendix C

### EJSCREEN Report (Version 2019)

Selected Variables	State Percentile	EPA Region Percentile	USA Percentile
<b>EJ Indexes</b>			
EJ Index for PM2.5	37	36	28
EJ Index for Ozone	36	38	29
EJ Index for NATA* Diesel PM	44	47	38
EJ Index for NATA* Air Toxics Cancer Risk	42	47	38
EJ Index for NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index	45	49	39
EJ Index for Traffic Proximity and Volume	55	53	43
EJ Index for Lead Paint Indicator	23	11	9
EJ Index for Superfund Proximity	29	29	23
EJ Index for RMP Proximity	67	51	29
EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity	52	51	43
EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge Indicator	N/A	83	74

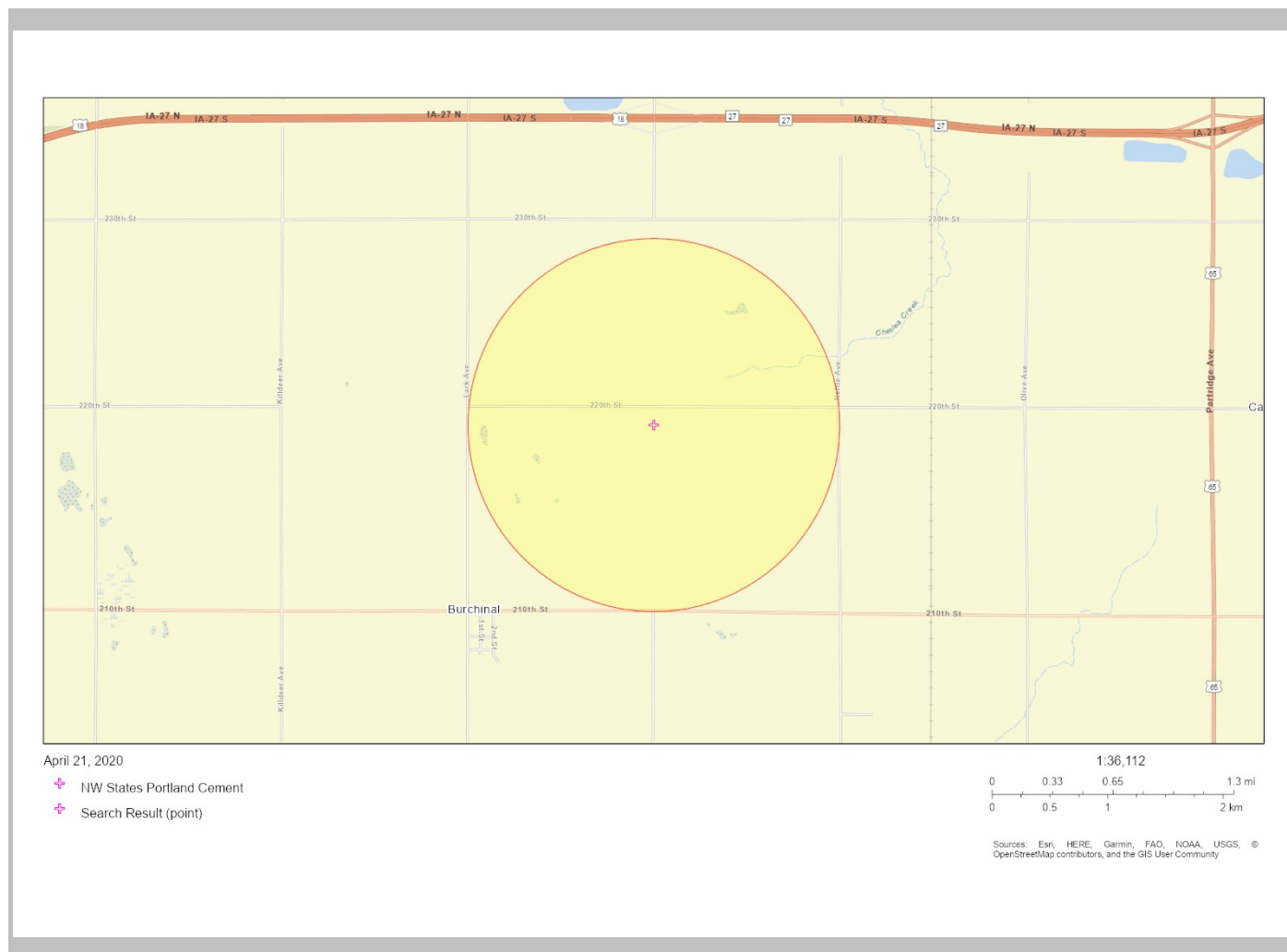


This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators and EJSCREEN indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports.

April 21, 2020

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## NW States Portland Cement



Sites reporting to EPA	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	0

**April 21, 2020**

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## NW States Portland Cement

Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
<b>Environmental Indicators</b>							
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	7.36	7.71	22	7.77	24	8.3	24
Ozone (ppb)	39	40.3	8	42.5	2	43	25
NATA* Diesel PM ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.172	0.266	28	0.367	<50th	0.479	<50th
NATA* Cancer Risk (lifetime risk per million)	18	22	10	27	<50th	32	<50th
NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index	0.22	0.28	11	0.36	<50th	0.44	<50th
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	19	260	27	330	23	750	15
Lead Paint Indicator (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.43	0.42	50	0.34	64	0.28	71
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.071	0.11	65	0.1	58	0.13	54
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.21	1.2	16	0.94	31	0.74	39
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.089	0.49	32	0.8	27	4	16
Wastewater Discharge Indicator (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0	0.54	N/A	0.97	26	14	37
<b>Demographic Indicators</b>							
Demographic Index	9%	21%	12	26%	10	36%	6
Minority Population	1%	13%	12	19%	7	39%	3
Low Income Population	16%	29%	23	32%	23	33%	25
Linguistically Isolated Population	0%	2%	65	2%	66	4%	45
Population With Less Than High School Education	6%	8%	43	10%	38	13%	31
Population Under 5 years of age	5%	6%	34	6%	34	6%	37
Population over 64 years of age	31%	16%	96	15%	96	15%	95

\* The National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) is EPA's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. EPA developed the NATA to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that NATA provides broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the NATA analysis can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment>.

For additional information, see: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)

EJSCREEN is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJSCREEN outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.

April 21, 2020

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## Appendix D

### Site Map

