

Health Consultation

Ameren CIPS, Taylorville, Illinois

September 2026

Summary of Health Consultation Conclusions and Recommendations

The Central Illinois Public Service Company (Ameren CIPS) Superfund site (the Site) is approximately 1 acre of industrial land on the southern edge of Taylorville in Christian County, Illinois where a manufactured gas plant formerly operated. Past environmental investigations discovered coal tar contamination of soil and groundwater at the Site. Coal tar contains high amounts of carcinogenic compounds called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) as well as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Coal tar was found to have contaminated site groundwater and soil. Community concerns arose about the safety of the soil in Manners Park, which lies immediately east of the Site, following a pilot remediation project which involved excavation of onsite soil. **The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), in collaboration with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), evaluated if exposure to PAHs and metals in Manners Park soil could harm people's health.** Using data collected by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and environmental contractors UES and Andrews Engineering, **IDPH found that lead in Field 1 is at levels that could have impacted the blood lead level of summer league baseball players prior to 2023. This is a public health hazard. The levels of PAHs and metals in the rest of Manners Park soil are not a public health hazard.**

This fact sheet gives a summary of all the findings and recommendations of IDPH's health consultation (HC) report.



The Site is immediately west of Manners Park. Exposures were evaluated throughout Manners Park and at Field 1 and the Dining Hall. Field 1 and the Dining Hall were evaluated separately because of high detections of lead and the different frequency with which these areas are used compared to the rest of the park.

Site Background

A manufactured gas plant operated at the location from 1892 thru 1932. The manufactured gas process produced coal tar as a byproduct and it was deposited throughout the Site. This contaminated onsite groundwater and soil with PAHs and VOCs. Onsite contamination has caused the following issues offsite:

- Numerous odor complaints due to excavation of soil contaminated by coal tar.
- Private wells directly north of the Site were contaminated and had to be connected to the community water system.

Community members were also concerned about recreational league baseball players potentially being exposed to PAHs in the baseball diamonds throughout Manners Park, shown in the image to the left. These concerns culminated in the Taylorville Park District closing the fields and using alternate fields beginning in the 2023 season.

What did IDPH do?

IDPH evaluated environmental sampling data collected by IEPA and the environmental contractors UES and Andrews Engineering during investigations in 2024. IDPH assessed exposures to PAHs and metals in soil for people in different areas of Manners Park and determined if these exposures could harm their health. IDPH's HC report includes our full findings as well as recommendations to reduce public exposure to the contaminants of concern.

What did IDPH find?

- Exposure to lead in soil at Field 1 could have impacted the blood lead levels of past summer league baseball players. Children are particularly susceptible to lead exposure due to its neurotoxicity and its negative impacts on development, which include:
 - Damage to the brain and nervous system
 - Slowed growth and development
 - Learning and behavior problems
 - Hearing and speech problems
- The levels of PAHs and metals in the rest of Manners Park soil are not a public health hazard.
- All baseball fields other than Field 1 are safe to resume normal use.

What does IDPH recommend?

We recommend the following actions for the Taylorville Park District based on our report findings:

- Request an environmental contractor to do additional soil sampling for metals in Field 1 and near the Dining Hall. This will help IDPH more accurately determine the concentrations of metals to which people may have been exposed.
- Reinforce and maintain the snow fencing near the Dining Hall with posted “Keep Out” signs to limit movement through this area.
- Maintain the existing fence and gate locks at Field 1 to ensure proper function.
- Complete soil remediation in Field 1 and near the Dining Hall.
- Resume normal use of all other baseball diamonds.

What are the next steps?

- The Taylorville Park District is participating in IEPA’s Voluntary Site Remediation Program. Additional environmental sampling is planned to help the District decide the best clean-up options for Field 1 and near the Dining Hall.
- IDPH will review additional sampling data and will update our findings and recommendations as needed.

How can I protect my health?

The levels of PAHs and metals in the soil throughout most of Manners Park are not a public health hazard. However, some areas are currently fenced-off and marked with “Keep Out” signage due to high detections of lead. Park visitors should not access these areas to avoid exposures to lead in soil. Visitors can access the rest of the park without any other precautions.

How do I learn more?

For questions about IDPH or ATSDR activities at this site:

- Contact the IDPH Toxicology Section at DPH.Tox@illinois.gov or 217-782-5830.
- Call **1 800 CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)** and ask for information about the Ameren CIPS site or at <https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/forms/contact-us.html>

Resources

ATSDR Lead ToxFAQs: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf>

IDPH Soil Contaminants Fact Sheet: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/soil-contaminants.html>

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