

Celebrating 25 Years

Murray Smelter Superfund Site



The Murray Smelter Site is the former location of a large lead smelter in Murray City that ASARCO operated most of the years between 1872 and 1949. This former mineral processing area was once the largest lead smelter in the country. Smelting and refining activities affected the soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment at the 142 acre site and surrounding area. Lead and arsenic were the primary contaminants of concern. The site was proposed for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1994.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) worked closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and ASARCO to develop a cleanup plan. DEQ also participated with EPA, ASARCO, Murray City, property and business owners, and other community members in a work group that considered redevelopment issues and cleanup strategies that would facilitate revitalization while protecting human health and the environment. Cleanup activities began in 1998 and were completed in 2001.

The site is a Phoenix Award winning example of excellence in Superfund redevelopment. Today, onsite reuse supports over 5,612 jobs and contributes more than \$260 million in annual employment income to the local community. The site is home to a Utah Transit Authority light rail station with a 300 space parking lot and a designated connector road, the Intermountain Medical Center, a 1.5 million square foot, \$362.5 million hospital facility, a commercial retail warehouse, a police training center, a school, a cement company, and assorted small businesses. EPA and Murray City continue to work together to support the safe and beneficial reuse of the site through institutional controls. Expansion of office space and shopping areas is ongoing.

1991-2016



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