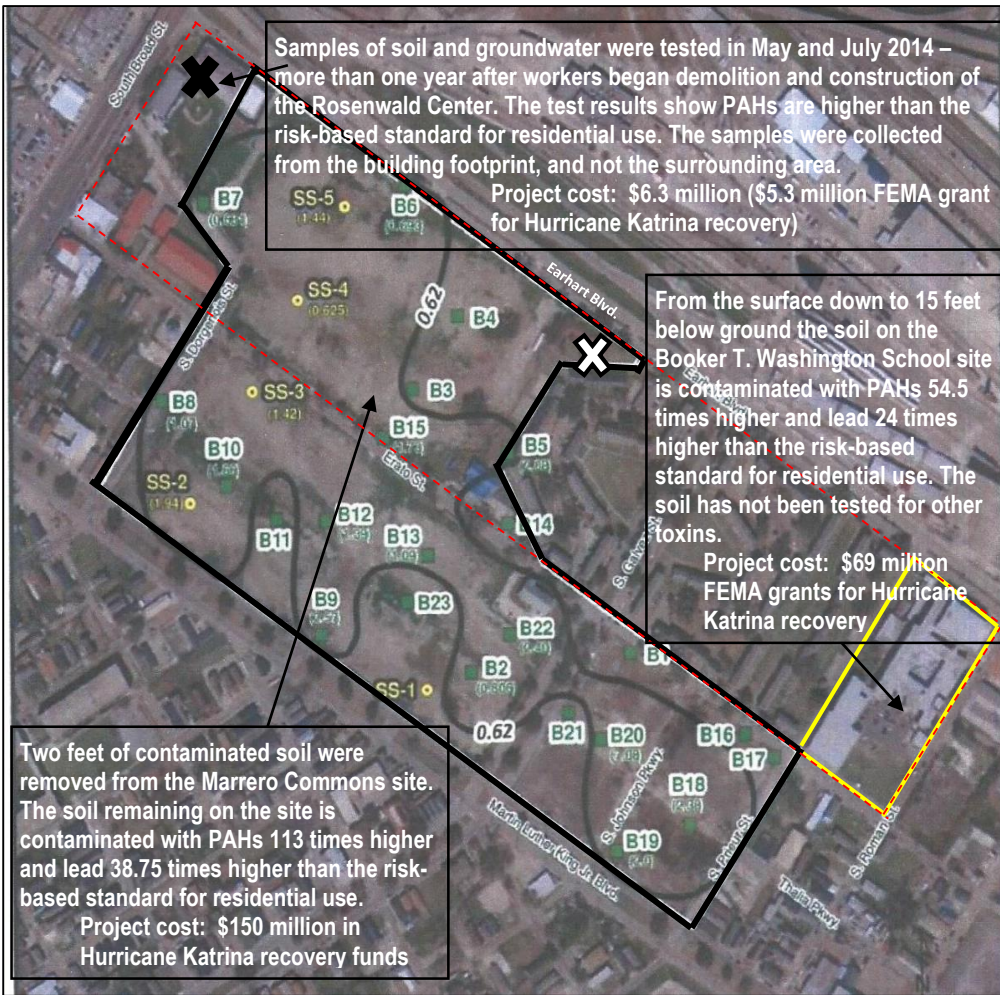


Toxic Legacy of the Clio Street/Silver City Dump on the B.W. Cooper/Marrero Commons Housing, Booker T. Washington School, and Rosenwald Center Sites
The Need for Comprehensive Policies & Programs to Protect Human Rights

9/15/2014



Maximum level of toxins detected in the soil of the former Clio Street/Silver City Dump that is higher than the risk-based standard for residential use:

- PAHs 113 X higher
- Lead 38.75 X higher
- Antimony 21 X higher
- Copper 7.9 X higher
- Cadmium 3.7 X higher
- Arsenic 3 X higher
- Mercury 2.9 X higher
- Barium 2.4 X higher
- Zinc 2.1 X higher

Health Effects of PAHs: Cancer of the liver, lungs, stomach, skin, blood, spleen, and pancreas; damage to a developing fetus; damage to male and female reproductive systems; and irritation and burning sensation of the skin, eyes, nose, and throat.

Health Effects of Toxic Heavy Metals: Cancer of the lungs and prostate; damage to the central nervous system, brain, lungs, liver, and kidneys; headaches, nausea, vomiting, coughing, and wheezing; and irritation of the skin, eyes, nose, and throat.

HANO and RSD developed plans for the partial removal of contaminated soil without safeguards to prevent dust from the soil becoming airborne and inhaled by workers and nearby residents. Their plans allow several feet of highly contaminated soil to remain on the sites of homes and a school without effective controls to prevent exposure in the future. The RSD's plan does not provide a complete testing of the school site for all potential toxic substances and hazardous waste. These plans were approved by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Source: Wilma Subra, Environmental Analysis Reports

- Clio Street/Silver City Dump (approx. boundary):** From the 1890s to 1930s, the City of New Orleans operated the dump, where more than 150 tons of waste were disposed on a daily basis. There was no clean up or any remediation of the dump prior to the construction of the Calliope Housing (later called B. W. Cooper and now Marrero Commons) and the Booker T. Washington High School.
- Booker T. Washington High School:** The Recovery School District (RSD) plans to remove three feet of contaminated soil and build a new school on top of the remaining 12 feet of contaminated soil. Under this plan, the RSD would build the third school on a known waste dump in New Orleans.
- Marrero Commons:** The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) oversaw the removal of two feet of contaminated soil and the construction of homes on top of the remaining contaminated soil.
- X** **Rosenwald Center Construction Site:** Local groups have called on Mayor Landrieu to halt construction to prevent further health threats to workers and residents, and take the lead on bringing about a safe and effective cleanup of the former dump site and contaminated areas. No response from the Mayor.
- X** **Marrero Commons Management Office & Community Center:** Planned construction involves underground work that can cause toxic exposures. The City Council has the final decision on this proposed construction project.

The City of New Orleans has an obligation to protect fundamental human rights.

Building homes, community centers, and a school on a toxic dump site for African American residents violates the human rights to life, health, freedom from racial discrimination, and other rights.

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights recommends that the Mayor and City Council of New Orleans take the following actions to protect human rights.

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| Pass a city ordinance that prohibits a building permit for the construction of a school or day care center on a toxic site. | Halt construction of the Rosenwald Center to prevent further exposure of workers and nearby residents to contaminated soil and toxic dust particles. | Support health consultations for residents of Marrero Commons and people living nearby the Clio Street/Silver City Dump. | Set up an independent panel of experts to determine the safety and effectiveness of the recent and proposed removal of contaminated soil by HANO, RSD, and the City of New Orleans. | Conduct a safe and effective cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination from the old Clio Street/Silver City Dump. |
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Upholding our human right to live in a healthy environment

For more information, contact Monique Harden, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights
 Phone: (504) 799-3060 | Fax: (504) 799-3061 | mharden@ehumanrights.org