



Tuesday  
May 1, 2012

# The Exponent Telegram

## Bids submitted for Spelter remediation

by Matt Harvey  
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

CLARKSBURG — A California company appears poised to handle the contract for millions of dollars of cleanup work near the old Spelter smelter.

NCM Demolition & Remediation had the low bid of \$16.3 million for the remediation project that's part of a class action settlement in a case against DuPont.

Claims Administrator Ed Gentle's office filed paperwork Monday informing Harrison Circuit Judge Thomas A. Bedell of the bid. Gentle declined to release bids from several other participating companies, all also out-of-state firms except for Bridgeport's Ryan Environmental.

It wasn't clear if Bedell planned to take the matter up at fairness hearings scheduled for all day today and Wednesday at the Harrison County Courthouse.

But an attorney for the class-action claimants, Perry Jones, is hopeful the work can



Staff file photo

A contractor mixes up a soil sample last November as part of the cleanup program in the DuPont Spelter smelter cleanup program.

begin soon.

Previous court hearings last June about the fairness of the initial property remediation proposal were sparsely attended.

DuPont has agreed to pay for property remediation and medical monitoring. Last June, the property cleanup pool had about \$34 million in it, but that's likely shrunk because of costs.

The figure from NCM Demolition & Remediation, which listed a return address in Baltimore, includes a 10 percent reserve, Gentle said.

Bedell is scheduled to address several issues of import during the fairness hearings, Gentle said.

Among them:

- Whether to expand the area where dirty soil would be replaced from beyond the immediate proximity of the old zinc smelter.

- What amounts of cadmium, arsenic, zinc and lead justify replacing soil and cleaning homes.

- Whether those who are disputing results showing their property isn't significantly contaminated should have additional testing, or just be included in cleanup.

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the site.

- Whether residents whose soil is contaminated should have a promised \$400 payment withheld until after cleanup work is complete.

The court also could end up considering whether to open home testing again. About 1,000 homes out of a possible 2,000 were tested, according to Gentle, with about 60 percent coming up contaminated.

The other 1,000 homes could have been tested, but residents didn't sign up by last October's deadline.

NCM Remediation & Demolition has handled several other projects of \$10 million or more, according to its website. Those included: A \$53 million cleanup of the Geneva Steel Mill in Vineyard, Utah; a \$45 million cleanup of the Mohave Generating Station at Laughlin, Nev.;

a \$22 million project to clean the Moss Landing, Calif., Power Plant; a \$17 million cleanup at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; a \$14 million cleanup of Moffett Federal Airfield at Sunnyvale, Calif.; and a \$12 million cleanup of Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

A call seeking comment from Ryan Environmental wasn't immediately returned.