

Family cites lead contamination

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THROOP — A borough couple asked council Monday night to help them get answers about the source of lead contamination in their two young children and in their home.

Liz and Rob Mattioli of 609 Dunmore St. said their 17-month-old son and 3-year-old daughter were found to have high levels of lead in their blood when tested in August. The couple and their two older children also tested positive for lead, but at lower levels, they said.

The family lives about 1,000 yards from the Marjol Battery site

In December, the Mattiolis' home also tested positive for lead contamination, with the highest levels in one of the children's rooms and a toy room, they claim.

Family troubled

"Our children can't go in the yard. They can't use the swing set. They won't be able to use the pool," said Mr. Mattioli, adding he spends his Saturdays scrubbing the house to rid it of lead particles. "The people of Throop need to know what's going on."

The couple said they notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Protection last fall, but have yet to get any answers about the cause of the contamination.

Efforts to reach representatives of the two agencies were unsuccessful Monday night.

Records sought

Council President Thomas Lukasevicz asked the couple to seek authorization from their attorney to release the medical records and reports to the borough.

The Marjol site was once home to a plant that reclaimed lead from car batteries. The plant closed in 1982, but the battery landfill was contaminated with lead that posed significant health risks to neighbors of the site.

The second and final excavation season at the site began Wednesday and is expected to continue until mid-July.

After that, the contaminated materials — including battery casings and soil — will be capped by concrete.

Mr. Lukasevicz asked a representative of Advanced GeoServices, the project monitoring group, to put an air monitor in the vicinity of the Mattiolis' home.

Advanced GeoServices represents the owner of the property, Gould Electronics.

Barbara Forslund, project manager for Advanced GeoServices, said she was not authorized to comment on the matter.

"The first time air monitors show anything leaving that site, we're ready to shut the place down," Mr. Lukasevicz said.

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