

Agencies have not seen reports on lead levels

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THROOP — Neither agency with oversight of the Marjol battery site cleanup has received reports regarding possible lead contamination of a nearby home and two young children who live there.

Maureen Essentier, project coordinator with the Environmental Protection Agency, cited confidentiality laws as why neither the EPA nor the state Department of Environmental Protection received results from testing they asked the state Department of Health to perform in November.

Meanwhile, Liz and Rob Mattioli, of 609 Dunmore St., believe EPA and DEP have had the reports since the fall. As a result, the couple asked borough council Monday to help them find answers to the source of lead contamination in their 17-month-old son and 3-year-old daughter. Blood tests on the children and other family members have shown elevated lead levels.

Ms. Essentier said the Mattiolis can provide the report to the agencies for their review.

But Mrs. Mattioli said she does not intend to do so.

"We're going to leave it to the attorneys," she said. "We don't feel (EPA and DEP) are all together working with us, and as a government agency, they should."

Mrs. Mattioli showed The Times-Tribune a copy of the report Monday night showing the highest levels of lead contamination in a child's room and a toy room.

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.

The second and final excavation at the site began March 25 and is expected to continue until mid-July. The contaminated materials, including battery casings and soil, will be capped by concrete.

Barbara Forslund, a consultant for Gould Electronics, which owns the property, said the company discussed the Mattiolis' concerns with EPA officials Tuesday.

Council President Thomas Lukasewicz has asked Gould to install an air monitor in the vicinity of the Mattioli home.

Mr. Lukasewicz will talk with EPA and Gould officials via telephone conference today.

"Within the next few days, we should have a stronger idea of where we're at," he said. "We intend to move forward."

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