

**Neutral Testimony on House Bill 2331
Presented to Senate Committee on Commerce**

**By
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Kansas Department of Health and Environment
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Chair Erickson and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 2331 discussing Lehigh Portland Lake and its designation as a state park. The KDHE wanted to take the time to provide some neutral testimony on the lake and its surrounding area.

Lead and zinc smelter refineries were common sights in southeast Kansas in the early 1900's. Iola was one of these towns with these facilities, having large smelter facilities on the east and west sides of town. Environmental investigations of these former smelter sites found high concentrations of lead at the site and throughout Iola. Iola was listed as a superfund site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2013. The focus of the EPA's work has been the excavation of lead from contaminated soil in residential yards.

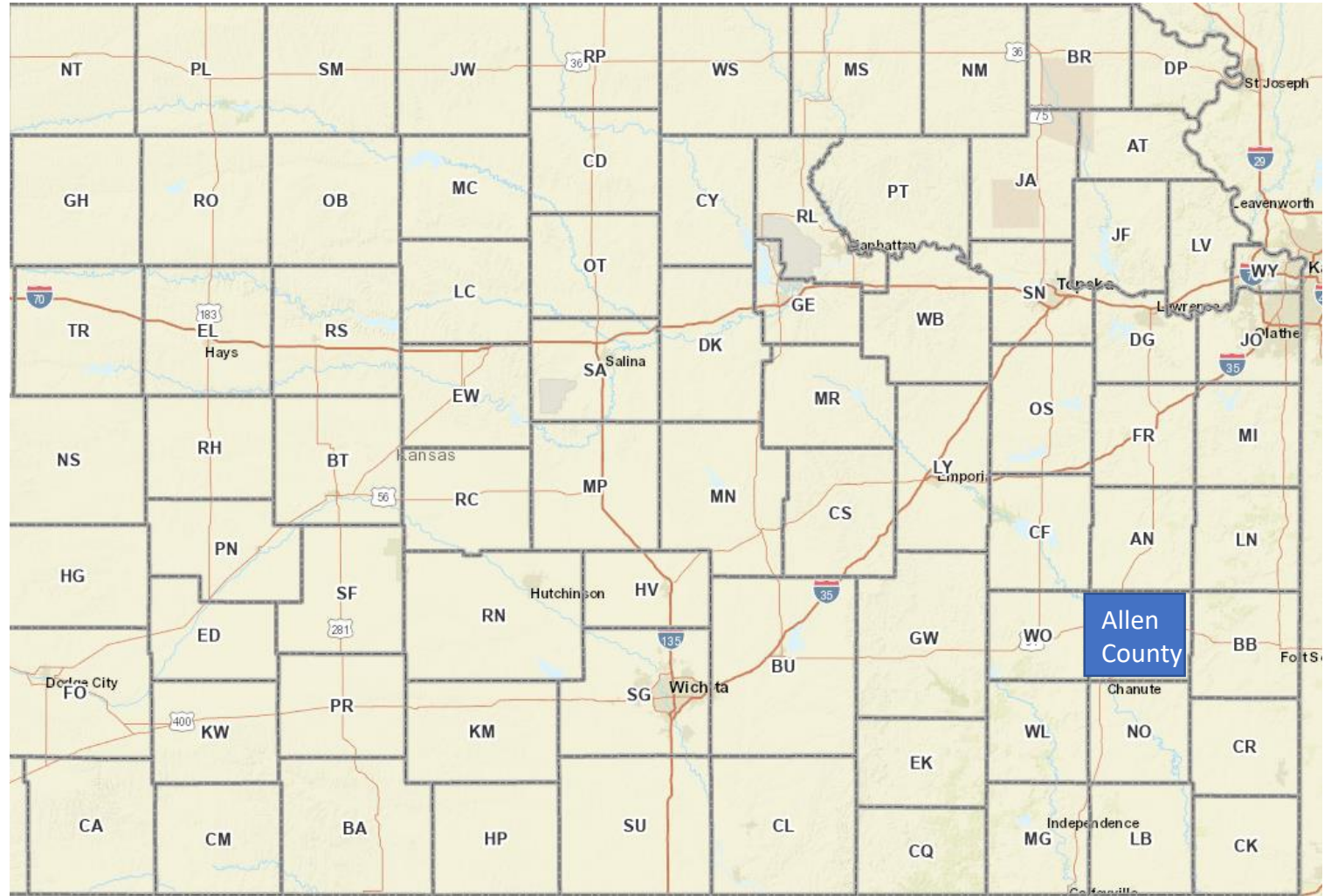
The Neosho River, Elm Creek, and Rock Creek flow past the southwest and southeast sides of Iola, and the former quarry of the Lehigh Portland Lake. The lake is located around 1 mile south of the former smelters. Sediment and surface water of these bodies of water were sampled by the EPA as part of their investigation of the smelter contamination in Iola. The concentrations of lead found in Elm Creek was high in one location but was below levels of concern in 17 other locations. Concentrations of lead in surface water of the Neosho, Elm Creek, and Rock Creek was below the drinking water standard. Concentrations of lead in the sediment and surface water of Lehigh Portland Lake was tested and found to be below levels of concern.

Attached with this testimony is a set of slides indicating the sites of the former smelters in Iola as well as a pair of maps showing the locations of the tests performed to the nearby bodies of water of Rock Creek, Neosho River, Elm Creek and Lehigh Portland Lake for both lead in the sediment and surface water.

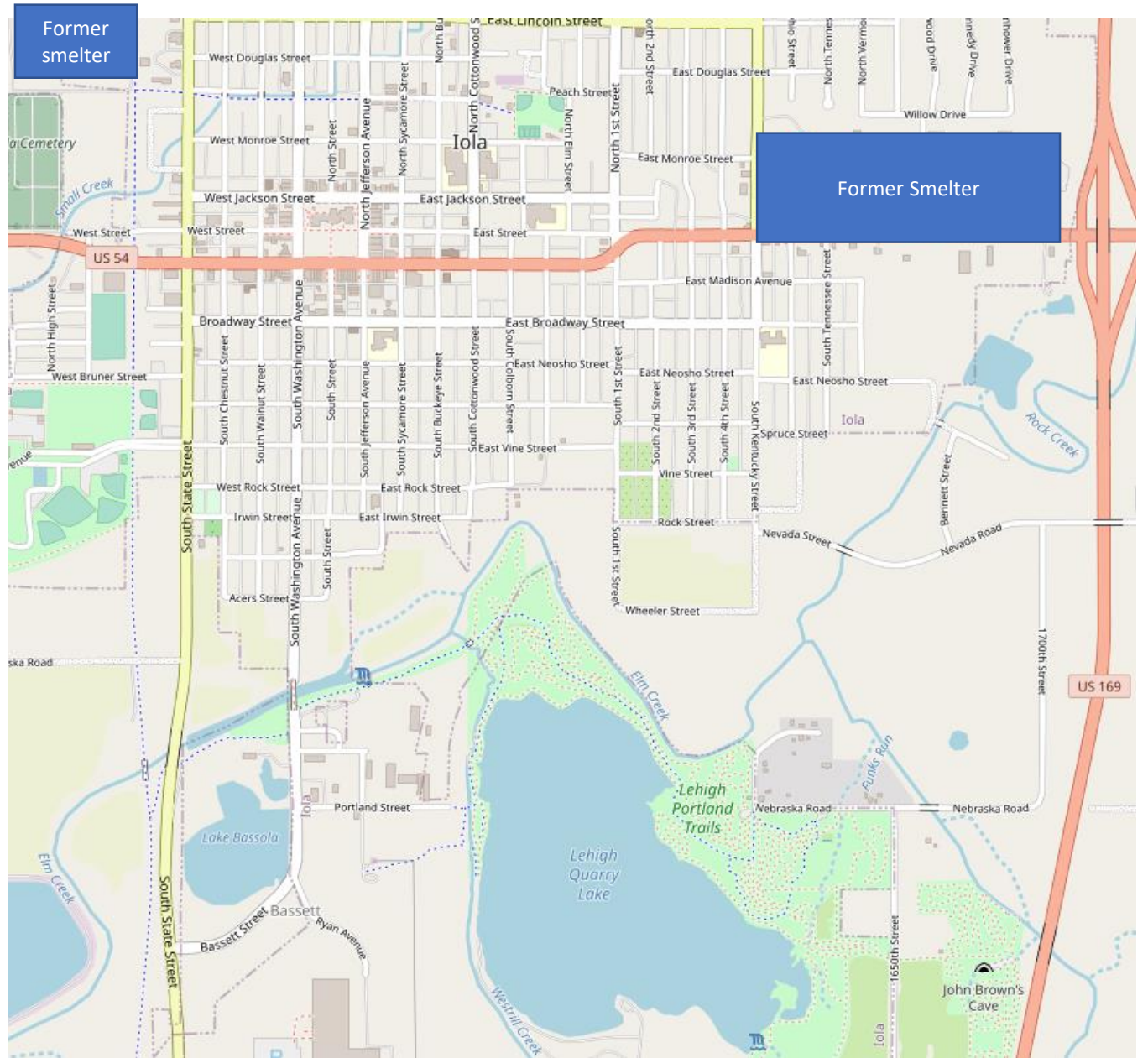
The smelter sites in Iola were the only noteworthy contaminated sites identified by the KDHE. The KDHE has found no indication at present that the Lehigh Portland Lake is a public health risk or that it is contaminated at levels that would pose a human health risk. We hope this information will be of benefit to the committee as to discussing this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with the committee today.

Iola, Allen County, Kansas

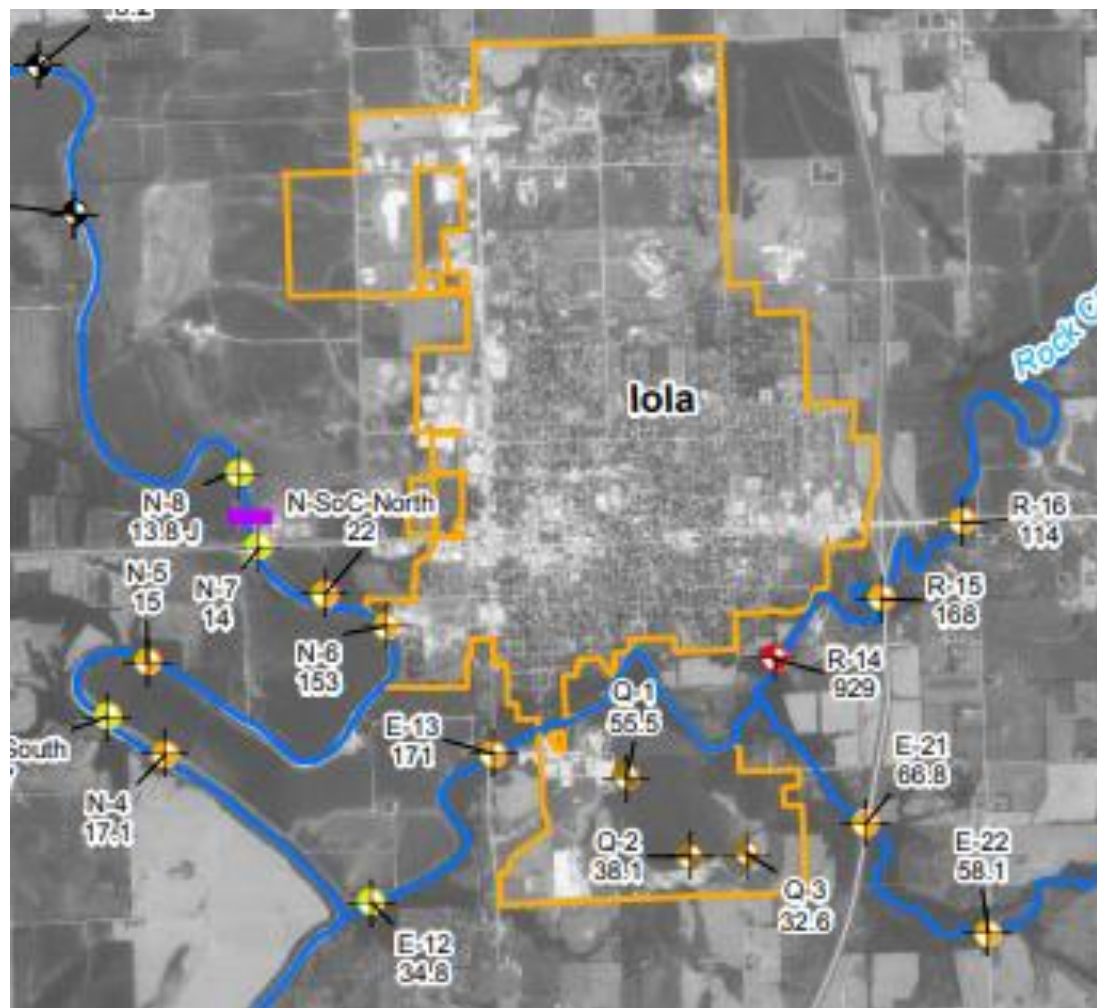


Iola, Kansas Smelter Site Locations



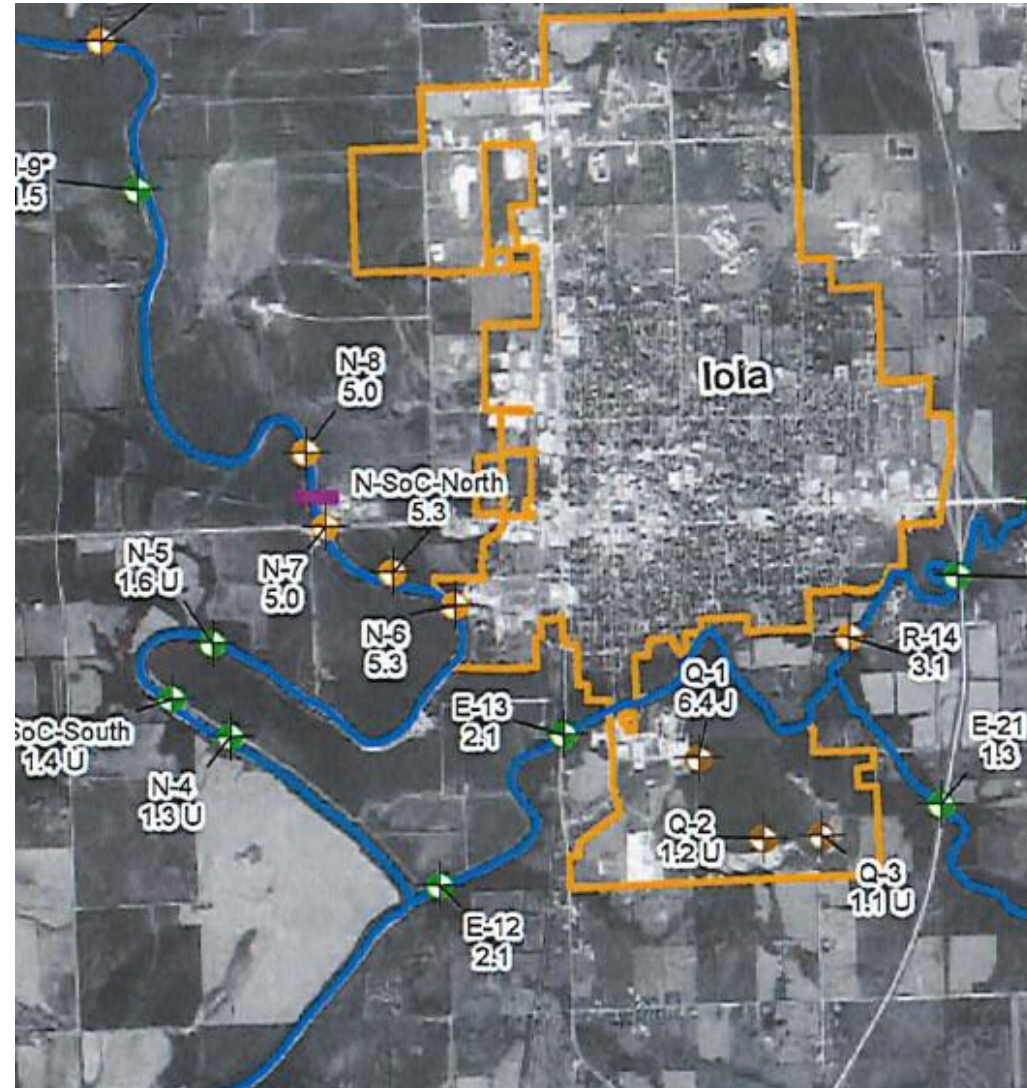
0.5 mile

Iola, Kansas Lead in Sediment



Source: HGL Remedial Investigation Report,
Former United Zinc Site—Iola, KS

Iola, Kansas Lead in Surface Water



Source: HGL Remedial Investigation Report,
Former United Zinc Site—Iola, KS