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## News Release

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For Immediate Release: December 1, 2017

Contact: Erin Hatfield, (405) 702-7119

### **Work Underway at Tar Creek Superfund Site Elm Creek Unrestricted Tier 1 Project**

Cleanup is underway at the Elm Creek Unrestricted Tier 1 Project within the Tar Creek Superfund Site about a mile north of Commerce, Oklahoma. The Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, working under an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Oklahoma, has started work that includes:

- The excavation and offsite disposal of approximately 700,000 tons of chat and other mine and mill waste,
- The removal of contaminated soil,
- Institutional controls, such as deed notices, which will help ensure the appropriate reuse of the site.

Cleanup work on the site will continue into 2019. Removal of mining waste materials is part of the non-residential cleanup at the Tar Creek Superfund Site. These materials contain lead, cadmium and zinc concentrations above the remedial action goals established to be protective of human health and the ecological environment. The project is near rural residences and includes sampling, testing, and remediation of yards, if necessary. The Quapaw Tribe completed a similar cleanup of the Catholic 40 Project under a first-ever, tribal-lead cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

For more information about the Tar Creek Superfund Site or the Elm Creek Unrestricted Tier 1 Project, contact Zach Paden, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Project Manager, at (405) 702-5166. The project is being funded through a grant from EPA to DEQ.

For more information about the Tar Creek Superfund Site, visit

[http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/oklahoma/tar\\_creek/](http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/oklahoma/tar_creek/)

or

<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/SF/SiteSummaries.html>

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