

## Information Sheet

**R**      **Tri-State Health and Housing Committee.**  
**1181**      **“The Menace of the Slime Pile,” n.d.**  
                 **One folder, photocopies.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

This is an undated pamphlet that addresses the problem of dust from the slime piles in the Tri-State Mining District of Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. It is subtitled, “Disposal of Mill Tailings in the Tri-State Zinc and Lead District.”

In the first half of the twentieth century it became widely recognized that dust created by mining operations could be harmful not only to the miners but to the general public as well. The Tri-State Health and Housing Committee was concerned that uncovered “slime” piles exposed to the high winds of the Oklahoma and Kansas plains could result in dust clouds of dangerous minerals known to cause silicosis and other respiratory ailments. The Eagle-Picher Company, which had concentrated its milling operations at a central facility in 1932, was singled out for criticism. The Committee recommended covering the slime piles with coarse chat. Although undated, the pamphlet references Lallah Sherman Davidson’s *South of Joplin; Story of a Tri-State Diggin’s*, which was published in 1939.

For an in-depth account of the entire health controversy in the Tri-State District, see Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, “‘The Street of Walking Death’: Silicosis, Health, and Labor in the Tri-State Region, 1900-1950,” *The Journal of American History* (Vol. 77, No. 2), September 1990, pp. 525-552.

r1178

17 August 2005

Doug Keeney

Gift

## Index Cards

Eagle-Picher Company  
Jasper County (Mo.)  
Kansas  
Lungs—Dust diseases  
Mine drainage  
Mineral industries—Waste disposal  
Missouri—Lungs—Dust diseases  
Missouri—Mineral industries—Waste disposal  
Oklahoma  
Silicosis  
Slimes (Mining)  
Tailings (Metallurgy)  
Tri-State Health and Housing Committee  
Tri-State Mining District