



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
\$250,000 EMERGENCY ACTION MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Action Memorandum for a Removal Action at the Sitka Street Mercury Spill site pursuant to the On-Scene Coordinator's delegated authority under CERCLA Section 104.

FROM: Subash Patel, On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response and Removal Branch (Region IV)

THRU: Matt Taylor, Chief *M.T.*
Emergency Response Section (Region IV)

TO: Site File

I. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the decision to initiate emergency response actions described herein for the Sitka Street Mercury Spill located in 1712 E. Sitka Street, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, pursuant to the On-Scene Coordinator's delegated authority under CERCLA Section 104.

II. Site Information

A. Site Description

Site Name: Sitka Street Mercury Spill
Superfund Site ID (SSID): B4D8
NRC Case Number: 960616
CERCLIS Number: FLN000410633
Site Location: 1712 East Sitka Street, Tampa, FL 33604
Lat/Long: 28.021465, -82.439778
Potentially Responsible Party (PRP): Residents of 1712 E. Sitka Street
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Removal Start Date: 11/23/10

B. Site Background

1. Removal Site Evaluation

Telephone Duty Officer Jordan Garrard received a NRC Report on November 23, 2010. Florida Department of Health (FDOH) reported a private residence was found with high levels of mercury due to unknown causes. A child was taken to the hospital and was found to have elevated levels of mercury. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) screened the residence with a Lumex mercury vapor analyzer on November 23, 2010, and found concentrations to exceed 50,000 ng/m³ and several rooms exceeding 2,000 ng/m³. OSC Subash Patel and START contractor OTIE were dispatched to evaluate the incident and take appropriate action. Initial assessment of the residence showed mercury vapor concentrations ranging up to 6,000 ng/m³ throughout the interior of the house and a dresser in the master bedroom that exceeded 50,000 ng/m³. The resident reported that they are unaware the child had access to mercury. Based upon OSC Patel's observations and monitoring results from both Jerome and Lumex mercury vapor analyzers, OSC Patel determined that conditions at the Site meet criteria listed under 40 CFR Part 300.415 for initiation of an emergency removal action.

2. Physical Location and Site Characteristics

The Site consists of a single family house in a residential area. It is located at 1712 East Sitka Street, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida. The house consisted of eight people.

3. Release or Threatened Release into the Environment of a Hazardous Substance, or Pollutant or Contaminant

The material known on site is elemental mercury which is a CERCLA hazardous substance. At approximately 70 °F it becomes a vapor which can travel into the environment. In its elemental form it may be tracked on shoes and clothing. Low levels well below EPA's Removal Action Level for elemental mercury were found in the resident's two vehicles and a day care center where the child attends.

III. Threats to Public Health, Welfare, or the Environment

A. Nature of Actual or Threatened Release of Hazardous Substances, Pollutants or Contaminants

Elemental mercury was spilled in a single family house and tracked throughout the residence. One child living in the house has been diagnosed with mercury poisoning and is continuing to be exposed to levels of mercury vapor that exceed

EPA's Removal Action Level.

B. Check Applicable factors (from 40 CFR 300.415) which were considered in determining the appropriateness of a removal action:

- ☒ Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals or the food chain from hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants [300.415(b)(2)(i)].
- ☐ Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems [300.415(b)(2)(ii)].
- ☐ Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers, that pose a threat of release [300.415(b)(2)(iii)].
- ☐ High levels of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in soils largely at or near the surface that may migrate [300.415(b)(2)(iv)].
- ☐ Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances or pollutants to migrate or to be released [300.415(b)(2)(v)].
- ☐ Threat of fire or explosion [300.415(b)(2)(vi)].
- ☒ The availability of other appropriate federal or state response mechanisms to respond to the release [300.415(b)(2)(vii)].
- ☐ Other situations or factors that may pose threats to the public health or welfare of the United States or the environment [300.415(b)(2)(viii)].

IV. Selected Removal Action and Estimated Costs

A. Situation and Removal Activities to Date

1. Current Situation

The weather has been sunny with a high temperature around 85°F and a low temperature around 60°F. There has been no media activity.

2. Removal Activities to Date

a. Federal Government/Private Party

Based upon the amount and location of the elemental mercury, EPA and START and ERRS contractors have been activated on November 23, 2010, to stabilize conditions at the Site. After obtaining access from the owner of the house, an initial assessment was conducted with FDEP. Mercury concentrations in the house exceeded EPA's Residential Removal Action Level of 1,000 ng/m³. Mercury concentrations ranged from 2,000 to 15,000 ng/m³ throughout the house. A dresser in the master bedroom was found to have a concentration exceeding 50,000 ng/m³. The residents were temporarily relocated to a nearby hotel. Most items in the house were moved outside for treatment.

b. State/Local

FDEP and FDOH contacted EPA on November 23, 2010. FDEP performed an assessment of the Site but does not have sufficient funds or resources to perform the emergency response removal action.

3. Enforcement

The PRP are the property owners of the house. They cannot perform the proposed response. There have been no enforcement actions initiated by EPA or the State.

B. Planned Removal Actions

1. Proposed Action Description

The specific tasks involved in the proposed response to the threats include:

- i. Preparation of a Health and Safety Plan
- ii. Assessment of the levels of mercury vapor in the residence.
- iii. Segregation of highly contaminated items for disposal.
- iv. Recovery of spilled elemental mercury.
- v. Heating, treating, and ventilation of contaminated items and surfaces, as necessary.
- vi. Completing an inventory items for disposal and providing reimbursement and relocation expenses, as necessary.
- vii. Providing analytical for disposal profiling.
- viii. Providing off-site disposal, treatment, or recycling of elemental mercury and mercury contaminated material, as necessary in compliance with the CERCLA off-site disposal policy.
- ix. Performing demolition, as necessary, to remove free mercury and providing for restoration of the associated damage, as necessary.
- x. Provide temporary relocation to the resident.

2. Contribution to Remedial Performance

The proposed actions will, to the extent practicable, contribute to the efficient performance of any long-term remedial action at the site.

3. ARARs

Federal and State ARARs were not identified or considered prior to removal initiation due to emergency circumstances. At a minimum, the RCRA Land Disposal Restrictions at 40 CFR 268 are an ARAR for this site, and will be attained to the extent practicable. The State has not provided any ARARs.

Removal actions conducted under CERCLA are required to attain ARARs to the extent practicable. In determining whether compliance with ARARs is practicable, the OSC may consider appropriate factors, including the urgency of the situation and the scope of the removal action to be conducted.

4. Project Schedule

The removal action is anticipated to be completed within three months of the Start Date listed in Section II of this document.

C. Estimated Costs *

Extramural Costs:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| ERRS Costs | \$160,000 |
| START Costs | \$50,000 |
| Contingency costs | \$40,000 |
| Total Removal Project Ceiling | \$250,000 |

*EPA direct and indirect costs, although cost recoverable, do not count toward the Removal Ceiling for this removal action. Liable parties may be held financially responsible for costs incurred by the EPA as set forth in Section 107 of CERCLA.

V. Expected Change in the Situation Should Action be Delayed or Not Taken

A delay in action or no action at this Site would increase the actual or potential threats to the public and the environment. The residents are not staying at the property until EPA can remove mercury to acceptable levels. The worst-case scenario is tracking of the elemental mercury to other residences or the nearby daycare center where the sick child frequently visits.

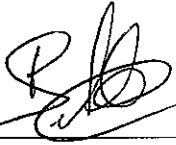
VI. Outstanding Policy Issues

None

VII. Approval

This decision document represents the selected removal action for this Site, developed in accordance with CERCLA as amended, and not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan. This decision is based on the administrative record for the site.

Conditions at the site meet the NCP section 300.415(b) criteria for a removal action and through this document, I am approving the proposed removal actions. The total project ceiling is \$250,000, this amount will be funded from the Regional removal allowance.



Subash Patel, OSC
Federal On-Scene Coordinator

11/25/10

Date