

POLREP 001
Hamburg - Port Clinton Avenue Site
Borough of Hamburg
Hamburg, Berks County, PA 19526

Event : Removal Action

Attn: Charlie Kleeman, Dennis Carney, and RRC

I. Situation (As of Friday, April 5, 2002):

- A. In November 2001 and January 2002, EPA OSC Fetzer tasked START to conduct surface soil sampling for lead contamination due to the improper disposal of lead acid battery casings at the Hamburg - Port Clinton Avenue Site. Lead concentrations were detected in surface soils at the site up to 118,000 parts per million.
- B. Due to elevated lead levels, EPA requested health consultation from ATSDR for the site. Currently, EPA awaits the consult for the site.
- C. During the winter of 2001-2002, a private property owner (owner) at the site installed monitoring wells and excavated test pits as part of a PADEP closure for a gas station previously located onsite and containing underground storage tanks. During these closure activities, the owner exposed lead contaminated battery casing waste at the surface. Sample results provided by the owner showed lead concentrations of up to 55 parts per million (ppm).

II. Actions Taken:

- A. With permission from the property owner, START, under direction of EPA, collected 32 surface soil and 6 ground water samples from the site on March 21 and 26, 2002. Surface soil sample results for samples collected from the test pits excavated by the owner were above 400 ppm lead and up to 12,896 ppm lead. Groundwater sample results indicated no lead concentrations in dissolved water samples.
- B. After verifying sample results, the OSC requested that the owner install fencing and place plastic sheeting at the test pits on their property to mitigate the immediate threat to public health and the environment. The property owner refused to conduct these actions, but gave the EPA access to their property.
- C. On April 4, 2002, OSC Fetzer released a Special Bulletin A to conduct a removal action at the Port Clinton Avenue Site.

- D. On April 5, ERRS, under direction of EPA, installed hi-visibility fencing around the perimeter of the test pits and placed plastic sheeting over the test pits.

Rich Fetzer, OSC
U.S. EPA, Region III
Philadelphia, PA 19103