



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



494970

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

S-6J

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Enforcement Action Memorandum – Determination of Threat to Public Health and the Environment at the Calumet Stampmill Site, Lake Linden, Houghton County, Michigan 49945 (Site ID # C58E)

**FROM:** Brian M. Kelly, On-Scene Coordinator  
Emergency Response Branch 1  
Emergency Response Section 2

**THRU:** Jason H. El-Zein, Chief  
Emergency Response Branch 1

**TO:** Douglas Ballotti, Acting Director  
Superfund Division

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Action Memorandum is to document the determination of an imminent and substantial threat to public health and the environment posed by asbestos debris in the environment and near human populations and to select the response action. The site is the Calumet Stampmill Site (site) located at 53150 Highway M-26, Lake Linden, Houghton County, Michigan 49945. The site is a former ore processing facility currently owned by the Houghton County Historical Society [Admin Record Item #9] and is operated as a museum .

In August 2015, EPA collected fifteen bulk debris samples and sixteen soil samples. Five of the fifteen bulk samples contained 20% to 75% asbestos and five of the sixteen soil samples contained 0.25% to 20% asbestos [Admin Record Item #9]. Commercial businesses, homes, and the Lake Linden Recreation Park are adjacent to the site.

Asbestos is defined as a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance by 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.

The proposed removal of hazardous substances would be taken pursuant to Section 106(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(a)(1), and Section 300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 C.F.R. § 300.415.

## **II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND**

Name: Calumet Stampmill Site  
Superfund Site ID C58E  
CERCLIS ID: MIN000505884  
Site Location: 53150 Highway M-26, Lake Linden, Houghton County, Michigan 49945  
Lat/Long: 47.187518 -88.412775  
RCRA ID: N/A  
State ID: None  
Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs): Honeywell Specialty Products, LLC; Houghton County Historical Museum  
NPL Status: Non NPL  
Category: CERCLA Time-Critical

### **A. Site Description**

#### **1. Removal site evaluation**

Between June 29 and July 1, 2015, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) completed sampling across the site for both soil and asbestos containing material (ACM). Bulk demolition debris samples collected were found to contain 2% to 90% asbestos (chrysotile and amosite) and soil samples contained < 1% to 2% asbestos (chrysotile and amosite) [Admin Record Items #5 and 6].

On August 5, 2015, MDEQ requested EPA assistance in addressing asbestos at the site. The site is described in the referral as unrestricted and the presence of asbestos confirmed [Admin Record Item #7].

On August 26, 2015, EPA conducted a site evaluation that consisted of a site reconnaissance, identification and collection of potential ACM samples, soil sample collection, and photographic documentation of site features. Samples collected by EPA showed 5 of 15 sample locations contained 20-75% friable chrysotile asbestos and 5 of 16 soil sample locations contained 0.25 – 20% chrysotile asbestos. In addition, one soil sample that tested positive for chrysotile asbestos also contained 0.25% amosite asbestos [Admin Record Item #9]. The asbestos debris will crumble under ordinary hand pressure, which indicates it is friable.

The assessment confirmed that the site was unrestricted and asbestos was outdoors and in close proximity to human populations.

#### **2. Physical location**

The site is located in a mixed residential and commercial area. The site borders Highway Michigan 26 to the west, with residential and commercial properties beyond; a vacant industrial parcel to the south; the Lake Linden Recreation Park to the east; and Highway Michigan 26 and

McDonald Street to the north, with residential properties and a portion of the Lake Linden Recreation park, including a playground area and marina, beyond. Torch Lake lies less than 350 feet east of the site.

An Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis for the site was conducted. Screening of the surrounding area used Region 5's EJ Screen Tool [which applies the interim version of the national EJ Strategic Enforcement Assessment Tool (EJSEAT)]. Region 5 has reviewed environmental and demographic data for the area surrounding the site and has determined there is a low potential for EJ concerns at this location.

### **3. Site Characteristics**

The Calumet & Hecla Mining Company operated a copper stamp mill, which contained machines that crushed materials by pounding them with heavy stamps, and processed copper ores at the site from the late 1800s until the 1950s. The site formerly housed an office, a machine shop, two warehouses, the Calumet stamp mill, and portions of the following structures: a wheel house, regrinding plant#1, leaching plant, Hecla stamp mill, and a pump house associated with the Hecla stamp mill. Over time, many of those structures were demolished: the wheel house and regrinding plant#1, between 1935 and 1951; the Hecla stamp mill, between 1935 and 1954; its pump house, between 1954 and 1963; the Calumet stamp mill between 1954 and 1963; the machine shop, a nearby warehouse and the leaching plant, between 1963 and 1983. A warehouse and offices remain. Universal Oil Products Company (UOP), a successor of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, conveyed the site property to the Houghton County Historical Museum Society (the Society) in 1975. Portions of the property are currently maintained for historical purposes. The only remnants of the former Calumet stamp mill are a grouping of foundations separated by drainage canals. Each foundation contains a stamp base that was likely used to break down ore. Piles of bricks, wood, metal, and other debris mixed with asbestos are located around these base foundations. Two Hecla stamp mill foundations at the site likely contain asbestos also.

In 2012, Honeywell Specialty Materials, LLC, a successor to UOP, conducted a removal to address contaminants, including asbestos, in Hecla foundations at the adjacent Calumet and Hecla Power Plant Site, under an Administrative Agreement Order with EPA. Some nearby properties where the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company operated are part of the Torch Lake NPL site, which addresses contaminated stamp sands and slag piles posing ecological risks in the Torch Lake area.

According to the referral from MDEQ, dated August 5, 2015 [Admin Record Item #7], the Society provides train rides around the Stamp mill foundation and invites students and adults to volunteer for activities conducted on the foundations at the Site.

### **4. Release or threatened release into the environment of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant**

The presence of asbestos at the site has been documented by analysis of samples BK-002, BK-003, BK-009B, BK-010, BK-011A, SO-002, SO-003, SO-005, SO-007, and SO-010. Asbestos is

defined as a hazardous substance by 40 C.F.R. § 302.4. There is an estimated 2,000 cubic yards of debris contaminated with asbestos at the site. The asbestos debris, which will crumbled under ordinary hand pressure, is open to the environment, including wind and rain. These environmental factors can spread the asbestos to adjacent properties. Based on its appearance, the asbestos, which is mixed with other building debris, was likely used as a building material for the Stampmill, and could have been released when the building was demolished, sometime between 1955 and 1966 [Admin Record Items #1 and 2].

#### **5. NPL status**

The site is not on the NPL.

#### **6. Maps, pictures and other graphic representations**

Attachments 4 and 5 show the location of the site and photos of the debris.

### **B. Other Actions to Date**

#### **1. Previous actions**

In 1994, the Society recorded a Declaration of Restrictive Covenant on the site property to protect the cover at the Torch Lake Site and limit exposure of stamp sands.

Between June 29 and July 1, 2015, MDEQ completed sampling across the site for both soil and potential ACM bulk material. Several bulk samples tested positive for asbestos, primarily Chrysotile.

#### **2. Current actions**

No current actions are being taken at the site.

### **State and Local Authorities' Roles**

#### **1. State and local actions to date**

MDEQ has requested EPA assistance in cleanup of the site [Admin Record Item #7].

#### **2. Potential for continued State/local response**

Given the exigency of the situation, neither the state nor local governments have the resources to conduct a removal action at the site.

### **III. THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT, AND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES**

The conditions remaining at the site present a substantial threat to the public health or welfare, and the environment, and meet the criteria for a time-critical removal action, pursuant to the NCP at 40 C.F.R. § 300.415(b)(1), based on the following factors in 40 CFR § 300.415(b)(2) :

**Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals, or the food chain from hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants.**

Samples collected from the bulk debris at the site documented that friable asbestos is present. With the debris piles exposed to the wind and rain an exposure route exists for the employees and visitors of the on-site museum and gift shop as well as adjacent residential homes and the Lake Linden Recreation Park.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, significant exposure to any type of asbestos will increase the risk of lung cancer, mesothelioma, and nonmalignant lung and pleural disorders, including asbestosis, pleural plaques, pleural thickening, and pleural effusions [Admin Record Items #3].

**Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants to migrate or be released.**

The asbestos debris piles are outdoors, exposed to the wind and rain. Without removal of the debris piles, wind may cause hazardous substances to be further released to the environment and threaten public health.

**The availability of other appropriate federal or state response mechanisms to respond to the release.**

No other federal or state response mechanism is available to respond in a timely manner given the exigencies of the situation.

#### **IV. ENDANGERMENT DETERMINATION**

Given the conditions at the site, the nature of the known and suspected hazardous substances on site, and the potential exposure pathways described in Sections II and III above, actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from the site, if not addressed by implementing the response actions selected in this Action Memorandum, may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, or welfare, or the environment.

#### **V. PROPOSED ACTIONS**

##### **A. Proposed Actions**

##### **1. Proposed action description**

The response actions described in this memorandum directly address actual or potential releases of hazardous substances on the site, which may pose an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, or welfare, or the environment. Removal activities on site will include:

- a) Develop and implement a site health and safety plan to protect workers during the cleanup;
- b) Work with the appropriate authorities on preservation of historical artifacts to the extent practicable;
- c) Develop and implement a work plan to remove for offsite disposal asbestos containing debris at the site. The work plan shall include specific site controls to prevent asbestos release;
- d) Place warning signs and fencing to limit public access to the site during the cleanup;
- e) Conduct personal and perimeter air monitoring during the cleanup; and
- f) Ensure that all hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants sent off-site are treated, stored, and/or disposed of in accordance with the EPA Off-Site Rule, 40 C.F.R. § 300.440.

The removal action will be conducted in a manner not inconsistent with the NCP. The On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has initiated planning for provisions of post-removal site control consistent with the provisions of 40 C.F.R. § 300.415(l). It is expected that removal of the asbestos will eliminate the need for post-removal site control.

The response actions described in this memorandum directly address actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants at the facility which may pose an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and safety, and to the environment. These response actions do not impose a burden on the affected property disproportionate to the extent to which that property contributes to the conditions being addressed.

## **2. Contribution to remedial performance**

The proposed removal action at the site will not impede future actions based on available information.

## **3. Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)**

Not Applicable

## **4. Applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs)**

All applicable, relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) of federal and State law will be complied with, to the extent practicable, considering the exigencies of the circumstances. On February 23, 2016, EPA sent a letter to Amy Keranen of the MDEQ to request Michigan ARARs. MDEQ responded by letter dated March 9, 2016, identifying State ARARs.

Federal ARAR may include

Hazardous Materials Transportation Act 49 USC § 01801 -1813; 49 CFR Parts 171-177; 40 CFR Part 263 Applicable Sets standards that apply to the transport of hazardous waste. Transportation of asbestos waste is covered under Parts 171 and 172; requires waste containment and shipping papers.

The selected removal action has been assessed under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties During Emergency Response Under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. As the removal will be limited to cleanup of demolition debris, no adverse effects are anticipated; the United States National Park Service will be consulted.

## **5. Project Schedule**

The removal should be completed within 60 days of approval of the work plan.

### **Estimated Costs**

Not available, Enforcement Action Memorandum

## **VI. EXPECTED CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SHOULD ACTION BE DELAYED OR NOT TAKEN**

Given the conditions at the site, the nature of the known and suspected hazardous substances on site, and the potential exposure pathways described in Sections II and III above, actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from this site, if not addressed by implementing the response actions selected in this memorandum, may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health, or welfare, or the environment.

## **VII. OUTSTANDING POLICY ISSUES**

Asbestos is the principal contaminant of concern.

## **VIII. ENFORCEMENT**

For administrative purposes, information concerning the enforcement strategy for this site is contained in the Enforcement Confidential Addendum<sup>1</sup>.

---

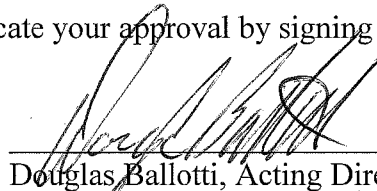
<sup>1</sup> Neither the lack of a total cost estimate nor deviation of actual total costs from this estimate will affect the United States' right to cost recovery.

## IX. RECOMMENDATION

This decision document represents the selected removal action for the Calumet Stampmill Site in Lake Linden, Houghton County, Michigan developed in accordance with CERCLA, as amended, and is not inconsistent with the NCP. This decision is based on the administrative record for the site (Attachment 1). Conditions at the site meet the NCP criteria at 40 C.F.R. § 300.415(b) for a removal action, and I recommend your approval of the removal action proposed in this Action Memorandum. Region 5 expects that the PRP will perform the removal action under the oversight of the OSC.

You may indicate your approval by signing below.

Approve:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas Ballotti, Acting Director  
Superfund Division

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Disapprove:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas Ballotti, Acting Director  
Superfund Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Enforcement Addendum

Attachments:

1. Administrative Record Index
2. Region 5 EJ Analysis
3. Independent Government Cost Estimate
4. Site Location Map
5. Photographs
6. Detailed Cleanup Contractor Costs



cc: P. Easter, EPA HQ (Easter.patrick@Epa.gov)  
B. Schlieger, EPA HQ (Schlieger.brian@Epa.gov)  
Josh Woodyard, EPA HQ (Woodyard.joshua@Epa.gov)  
L. Nelson, U.S. DOI, w/o Enf. Addendum, (Lindy\_Nelson@ios.doi.gov)  
Keith Creagh, Director, MDEQ, w/o Enf. Addendum (creaghk@michigan.gov)  
Bill Schuette, Michigan AG, w/o Enf. Addendum (SchuetteB@michigan.gov)  
J. Walczak, MDEQ, w/o Enf. Addendum (walczakj@michigan.gov)

**BCC PAGE HAS BEEN REDACTED**

**NOT RELEVANT TO SELECTION  
OF REMOVAL ACTION**

**ENFORCEMENT ADDENDUM**

**HAS BEEN REDACTED – FOUR PAGES**

**ENFORCEMENT CONFIDENTIAL**

**NOT SUBJECT TO DISCOVERY**

**FOIA EXEMPT**

**NOT RELEVANT TO SELECTION**

**OF REMOVAL ACTION**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REMOVAL ACTION**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD  
FOR THE  
CALUMET STAMPMILL SITE  
LAKE LINDEN, HOUGHTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**ORIGINAL  
MAY, 2016**

<b><u>NO.</u></b>	<b><u>SEMS ID</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>AUTHOR</u></b>	<b><u>RECIPIENT</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE/DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>PAGES</u></b>
1	923441	1955	Unknown	File	Site Map - 1955	1
2	923442	1966	Unknown	File	Site Map - 1966	1
3	926465	9/1/01	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)	Public	ATSDR ToxFAQs Fact Sheet- Asbestos- CAS # 1332-21-4	2
4	923438	6/30/15	MDEQ	File	Targeted Inspection Forms	7
5	923437	7/29/15	Brooks, K., TestAmerica	MDEQ	Laboratory Analytical Report	41
6	923440	7/31/15	Weston Solutions	MDEQ	Sample Results Maps	4
7	923436	8/5/15	Clark, C., MDEQ	Kelly, B., U.S. EPA	Letter re: Request for U.S. EPA Assistance at the Calumet Stampmill Site	2
8	923435	8/7/15	Houghton County Historical Museum Society	U.S. EPA	Consent to Access to Property Form	1
9	923439	9/29/15	Burns, C., Tetra Tech	Kelly, B., U.S. EPA	Final Site Assessment Report	87
10	923434	10/21/15	Lepore, J., Toeroek Associates, Inc.	Woodfork, R., U.S. EPA	Draft Title Search and Corporate Search Report	15
11	926454	3/9/16	Keramen, A., MDEQ	Kelly, B., U.S. EPA	Letter re: MDEQ Identification of Applicable, Relevant, and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)	2

<u>NO.</u>	<u>SEMS ID</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>TITLE/DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
12	-	-	Kelly, B., U.S. EPA	Karl, R., U.S. EPA	Enforcement Action Memorandum re: Determination of Threat to Public Health and the Environment at the Calumet Stampmill Site ( <i>PENDING</i> )	-

## ATTACHMENT 2

### EJ ANALYSIS

#### CALUMET STAMPMILL SITE LAKE LINDEN, HOUGHTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN



#### EISCREEN Report

for 1 mile Ring Centered at 47.187518, -88.412775, MICHIGAN, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 1367

Calumet Stampmill



Selected Variables	Raw Data	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
<b>Environmental Indicators</b>							
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	6.96	9.75	0	10.8	0	9.78	6
Ozone (ppb)	36	44.7	0	44.4	1	46.1	8
NATA Diesel PM ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )*	0.0416	0.727	5	0.712	<50th	0.824	<50th
NATA Cancer Risk (lifetime risk per million)*	17	43	0	42	<50th	49	<50th
NATA Respiratory Hazard Index*	0.27	1.5	0	1.5	<50th	2.3	<50th
NATA Neurological Hazard Index*	0.025	0.058	6	0.067	<50th	0.063	<50th
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	31	79	49	69	55	110	46
Lead Paint Indicator (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.79	0.39	84	0.4	85	0.3	91
NPL Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.21	0.095	90	0.086	92	0.096	91
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.29	0.21	83	0.33	70	0.31	74
TSDF Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.0023	0.063	0	0.051	0	0.054	1
Water Discharger Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.057	0.19	24	0.23	15	0.25	15
<b>Demographic Indicators</b>							
Demographic Index	25%	29%	57	28%	60	35%	43
Minority Population	2%	23%	6	24%	9	36%	5
Low Income Population	49%	35%	76	32%	79	34%	76
Linguistically Isolated Population	0%	2%	64	2%	60	5%	46
Population With Less Than High School Education	11%	11%	56	12%	56	14%	48
Population Under 5 years of age	6%	6%	60	6%	56	7%	54
Population over 64 years of age	17%	14%	72	13%	73	13%	75

\* The National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) is EPA's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. EPA developed the NATA to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that NATA provides broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the NATA analysis can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/natamain/index.html>.

For additional information, see: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)

EISCREEN is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EISCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EISCREEN outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.

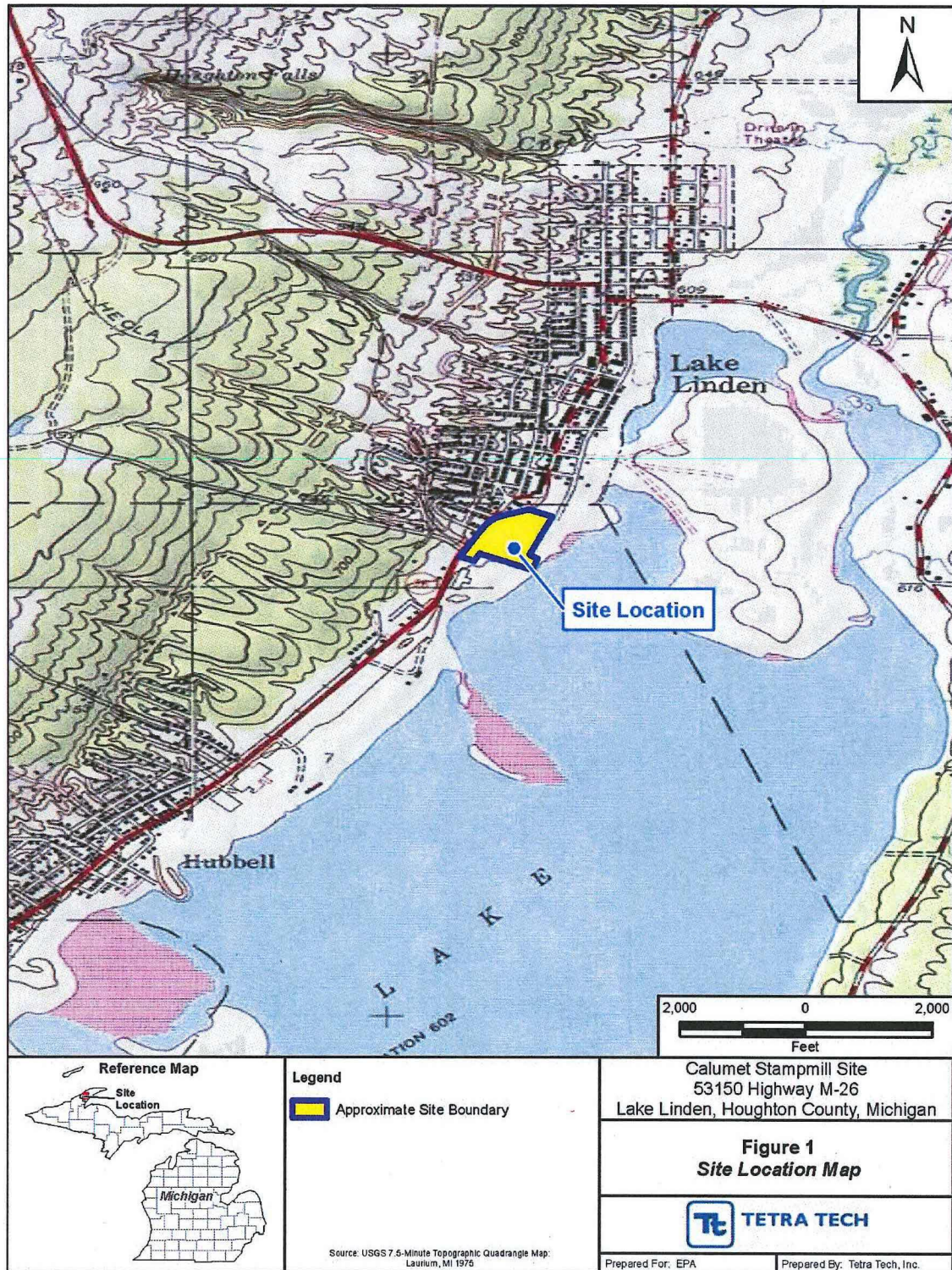
October 23, 2015

3/3



# ATTACHMENT 3

## SITE LOCATION AND LAYOUT MAPS



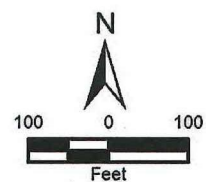




**Legend**

Sample Area

Approximate Site Boundary



Calumet Stampmill Site  
53150 Highway M-26  
Lake Linden, Houghton County, Michigan

**Figure 2**  
**Site Layout Map**



Prepared For: EPA

Prepared By: Tetra Tech Inc.

Source: Bing Maps Hybrid - 2013



## ATTACHMENT 4

### PHOTOGRAPHS



Calumet Stampmill Site (Overview)



Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) found throughout the site.