



REGION 8

DENVER, CO 80202

November 28, 2023

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Penrose Funeral Home Removal Site Inspection

FROM: Valeriy Bizyayev, EPA OSC
Joyce Ackerman, EPA OSC

TO: To Site File

On November 15, 2023, EPA OSC Bizyayev and OSC Ackerman made entries into the Penrose Funeral Home facility (Site) to perform a removal site inspection (RSI). The START and ERRS contractors assisted with the RSI. The purpose of the RSI was to gather and document information regarding a release or threat of release into the environment of a hazardous substance or pollutant or contaminant from the Site. The following observations were made at the Site during the RSI:

Outside the funeral home facility:

- The Site is located adjacent to a United States Postal Office with heavy foot and car traffic.
- The Site is adjacent to Colorado Highway 115, and homes and businesses are located nearby.
- There was a strong odor emanating from the structure.
- Insects, flies, birds, and rodents were observed outside or on the building.
- There was visible evidence of liquids leaking from the building - the foundation was stained in many locations by seepage of fluids from the interior of the building.
- All security measures installed by local officials are temporary, i.e., boards nailed on windows and doors, and a temporary fence.

Inside the funeral home facility:

- Floors, walls, furniture, and other surfaces showed the presence of fluids and biological matter from decomposing bodies. Fluids/biological matter were present in nearly every room of the facility.
- The floors were slippery due to the presence of fluids. Several attempts had been made by the funeral home owners and/or law enforcement officials to add absorbents or other materials to soak up or cover fluids on the floor.
- Floors showed the presence of thousands of dead flies, maggots, and other insects.
- There were dozens of cans of insecticide fogging spray.
- There was a 5-gallon bucket of an unknown liquid in the utility closet.
- There was at least one 5-gallon bucket of lye under contaminated bins in a freezer room.
- There were numerous yellow bags containing PPE from the law enforcement officials who previously transferred the bodies to the El Paso County Coroner's office.

Photo documentation may be found in the administrative record.

Valeriy Bizyayev, OSC

Joyce Ackerman, OSC