



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

DATE: 03 February 2009

SUBJ: Site Investigation Closure Memorandum
Merrimack Industrial Metals Site
Route 101A
Merrimack, NH 03054

FROM: Brent England, On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response and Removal Section II, EPRB, OSRR BRE

THRU: Steven R. Novick, Chief
Emergency Response and Removal Section II, EPRB, OSRR

TO: Merrimack Industrial Metals Site File

In accordance with section 300.410 of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), a Removal Site Evaluation, consisting of a Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation (PA/SI), has been undertaken at the Merrimack Industrial Metals Site ("Site") in Merrimack, New Hampshire. The findings of the Removal Site Evaluation have been evaluated under the criteria set forth in section 300.415 of the NCP, section 104(a) and (b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9604(a) and (b) and Clean Water Act (CWA) § 311(c)(i) as amended by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) § 4201(a). The Removal Site Evaluation has led to the determination that a Removal Action is appropriate at this time.

The findings of the Removal Site Evaluation are outlined below.

1. Source and nature of the release or threat of release
 - a. The Removal Site Evaluation consisted of the following actions.
 - i. The Site Investigation on 25 September 2008.
 - ii. Generating a PA/SI report by EPA's contractor, titled "Removal Program Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation Report for Merrimack Industrial Metals, Merrimack, New Hampshire" dated December 2008.
 - b. Based on the information available at this time, the principal hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants that are being released or for which there is threat of

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release include but are not necessarily limited to the list below.

Hazardous Substances or
Pollutants or Contaminants

Media

Ignitable, reactive, corrosive
Chemicals [pressurized gasses]

Pressurized gas cylinders and lead-acid
batteries

Metals [lead]

Surface soil

PCBs [aroclor 1254]

Surface soil

2. Evaluation of the threat to public health, welfare and the environment

a. Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry:

Threat _____ No Threat _____ Evaluation Not Necessary X

b. Endangerment to the ecosystem:

Threat _____ No Threat _____ Evaluation Not Necessary X

3. The Removal Site Evaluation was terminated pursuant to section 300.410(f) of the NCP for the following reason(s).

- () There is no release.
- () The source is neither a "vessel" nor a "facility" as defined in section 300.5 of the NCP.
- () The release involves neither a hazardous substance, nor a pollutant or contaminant that may present an imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare of the United States.
- () It is subject to the limitations on response specified in §300.400(b)(1) through (3). The release is
 - () of a naturally occurring substance in its unaltered form, or altered solely through naturally occurring processes or phenomena, from a location where it is naturally found.

- ☐ from products that are part of the structure of, and result in exposure within, residential buildings or businesses or community structures.
 - ☐ into public or private drinking water supplies due to deterioration of the system through ordinary use.
 - ☐ The amount, quantity, or concentration released does not warrant a Federal response.
 - ☐ A party responsible for the release, or any other person, is providing appropriate response, and on-scene monitoring by EPA is not required.
 - ☒ The Removal Site Evaluation is complete.
4. As reflected in Section 3, above, the Removal Site Evaluation was terminated due to its completion, and not for other reasons.
- a. The factors listed below, found in Section 300.415(b)(2) of the NCP, are applicable to this Site.
- ☒ Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals, or the food chain from hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants.
 - ☒ Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems.
 - ☐ Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers, that may pose a threat of release.
 - ☒ High levels of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in soils largely at or near the surface, which may migrate.
 - ☒ Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants to migrate or be released.
 - ☒ Threat of fire or explosion.
 - ☒ The availability of other appropriate Federal or State response mechanisms to respond to the release.

- () Other situations or factors that may pose threats to public health or welfare of the United States or the environment.

- b. The existence of the conditions specified in Section 4.a., above, indicate that a Removal Action under section 300.415 of the NCP is necessary. High levels of lead and PCBs have been discovered in surface soils. The abandoned buildings contain lead/acid car batteries, compressed gas cylinders and several small containers containing various chemicals threatening potential release. The Site is located directly adjacent to the Pennichuck River, a Class "A" water body and the main drinking water supply for the City of Nashua. Also, the Site is located within the wellhead protection area for the Merrimack Village District Municipal Supply Well #6. Lack of security leaves the Site accessible to pedestrians. Broken windows, open doors, graffiti, and signs of paintball activity indicate that unauthorized entry may be occurring at the Site. Due to these factors the Site poses a direct contact threat to local residents and those who may enter the Site.
- c. In light of the magnitude of the threat or potential threat to health, welfare, or the environment, the appropriate categorization of a Removal Action at this Site is:

Emergency____ Time-Critical X Non Time-Critical____

5. As reflected in Section 3, above, the Removal Site Evaluation was terminated due to its completion, and not for other reasons.

- a. As found in section 300.410(e)(1) of the NCP, the OSC shall determine whether a release governed by CWA section 311(c)(1), as amended by OPA section 4201(a), has occurred.
- () There is a release, or potential threat of release, as governed by the CWA as amended by OPA.
- (X) There is not a release, or potential threat of release, as governed by the CWA as amended by OPA. (Petroleum products on-site will be disposed of by NH DES.)
- b. The absence of the conditions specified in Section 5.a., above, indicate that an Oil Spill Response under Appendix E to Part 300 of the NCP **is not** necessary. There is no evidence at this time of a release or threatened release of oil to navigable water.

cc: Steven Novick, Chief, Emergency Response and Removal Section II, OSRR (w/o attachments)

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