



September 30, 2009

Mr. Carter Williamson  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
61 Forsyth Street, SW, 11th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**Subject: Final Emergency Response Letter Report  
Goodwater Mercury Spill  
Goodwater, Coosa County, Alabama  
EPA Contract No. EP-W-05-054  
TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102**

Dear Mr. Williamson:

The Tetra Tech Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) is submitting this letter report summarizing the emergency response and removal activities conducted from June 13 through June 17, 2009, at the Goodwater Mercury Spill in Goodwater, Coosa County, Alabama. Appendix A provides figures that show the site location and a layout of the residence. Appendix B is a photographic log of emergency response and removal activities. Appendix C provides a log of contaminated items. Appendix D is a copy of Tetra Tech's field logbook notes. Appendix E is a Table of Witnesses.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Goodwater Mercury Spill began in October 2008 when the owners of the mobile home at Lot 510, Route 3 in Goodwater, Alabama, spilled an estimated 1 pound of mercury in the master bedroom of the residence, which was a modified mobile home. The homeowners then vacuumed up the spill with a standard vacuum cleaner. No further action was taken until 9 months later, when medical tests showed that both homeowners had elevated blood levels of mercury. At that time, the spill was reported to local health officials. After they discovered the mercury poisoning, the homeowners removed the carpeting from the master bedroom, placed the living room sofas outside, and moved the bed into the living room in an effort to reduce their exposure. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch was notified of the incident on June 12, 2009. The geographic coordinates of the residence are 33.064126° north and 86.137435° west (see Figure 1).

## **RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Carter Williamson, Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Emergency Responder Grady Springer, and Tetra Tech START members Charles Berry and Courtney Roden mobilized to the site and began screening the mobile home on June 13, 2009. A pre-entry questioning of one of the homeowners indicated the residence was occupied by two individuals, ages 50 and 42 years. Both homeowners had chronic health problems, including obesity, type II diabetes, and kidney failure. The homeowners indicated their grandchildren, aged 4 and 2, visited

infrequently. The grandchildren's parents subsequently refused access for screening to the children's primary residence, as both children's blood tests were negative for mercury.

Tetra Tech used a Lumex RA-915+ mercury vapor analyzer to monitor ambient mercury vapor levels. Standard operating procedures for using the Lumex were followed throughout the response, which included a self-test of the machine after it was turned on and after each period of rest. The standard deviation percentage provided by the machine was, in all cases, within the proper operating range stated by the manufacturer.

When EPA and Tetra Tech arrived at the residence, Tetra Tech requested the homeowners turn off all air conditioners and fans and close all interior doors. After a health and safety meeting, Tetra Tech entered the residence to perform initial air monitoring. Ambient breathing zone levels in the northern end of the residence ranged from 2,000 to 3,000 nanograms per cubic meter ( $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ ) and increased as Tetra Tech progressed south through the residence toward the master bedroom, where the mercury was spilled (see Figure 2). Breathing zone levels in the master bedroom were around 20,000  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ . Floor-level readings ranged from 15,000  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$  at the door to more than 40,000  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$  in the closet.

Based on input from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), EPA has established a residential indoor attainment goal for mercury vapor of 1,000  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ . Based on the levels observed within the home, OSC Williamson initiated time-critical removal activities. WRSSCompass (WRS), an Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor, was contacted to remediate the spill and its impact to the residence. The homeowners were asked to temporarily relocate to an EPA-provided hotel while remediation was under way.

### **Residence Remediation**

WRS's team subcontractor, United States Environmental Services (USES), arrived on site on the afternoon of June 13 and began removal activities. Given the relatively low mercury levels throughout most of the house, it was felt that removing source material from the master bedroom would reduce ambient levels to below the EPA action level throughout the entire residence. USES therefore set about bagging and removing loose personal items from the master bedroom and staging them outside. Once the personal items were removed, the flooring, wall paneling, and insulation were removed from the master bedroom. While removing mercury-contaminated items and structural components, USES employed level C personal protective equipment (PPE). At other times during removal activities, Tetra Tech performed periodic monitoring of the work zone to ensure worker safety and compliance with the site safety plan.

On the morning of June 14, Tetra Tech assessed the exposed subfloor and wall joists from the master bedroom and identified mercury levels remaining at the surface of more than 40,000  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ . Ambient levels were about 16,000  $\text{ng}/\text{m}^3$ . Based on these levels, OSC Williamson elected to remove additional structural components. In response, USES removed the subfloor, ceiling panels, and ceiling insulation from the master bedroom. Tetra Tech assessed the newly exposed components and found that the mercury contamination had seeped deeply into the structure of the building over the intervening 9 months since the spill occurred. Complicating the cleanup were the extremely high afternoon temperatures, approaching 95°F daily. With the wall and ceiling insulation removed from the master bedroom, daily temperatures inside rose above 100°F, causing ambient mercury vapor concentrations to rise dramatically from the morning to the afternoon. Concerned that, regardless of remedial efforts in the master bedroom, ambient levels in the remainder of the house would remain above the action level, OSC Williamson tasked Tetra Tech with assessing the actual mercury load within the rest of the house. Tetra Tech and USES worked together to build a containment barrier between the master bedroom and the rest of the building. The master bedroom was placed under negative air pressure overnight.

When Tetra Tech returned on the morning of June 15, ambient levels in the north end of the building were around  $100 \text{ ng/m}^3$ , and the interior temperatures was about  $70^\circ\text{F}$ . This portion of the building was monitored periodically throughout the day to evaluate whether mercury levels would remain below the action level with connectivity to the master bedroom cut off by the barrier wall. Removal of contaminated floor joists and wall plates proceeded in the master bedroom. Eventually, Tetra Tech concluded that floor joists, portions of the interior wall between the master bedroom and the bathroom, and parts of the bathroom subfloor were contaminated. This contamination posed a serious problem, as the bathroom subfloor was rotten, and removal of the contaminated portions would necessitate removal of the tub. OSC Williamson therefore decided that no additional structural components would be removed until ATSDR evaluated the current levels and set a site-specific attainment goal. USES was tasked with applying a mercury-abatement solution to the remaining interior surfaces of the master bedroom. Ambient levels in the master bedroom were around  $500 \text{ ng/m}^3$  with active ventilation. OSC Williamson asked that a clearance test be performed on the entire house, although it was expected that the master bedroom would not pass. USES then prepared the room by sealing holes in the wall, floor, and ceiling with plastic. Without floor joists present, Tetra Tech had no way of gaining access to the interior of the room. As such, a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe was inserted through the plastic in the doorway to facilitate monitoring mercury levels in the center of the room.

At 1300 hours, Tetra Tech monitored the northern end of the building, recording levels above  $1,500 \text{ ng/m}^3$ . Interior temperatures had risen substantially from the morning. OSC Williamson instructed USES to remove loose personal items from the living room and kitchen, which were bagged and placed in the staging area outside. Once completed, the middle bedroom was closed off to be assessed independently. USES repaired the containment barrier and segregated the northern end of the house from the master bedroom in an attempt to assess the independent mercury load in the northern end of the residence.

Beginning at 2000 hours on the evening of June 15, Tetra Tech began a clearance test on all portions of the building. By 2200 hours, both bedrooms had failed the test, and it was apparent that the kitchen and living room would likely also fail. The ambient indoor temperature was  $89^\circ\text{F}$  at the beginning of the test period. OSC Matt Huyser, who arrived on scene earlier in the day to assist OSC Williamson, determined there was no point in continuing the process and instructed Tetra Tech to cease the test.

On June 16, in response to OSC Williamson's interrogative, ATSDR stated that, given the homeowners' existing medical conditions, it was strongly recommended all indoor air locations be brought below the  $1,000 \text{ ng/m}^3$  threshold before the homeowners reoccupied the home. Based on the results of the previous night's clearance test, it was apparent that mercury vapor had deposited on surfaces throughout the residence during the 9 months since the spill, making full remediation nearly impossible. Given the fact that attaining the  $1,000 \text{ ng/m}^3$  remediation goal was highly unlikely without extreme remediation measures and the relatively high cost of performing additional remediation to achieve that goal, OSC Williamson decided it was in the best interest of all stakeholders to simply replace the residence with another mobile home. OSC Williamson then tasked USES with removing all personal items from the building and preparing them for bagged screening. Non-personal items, such as food, were placed directly into a roll-off container for disposal. Household hazardous wastes were collected and placed into storage bins outside. Tetra Tech was tasked with inventorying all appliances in the home. Items were also removed from a storage area beneath the residence and placed in a storage shed away from the residence. The residence was prepared for demolition and remained empty for about 2 weeks.

All personnel demobilized from the site on June 17, 2009. On June 29, 2009, WRS mobilized a demolition team to the residence, crushed the mobile home, and placed the pieces into roll-off boxes for disposal.

## **Personal Item Screening**

Loose personal items were removed from the residence, placed into plastic bags, allowed to off-gas for at least 15 minutes, and then screened with a mercury vapor analyzer. Items that indicated mercury levels less than 10,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup> were considered suitable to return to the owner without condition. Items that indicated mercury levels greater than 10,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup> were allowed to heat and vent in direct sunlight for a period of time until either the levels were reduced below the 10,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup> level or it was determined that the attainment goal could not be met.

Tetra Tech began by screening the items the homeowners wished to take with them during their relocation. All items removed by the couple, as well as their vehicles, screened below 10,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup>.

Once the personal items were removed from the residence, the homeowners sorted the items and chose to dispose of many of them regardless of mercury levels. Items the homeowners wished to keep and that indicated mercury levels greater than 10,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup> were bagged and re-screened after they had been heated and vented. Personal items that were deemed suitable for return to the residents were sealed in the bag and placed in a temporary on-site secure storage container. After multiple periods of heating and venting, items that still did not reach the attainment goal were inventoried and set aside for disposal. These contaminated items are listed in Appendix C.

In addition to the personal items EPA removed from the residence, Tetra Tech also screened several pieces of furniture the homeowners had previously removed from the building and set outside. Several of the items screened at levels higher than 1,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup> in cracks between the cushions. Although EPA did not dispose of these items, the homeowners were asked to not place them back indoors.

On August 26, 2009, Tetra Tech START member Charles Berry met OSC Williamson, ADEM's Grady Springer, and the homeowners at the residence. A final screening of the personal property was performed prior to releasing the items back into the residents' custody (see the following section). No items screened above the 10,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup> level; the highest observed reading was 860 ng/m<sup>3</sup>. The items were then returned to the homeowners without condition. The storage box was left on site for another week to allow the residents time to decide which items they wanted to move back into the new mobile home.

## **Relocation and Residence Replacement**

Once the mercury contamination was confirmed inside the residence, the homeowners vacated the building June 13, 2009, taking up temporary residence at a local hotel. On July 17, 2009, after the decision to dispose of the entire home was made, OSC Williamson contacted the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to assist with relocation and replacement services.

OSC Williamson and USACE personnel considered replacing the contaminated mobile home with a suitable surplus trailer owned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); however, it was determined that the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 CFR 61), which governs all Federal and Federally-funded relocation actions, does not allow for direct transfer of government-owned property to private individuals. Therefore, the plans to use a FEMA-owned trailer as a replacement for the contaminated mobile home at the Goodwater property were set aside. Instead, USACE facilitated the purchase of a new mobile home from a local vendor. This home was delivered to the property on August 10, 2009, and utilities were connected. The homeowners moved back to their property on August 26, 2009. A final inspection of the property was conducted by OSC Williamson, ADEM, Tetra Tech, and USACE personnel on that same day. After addressing some minor soil erosion and seeding issues, the response was considered complete.

Mr. C. Williamson  
September 30, 2009

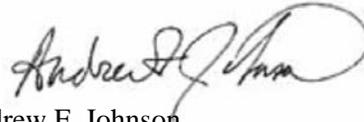
A total of 5 roll-off boxes of mercury-contaminated, nonhazardous waste were removed from the property, including the crushed remains of the residence.

If you have any questions, please call Charles Berry at (678) 775-3098.

Sincerely,



Charles Berry  
Tetra Tech START III Site Manager



Andrew F. Johnson  
Tetra Tech START III Program Manager

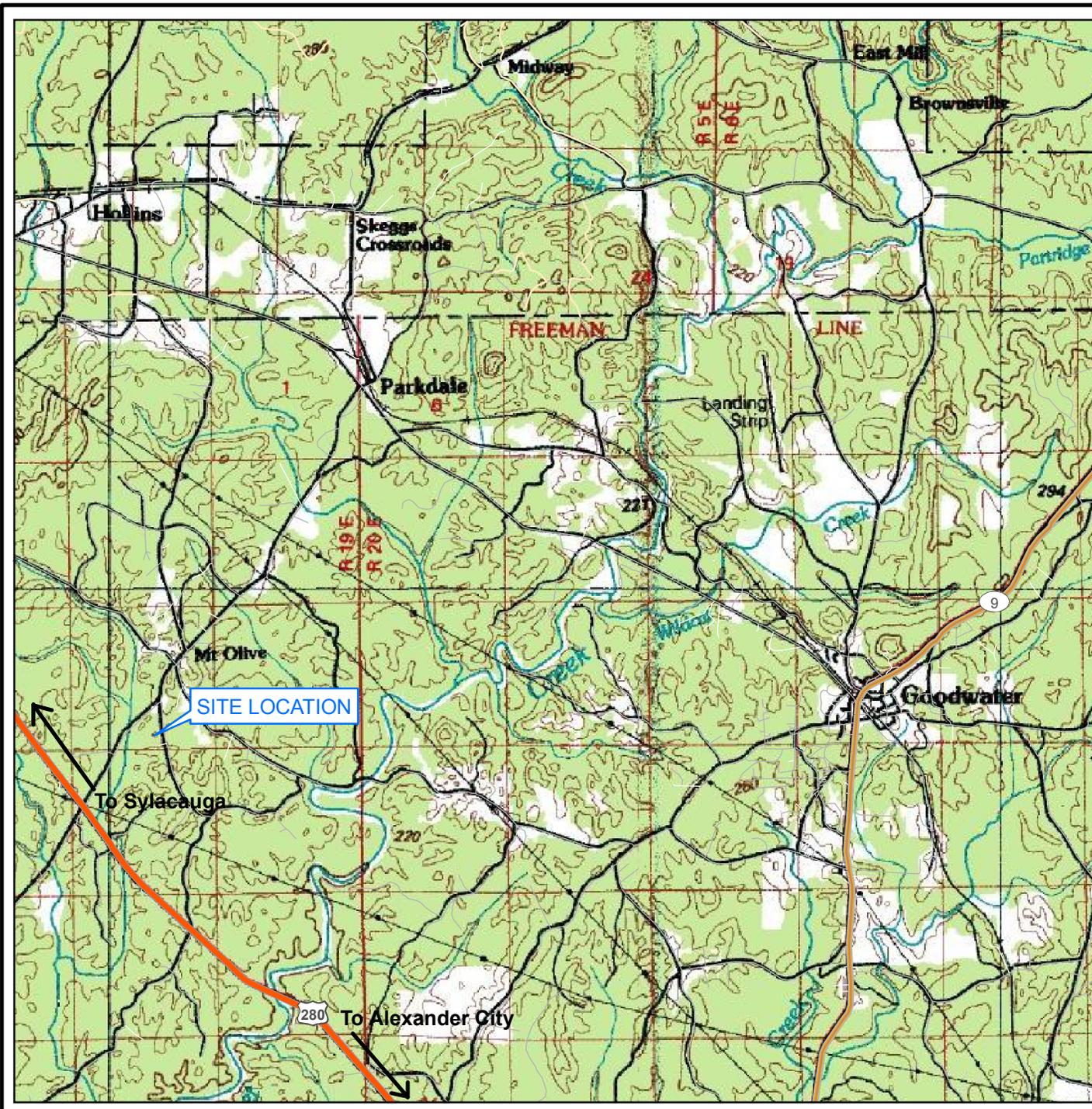
Enclosures (5)

cc: Katrina Jones, EPA Project Officer  
Darryl Walker, EPA Alternate Project Officer  
Andy Johnson, START III Program Manager  
Brian Croft, START III Task Order Manager  
Angel Reed, START III Document Control Coordinator

## **APPENDIX A**

### **FIGURES**

(2 Pages)

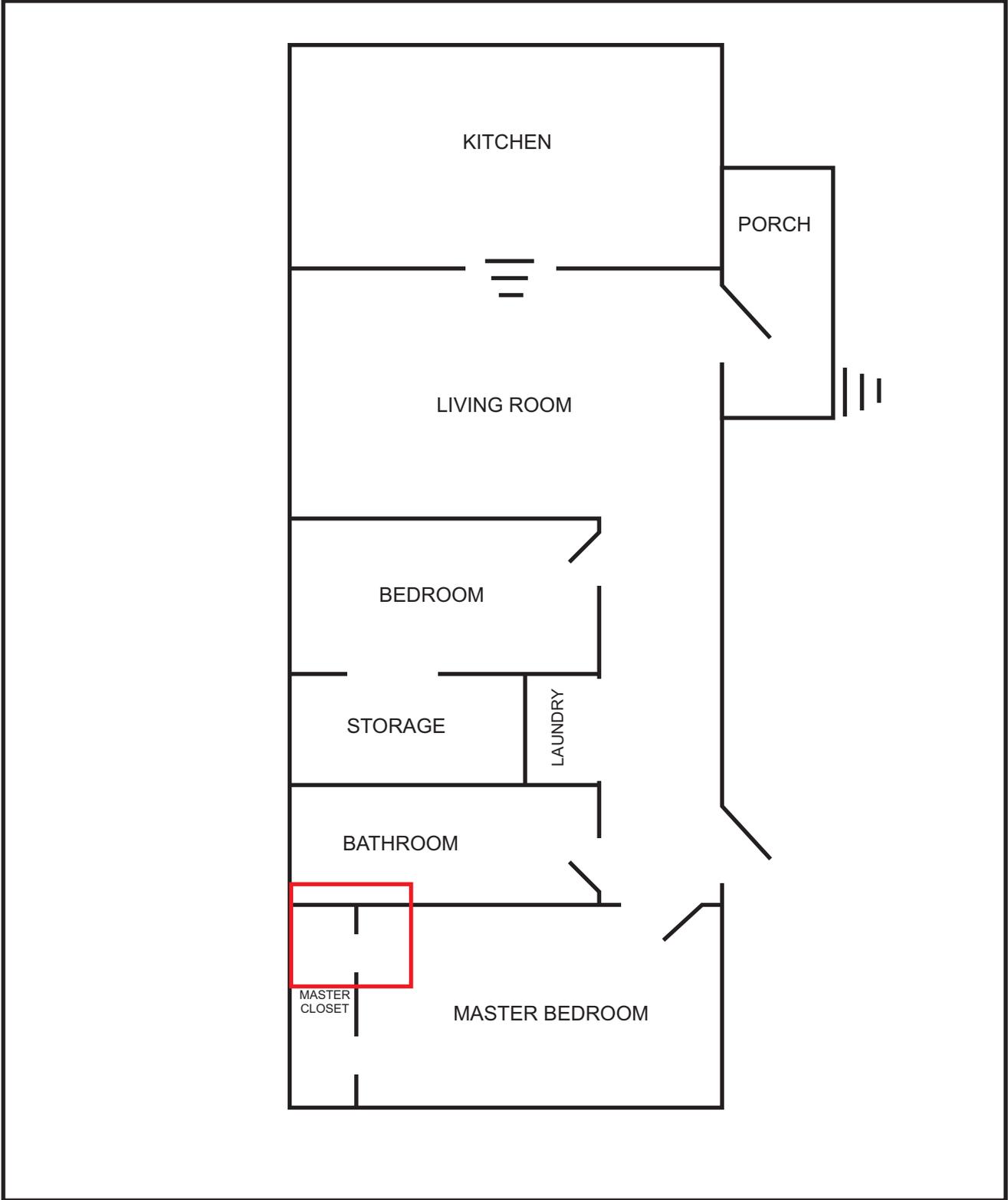


1:65,473  
 0 0.25 0.5 Miles  
 MAP SOURCE: TERRASERVER  
 COOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA



United States Environmental Protection Agency  
  
 GOODWATER MERCURY SPILL  
 GOODWATER, COOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA  
 TDD: TTEMI-05-001-0102  
  
**FIGURE 1**  
**SITE LOCATION**  
  

 TETRA TECH



**LEGEND**



AREA OF SIGNIFICANT  
STRUCTURAL COMPONENT  
IMPACT

DIAGRAM  
NOT TO  
SCALE



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

GOODWATER MERCURY SPILL  
GOODWATER, COOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA  
TTEMI-05-001-0102

**FIGURE 2  
RESIDENCE LAYOUT**



**APPENDIX B**  
**PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG**  
(18 Pages)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 1**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** West

**Date:** June 17, 2009

**Photographer:** James Caruthers, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Carter Williamson, EPA

**Subject:** The residence at Lot 510, Route 3 in Goodwater, Alabama.



**TETRA TECH**

B-1

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 2**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** East

**Date:** June 13, 2009

**Photographer:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

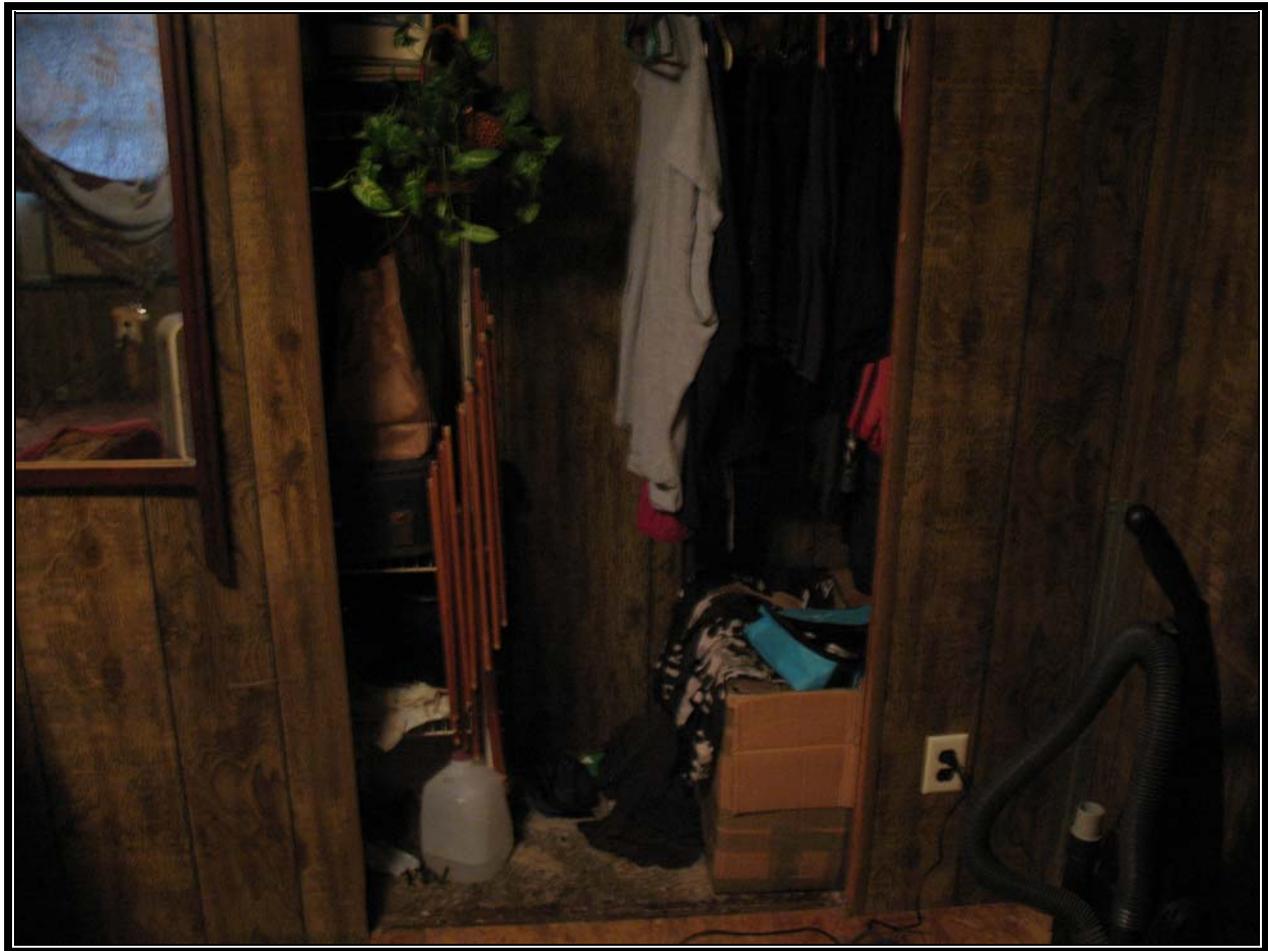
**Subject:** The rear of the residence at Lot 510 Route 3 in Goodwater, Alabama.



**TETRA TECH**

B-2

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 3  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** West

**Date:** June 13, 2009

**Photographer:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

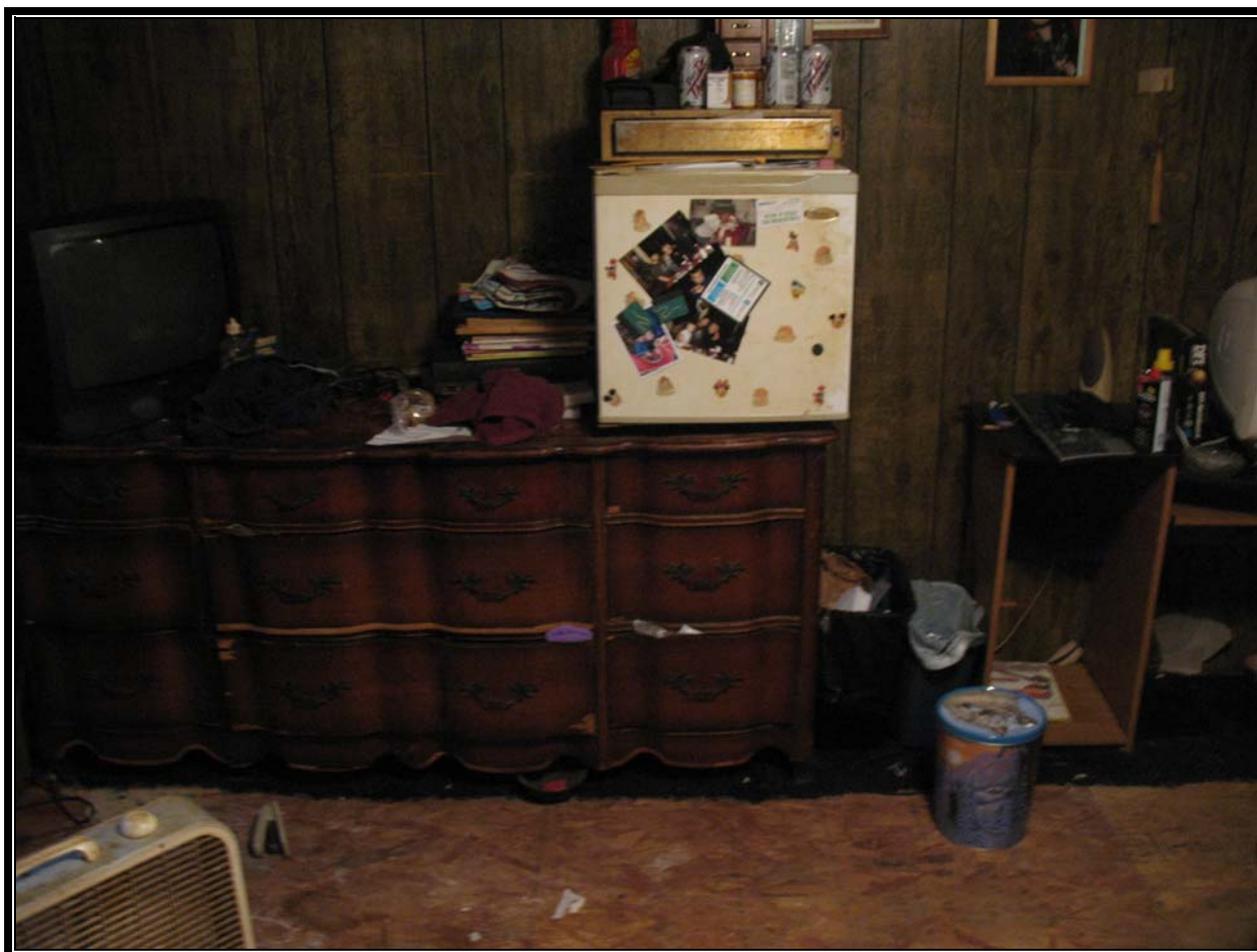
**Subject:** The location of the original spill within the master bedroom. The floor slopes to the right of the photograph, with much of the contamination eventually becoming embedded in the partition of the closet.



**TETRA TECH**

B-3

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 4**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** South

**Date:** June 13, 2009

**Photographer:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Furniture in the master bedroom.



**TETRA TECH**

B-4

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 5**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** North

**Date:** June 13, 2009

**Photographer:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Furniture and carpeting removed by the homeowner and stored outside before EPA arrived.



**TETRA TECH**

B-5

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 6  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

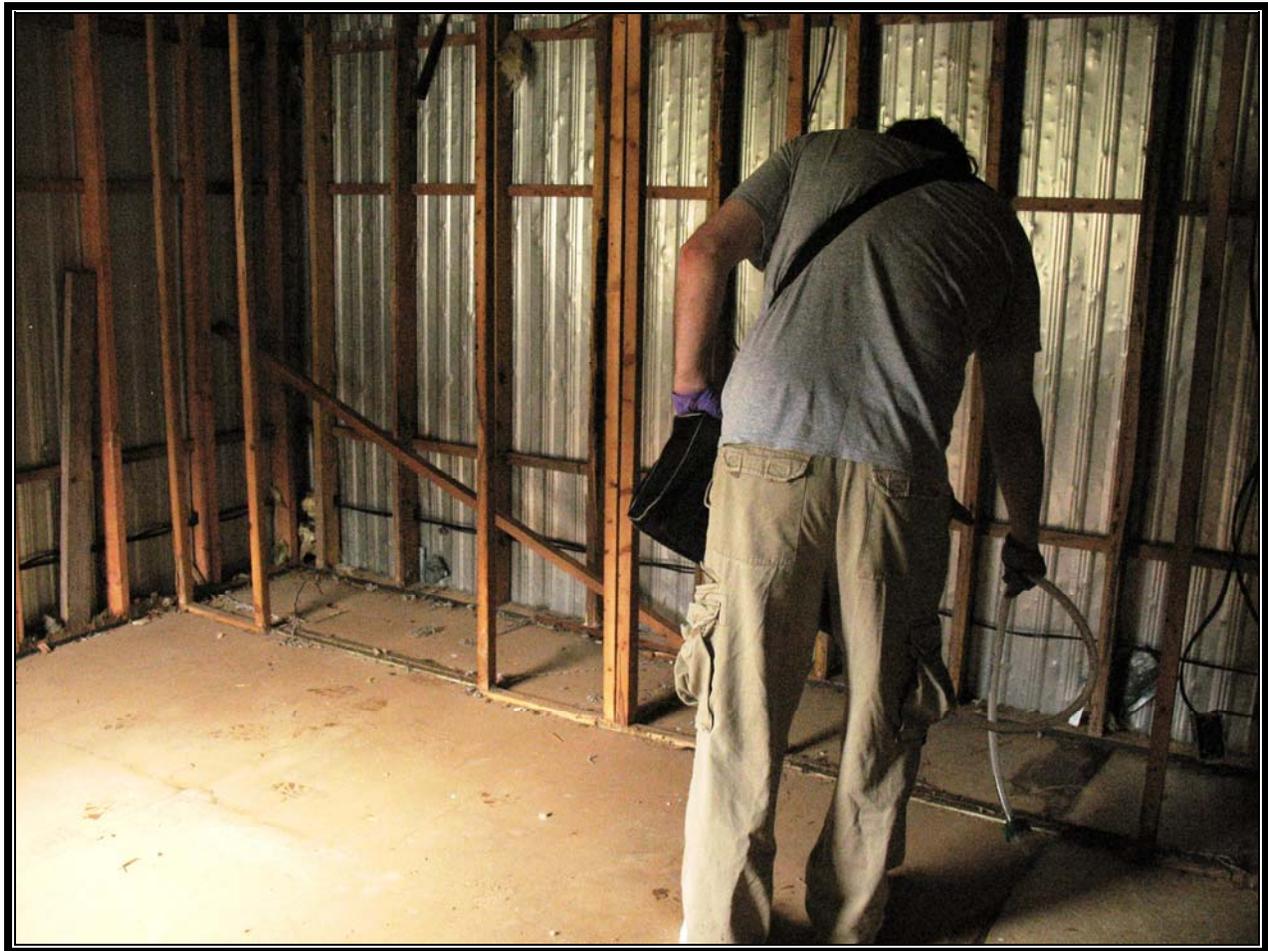
**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102      **Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill  
**Orientation:** South      **Date:** June 13, 2009  
**Photographer:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech      **Witness:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech  
**Subject:** WRS's subcontractor, USES, removing structural components from the master bedroom in Level C PPE.



**TETRA TECH**

B-6

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 7**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** West

**Date:** June 14, 2009

**Photographer:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Tetra Tech monitoring recently exposed areas of the bedroom subfloor. Mercury vapor readings were still highly elevated at this point, and the subfloor was subsequently removed.



**TETRA TECH**

B-7

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 8**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** West

**Date:** June 14, 2009

**Photographer:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Exposed floor joists and insulation in the master bedroom. Subsequent mercury vapor monitoring of these structural components revealed deeply embedded mercury contamination.



**TETRA TECH**

B-8

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 9  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** North

**Date:** June 15, 2009

**Photographer:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Rotten flooring beneath the tub. The condition of this flooring made removal of all mercury-contaminated structural components unfeasible.



**TETRA TECH**

B-9

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 10**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** North

**Date:** June 15, 2009

**Photographer:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** USES applying a mercury-abatement solution, which chemically reacts with the elemental mercury, turning it into a non-volatile salt. While this solution is normally used on non-porous surfaces, it was hoped it would penetrate enough here to provide some efficacy.



**TETRA TECH**

B-10

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 11**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** North

**Date:** June 15, 2009

**Photographer:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Plastic sheeting used to provide a barrier between the contaminated structural components and the test area.



**TETRA TECH**

B-11

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 12  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** East

**Date:** June 15, 2009

**Photographer:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** OSC Williamson coordinating activities with representatives of the Coosa County Health Department and ADEM.



**TETRA TECH**

B-12

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 13  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** East

**Date:** June 13, 2009

**Photographer:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Tetra Tech conducted initial screening of personal items removed from the residence by the homeowner to prevent off-site migration of mercury.



**TETRA TECH**

B-13

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 14**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** West

**Date:** June 16, 2009

**Photographer:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Personal items bagged and staged for mercury vapor screening.



B-14

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 15  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** West

**Date:** June 14, 2009

**Photographer:** Courtney Roden, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Tetra Tech preparing small furniture items for screening.



**TETRA TECH**

B-15

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 16  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** West

**Date:** June 17, 2009

**Photographer:** James Caruthers, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Charles Berry, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** Items that the homeowners determined they did not want screened. These items were subsequently disposed of with the remainder of the mercury-contaminated material.



**TETRA TECH**

B-16

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 17**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** West

**Date:** June 29, 2009

**Photographer:** Stephen Ball, EPA

**Witness:** Diedra Lloyd, EPA

**Subject:** Demolition of the structure.



**TETRA TECH**

B-17

TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)



**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. 18**  
**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**TDD Number:** TTEMI-05-001-0102

**Location:** Goodwater Mercury Spill

**Orientation:** South

**Date:** June 17, 2009

**Photographer:** James Caruthers, Tetra Tech

**Witness:** Carter Williamson, Tetra Tech

**Subject:** One of five roll-off boxes containing nonhazardous mercury-contaminated waste generated at the site.



**TETRA TECH**

B-18

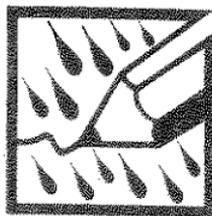
TDD No. TTEMI-05-001-0102  
(Goodwater Mercury Spill)

**APPENDIX C**  
**CONTAMINATED ITEMS LOG**  
(1 Page)



**APPENDIX D**  
**LOGBOOK NOTES**  
(33 Pages)

Goodwater, AL Mercury Response



*"Rite in the Rain"*

ALL-WEATHER

**JOURNAL**

No. 391

TEMI-05-001-0102

Goodwater, Coosa County, Alabama

"*Rite in the Rain*"  
ALL-WEATHER WRITING PAPER



1  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

2  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

3  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

4  
Project \_\_\_\_\_



6/13/9

0820 START (C. Berry + C. Roden) +  
OSC Williamson arrive  
at Lot 510 Rte 3 Goodwater, AL

- Homeowner spilled  $\approx 1/6$  mercury  
in the bedroom + vacuumed it  
up in October 2008.

After acquiring medical problems,  
homeowners were diagnosed with  
mercury poisoning.

- Carpets has been removed from the  
bedroom.

### Residents -

Karen Hardy 50 yrs

Gary Hardy 42 yrs

Jerek Stage 6 yrs (grandchildren that have)

Jae Stage 4 yrs (visited since spill.)

Resident Karen Hardy will locate Jerek and Jae's  
address later this ~~after~~ morning.

0830 Warming up 2 Lumex 915A Hg  
Vapor analyzer.

0845 START Lumex cal checked R=4%  
EPA owned Lumex R=5%.

0910 START enters home. House has been  
closed up for approx 15 min.

\* GPS coords N 33.064929, W-86.137169\*

C. Roden

6/13/9

Entrance  $1600 \text{ ng/m}^3$

10 second breathing room average in the center of each room

House temp =  $75^\circ\text{F}$

Living Room = 10s avg =  $2,239$  (constant)

Bedroom 1 = 10s avg =  $2,577 \text{ ng/m}^3$

Storage Room off Bedroom 1 = 10s avg =  $2,463 \text{ ng/m}^3$

Hallway / Laundry Area = 10s avg =  $2,774 \text{ ng/m}^3$

Washing machine 10s avg =  $9,560 \text{ ng/m}^3$

Bathroom 10s avg =  $2,735 \text{ ng/m}^3$

Bedroom #2 entrance, 10s avg =  $14,720 \text{ ng/m}^3$

Kitchen 10s avg =  $1,891 \text{ ng/m}^3$

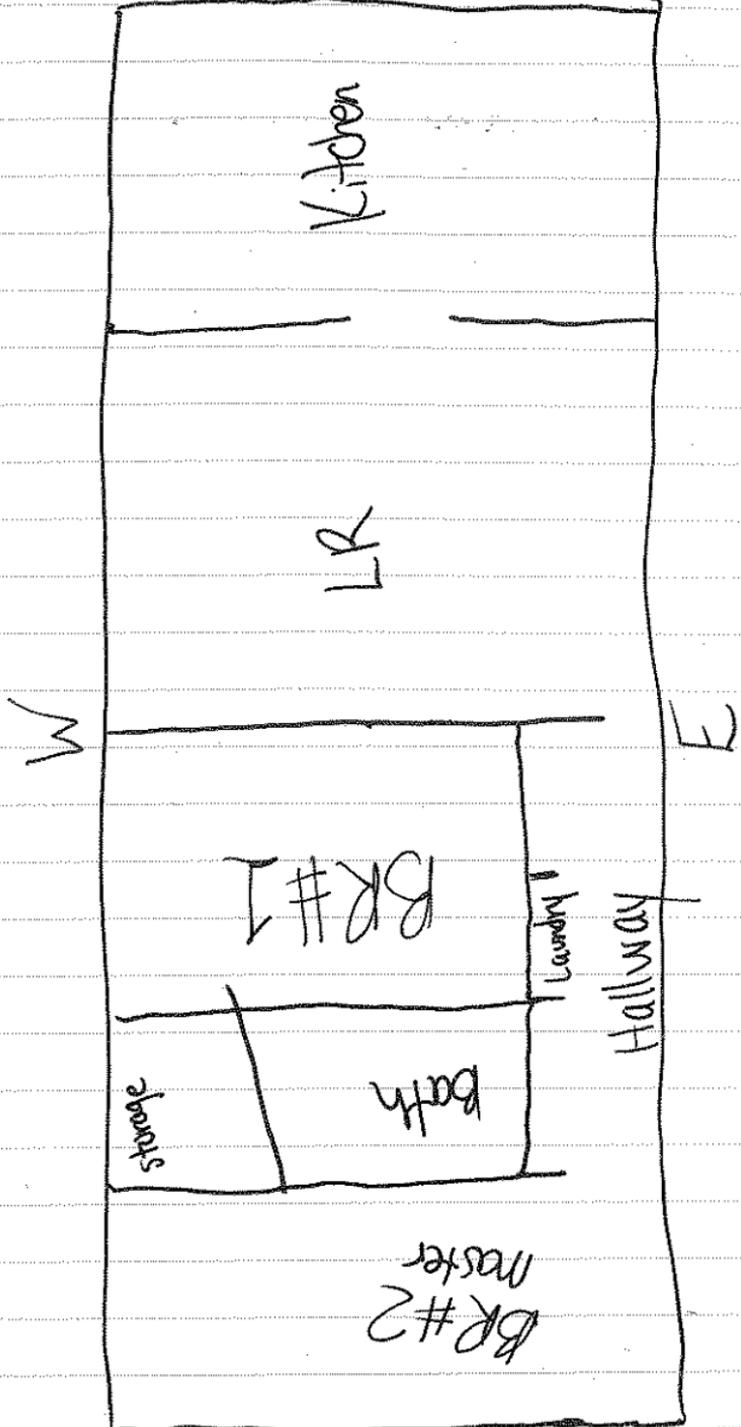
Refridgerator 10s avg =  $1,968 \text{ ng/m}^3$

Stand Alone freezer 10s avg =  $2,469 \text{ ng/m}^3$

C. Koch

9/13/0

N



C. Roach S



6  
06/13/09

Resident's (Gary Hardy) By-Pap machine  
screened as ambient.

1010 - ADEM Grady Springer arrives on-site.

1030 - Weather for Good Water, AL (site)

F 6.3°F, 68% Humidity, Raining

~~GPS coords: N 33.06487 W 88.00000, N 33.06487 W 88.00000~~

1130 START leaves site for lunch and supplies  
back in Alexander City.

→ 1045 EPA activates ERS Contractor WRS.  
WRS is sending sub-contractor USES,  
demobilizing from Birmingham, AL  
should be here in approx. 2 hours.

1315 - START arrives back on-site after picking  
up needed supplies from Wal-Mart.

1320 - START replaces filter on Lumex and  
cal check  $R = 4\%$ .

1325 - USES crew arrives on-site.

OSC Williamson requests START to screen  
clothes before removing from site. Note.  
Clothes the residents plan to take to hotel.

1345 - START screens items that will be taken off-site  
1st bag - A. 15K (only numbering bags that  
fail initial screening)

2nd bag - ~~9302~~ 9332, medications bags, recommen  
residents obtain new nylon medication bags

C. Rodu

06/13/09

3rd bag - Safe - 1255 @

2nd bag re-screened at 4K (medication)

Woman's clothing bag screened 787

Man's clothing bag 1066 @

START Berry splits bag A into separate bags

Ford F150 Truck screened @ 480.

Ford Taurus Car screened @ 466.

From original bag A, a medical machine

screens 4800. Another sub-bag screens

@ 243 (toiletries), third sub-bag, 2nd medical m

screens @ 353, 4th sub-bag, medical machine

accessories screens @ 229

1420 START takes photo documentation of home before ERS starts to gut mobile home

Entrance 12000

Living Room 12.000

Master Bed (#2) 14.000

Bathroom @

Hallway @

START Roden takes photos of Master Bed.

1445. USES crew ~~extra~~ cleans a small pile

north of mobile home. START Berry screens couches in pile east (behind)

mobile home = 1200.

C. Roden

06/13

1505 - START puts up tent and lies plastic inside in case of rain.

1530 - START prepares to screen items USES has placed outside to ventilate.

Lumex cal check R = 5%.

<u>Bag</u>	<u>Screening Value</u>
B	15.550
C	25 k
D	15 k
E	36 k
F	19 k
G	19 k
H	14 k
I	34 k
J	<del>8</del> 14 k
K	40+ k
L	21 k
M	25 k
N	23 k
O	27 k
P	26 k
Q	10 k
R	18 k
S	13 k
T	26 k

Roch

06/13

<del>Bag</del>	Screening Value
U	19 K
V	41 K
W	28 K
X	23 K
Y	29 K
Z	12 K
AA	30+ K
BB	15 K
CC	12 K
DD	10 K
EE	25 K
FF	12 K
<del>GG</del>	

1800. After letting the above items b@ke in the sun for thirty min., START re-screens items.

<del>2nd Screening</del>	<del>Bag</del>	<del>Screening Value</del>
	B	
	C	
	D	
	E	

New game plan: Venting material will be re-bagged and screen before leaving. The items that cannot be ventilated will be

10  
06/13

\*Note\* USES observes an electrical hazard at the breaker box. The air conditioner's power cord is duct-taped at mid-point running to breaker box. It seems the breaker box is not stable and barely hanging on the wall. Creating an extremely hazardous situation for the USES to gut mobile home. EPA, USES and START discuss contracting an electrician.

1800-bagged, sealed and store in the house over night.

1830. All the old lettering/numbering system is now invalid. Items that were grouped in the previous bags are now grouped w/ new different items in new bags. Below is the new identifying system. Cal Test - R - 6%.

2nd Screening	Bag	Screening Value
	GG	30 K
	HH	14 K
	II	12 K

All others cleared the contaminated item screening level.  $< 10,000 \text{ ng/m}^3$ . The three bags listed above will be re-screened in 30 min.

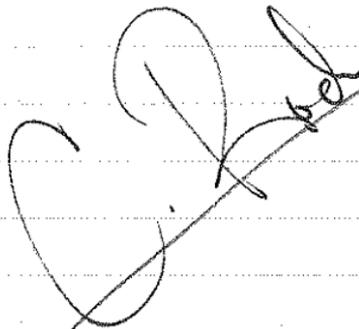
C. Rodu

06/13  
1900.

Bag  
II  
GG  
HH

Screening Value  
17 K  
25 K  
14 K

Photograph and momentos bag = 1300, will rescreen for validity. Bag had been opened when initially screened. Photo bag has not been given an identifier as of yet i.e. II, GG, etc  
1950 - START off site.

6  


06/14

0805 - START on-site.

Lumex cal test  $R = 5\%$

Living Room = 1100 (just inside door)

↳ Mattress = 2500

Master Bed Entrance = 15,000

↳ Floor 30,000

↳ Floor under shelf area = 40,000

↳ Track on left closet = 44,000

↳ Track on right closet = 40,000 +

0845 - USES checks electrical supply lines

in the master bedroom for hazardous

working conditions. ERS contractor could not

locate an electrician to come out to

site on a Sunday. START Berry has been

tasked to make another attempt at finding

an electrician. The main problem is the

220 electrical lines, running from the air

conditioner to breaker box, is frayed.

Weather = 40% chance of rain, before noon

78°F Currently cloudy, 80% humidity

0915 - START Berry made calls and left voicemail

for each call. Checks washing machine

screening level is 11,000

START recommends mattress be disposed.

C. Rod

02/14

0945. USES will ~~take~~ <sup>put</sup> plastic layer tacked to the ceiling since ~~vapor may~~ mercury vapor may be attached to surface.

START Roden gathers specs on mattress, sheets and box spring. Top mattress has ~~no tags or labels~~. Box Spring is the same pattern as top mattress, seems to be bought as pair.

Box Spring

Tag Specs: Made by Sealy Mattresse Company, Conway, GA, NC347GA Model # 652016 Queen, 2629 date Envision Firm, PC # 3564, 01-10-23 Six pillows, several layers of covers and sheet.

Refer to photos.

1100- Electrician cannot be located to come out today, USES will tear out floor and dispose of mattress.

After stripping sheets off mattress and bringing it out in the sunlight, A Posturepedic, Sealy label was found on top mattress.

1158- START off-site for lunch.

1300- START back on-site

Lumex cal test R=6%

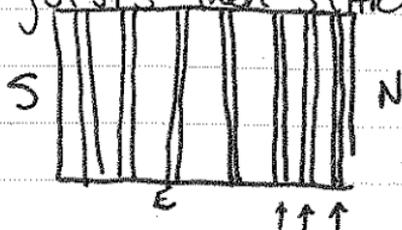
batt. dies for 1st unit, transition to a second unit. Cal test R=4%

C. Roden

06/14

1440. START screens master Bedroom  
Door Ent. Ambient = 16 k, Floor by door = 30 k  
Insulation that was previously under floor  
is 20 kt, Contamination seems to  
be soaked into the floor joists near  
upper right corner of room. Ambient  
air in room is approx 6 k.

1500. USES will tear out the first three  
Floor joists then START will re-screen.



\*Note\*

Karen Hardy told OSC this morning  
her son's house doesn't need to be  
screened. Children's blood test came  
back w/ a result of 20.

1615

~~1815~~ (2)

START prepares to screen personal items  
placed in bag earlier today. Cal test R=14/  
Bag screens @ ~~3950~~ (2) test mode, Bag passes  
Residents arrived on property approx. 30 min  
ago. Resident Karen Hardy requests we try to  
salvage her jewelry box, toys and prom dresses

C. Rock

06/14  
1645  
1045

START berry prepares to re-screen master bedroom floor joists. Cal test = R = 20%.

② ~~Ambient levels~~ - Need to switch Lumex units. Seems to have too much drift to obtain valid screening values. Cal test R = 19%.

1730 - Ambient = Breathing Zone = 2LeO

Floor Joists: 1st beam near door = 5000, 8000

2nd beam = 5000,

4th beam = 1,000, 3,000, 2000, 1000

Plate at Top end of room (shelf area, West) screening @ 5,000.

---

START recommends ERS contractors take out all floor joists, base plates and studs to master bedroom.

1815 - After much deliberation, OSC instructs Contractors to stifle master bedroom operation close and seal the rest of mobile home, re-screen in the morning to see if the rest of home will clear contamination levels. USES will place a fan ~~to~~ in home to create a negative air effect, attempting to suck vapors out of home. Currently the ambient air throughout mobile home is 500 (excluding Master Bed) the floors range between 300 to 900.

C. Rodu

2e/14

If the mobile home exceeds contamination levels, OSC will look into costs and determine whether to replace mobile home altogether.

1915 START, ADEM and EPA bag banded items.

1950 START screens bagged items. Cal tests - R=8

1 = 20,000 ~~toys~~ wooden furniture

2 = 20,000 bags, medical supplies

3 = 25,000 Shoes

4 = 15,000 electronic cords, phone box

5 = 30,000 metals, markers

6 = 18,000 books

Discontinuing to inventory items that are above contaminated levels. Items will be disposed w/ the exception of toys, momentos and sentimental clothing.

2030 - START off site.

C. Rodin

06/15

0721 - START on-site. Lumex cal test =  $R=8\%$ .

USES already on-site.

Living Room - N End of mobile Home - Screened at  
~~Kitchen - 100 and graded down gradually~~ (2)

low levels of 100 gradually going up as screening moved to the south end of mobile home.

The containment controls failed over night ventilating home. (The plastic fell) USES will

staple plastic and attempt containment for a 2nd time. START Berry will screen the bathroom

The ERS crew has to take down a base ~~board~~ <sup>plate</sup> that screening hot between master and bath but the

sub-floor is rotten, so in order to replace base plate the ERS crew will have to replace sub-floor.

Tub will have to be taken out in order to do this. Bathroom levels = Ambient = 250,

Common wall b/t master and bath = 500,

Opposite wall (N. end) = 300

0900 - START will re-screen floor joists.

Cal test  $R=15\%$ ;1000 - All floor ~~have~~ <sup>(2)</sup> joists have contamination between 2500 - 5000.

1045 - START rescreens N. end of mobile home

Ambient air = 250

USES will tear down N and W walls of master

C. Rode

06/15

- as well as install the insulation in the ceiling.
1100. Weather, 95°F, 72% Humidity
1130. START off-site for lunch.
1245. START on-site. Electricians are here to inspect master bedroom. START screens for safe work levels. b/t 100-350. Electricians will wear booties while assessing electrical wiring. Electricians recommend replacing the air conditioning unit. The current one is unsafe to operate.
- 1300 START screens N. end of home and levels = 1500. USES disturbed the containment controls so the exact level is unknown. Mis-communication b/t ERS and START
- 1400 - USES continues to gut floor joists in MB.
- 1430 ~~Since~~ Since levels were high in the N. end even after containment controls were disturbed, it's been determined all items need to come out and be stored in an external storage unit.
1445. USES sprays CS102. material that converts elemental mercury to inorganic salts. Angela ~~Reams~~ <sup>Reams</sup> Coosa County Health Dept. arrives onsite to check on status of residents OSC Matt Huyser arrives shortly thereafter
- 1545 - Effort to take out tub and re-place. Sub-floor is greater than original investment

C. Red

06/15

in home. ELS contractor will not take out tub.

1610 - START Roden demobilizes from site.

START Caruthers arrived on site  
w/ Replacer her @ 1550.

1650 - HARDY'S WANT TO KEEP:

STATE QUARTERS

CLEAR CONTAINER w/ GREEN LID JEWELRY

BRINKS LOCKBOX

BED FRAME

TOYS NOT IN BOXES - THROW OUT

1700 Begin moving everything out of  
the LR, BR1, & kitchen.

- Previously-screened items will  
be placed into the U-haul.

All others to the screening  
plastic.

1745 2 more vacuum cleaners

Bissell 3522-1

Eureka TDU-HEPA 4383 A

1800 - Building has been propped for  
testing. BR has plastic stretched  
on floor & interior wall. PVC  
sogling tube ~~stretched~~<sup>cut</sup> extends  
from the center of the room through  
the contain wall at the doorway

COMING

6/15/9

1800 (cont) LR BR1, Kitchen set up venting. Mast BR screened at  $5750 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Has been closed up for 1 hr. Will open window + vent to below  $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . T must be below  $80$  to run test. Currently  $88^\circ$  in Kitchen.

1820	Pre-test + screening $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	T ( $^\circ\text{F}$ )
	LR - 250	89
	Kitch - 150	89
	BR1 - 500	89
	Mast BR - 250	86

2025 Begin 8-hour test in LR Section

Kit -

LR

BR1

~~5 + 821~~

2115 Mast, BR fails after only 1 hour. Weather Service  $T^\circ = 79$  outside but noticeably warmer inside. The digital thermometer failed at the start of testing this evening, so no inside every  $T^\circ$  is determined (but  $\rightarrow$  85 hot

6/15/9

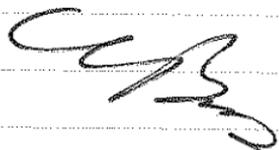
8-hr Clearance test 12

	LL	K <sub>1</sub> +	BRI	MBR	R <sub>1</sub>
2015	103	80	437	299	1
2115	6048	501 <sub>n</sub>	975 <sub>16</sub>	1835	15
<del>2215</del>	<del>7624</del>	<del>16580</del>	<del>on</del>		<del>9</del>
2215	7624	774-0	1658-0	25712	9

6/15/9

1010 START Linex has dead battery. Start up EPA unit & cal check  $R = 99\%$ . Will perform 1 more screening to see if possible reduction with decreasing T. —

1030 3rd reading confirms Test failure. It will not pass tonight. O & C Huysen cancels the rest of the rest START off site after securing house.



6-16-09

0710 - START - J. CARUTHERS ON SITE

0715 - WARM UP LUMEX R = 5%

0730 - EPA - OSC - M. HUYSER & USES ON SITE.

RAIN OVERNIGHT - GET WATER OFF PLASTIC COVERING HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.

0820 - LUMEX

KITCHEN - S 853 ng/m

Si 855

LIVING RM S 663

Si 657

MIDDLE BR S 1086

Si 1069

MASTER BR S 504

Si 512

MASTER BR WAS OVER 1,000 FOR FIRST FEW 10 SEC. CYCLES

0842 - HARDY'S ON SITE

PREP. TO CLEAN OUT MIDDLE BR  
OSC HUYSER INFORMS HARDY'S TRAILER MAY BE TOTAL LOSS.

- WILL MONITOR HOURLY AS USES CLEANOUT MIDDLE BR.

0855 - BAG Ms. HARDY'S PURSE, WAIT

15 MIN. TO WARM, THEN MONITOR  
w/LUMEX

0910 - MONITOR MS. HARDY'S PURSE:

S 1250

Si 1275

LET PURSE AIR OUT

0922 - KITCHEN - S 122

Si 125

LIV. RM - S 138

Si 141

MID. BR - S 458

Si 481

ABOVE READINGS w/AIR CIRCULATION

0925 - OSC - C. WILLIAMSON ON SITE

0935 - MASTER BR - S 1439

Si 1452

1010 - U-HAUL TRUCK BOX - S 85

Si 90

1020 - KITCHEN - S 56

Si 53

LIV. RM - S 57

Si 66

MID. BR - S 183

Si 217

W/AIR CIRCULATION

MASTER BR - S 1522  
 Si 1525

1100 - MR. HARDY SAID ANYTHING A CHILD  
 MAY USE: TOYS, CLOTHES, BEDDING, ETC.  
 TO TRASH.

START WILL STILL INVENTORY &  
 PHOTOGRAPH.

1120 - KITCHEN S 51  
 Si 52  
 LIV. RM S 65  
 Si 63  
 MID. BR S 84  
 Si 86

W/AIR CIRCULATION

MASTER BR S 1512  
 Si 1516

1120 - KITCHEN S 63 TE LUMEX  
 Si 62 R-770

LIV. RM S 56  
 Si 54

MID BR S 107  
 Si 111

W/AIR CIRCULATION

MASTER BR - 30 SEC. AVG.

SC 1557

R 170

1330 KITCHEN S 58

Si 62

LIV. RM S 41

Si 44

MID. BR S 69

Si 72

W/AIR CIRCULATION

MASTER BR - 30 SEC. AVG.

SC 1733

R 70 1

TEMP 100.6 °F

1418 X-MAS TREE - UNOPENED

SC < 244

R 70

X-MAS TREE - USED DEC. 08

SC < 244

R 70

TENT - SC 998

R 70 69

~~FILE~~

1430 KITCHEN - 30 SEC. AVG.  
SC < 244

R 90

LIV. RM. SC < 244

R 90

MID. BR SC < 244

R 90

MASTER BR SC 1941

R 90 4

TEMP 100.9 °F

1510 - EPA - HEALTH/TOXIC. HAS DETERMINED NOT TO PUT RESIDENTS BACK IN TRAILER.

EPA-ESC - WILLIAMSON EXPLAINS TO HARDY'S THE TRAILER IS A LOSS. CORPS OF ENG. WILL LOOK FOR A COMPARABLE TRAILER.

1523 M/S HARDY SAID IT IS O.K. TO TRASH ANGEL FIGURINES.

1533 - USES TO REMOVE ALL FOOD ITEMS FROM TRAILER.

1630 - USES CLEANING OUT UNDER NORTH END OF TRAILER, LAWN MOWERS, GAS, OIL, POOL CHEMICAL, ETC. SEGREGATE CHEMICALS.

6/16/9

1505 - OSC HUYSER HAZ-CAT WIND-  
SHIELD WASHER FLUID,  
1525 - COVER LAWN EQUIP,  
1750 - HARDY'S GOING TO GO THROUGH  
ITEMS ALREADY LUMEX SCREENED  
& DECIDE TO KEEP OR THROW AWAY.  
1845 - START OFF SITE.  
——— 4WC

6-17-09

0730 - START - C. BERRY, J. CARUTHE  
USES ON SITE.  
PREP. TO SCAN ITEMS HARDY'S  
WANT TO KEEP.  
0750 CONNEX BOX ON SITE.  
0812 LUMEX - R-5%  
CONNEX BOX # EX25MIZJ0032  
1040 - HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THE  
HARDY'S DO NOT WANT TO KEEP  
& WERE NOT SCANNED ARE  
DISPLAYED IN PHOTOS - 2531  
THRU 2550 + VIDEO,  
1105 - DOCUMENT INTERIOR OF  
TRAILER - PHOTOS 2554 - 2586

6/11/9

Appliances

- Stove good condition
- Refrigerator electric 4 cycle electronic
- Fridge Hotpoint side-by-side defrost with ice/water dispenser
- Kelvinator deep freezer older model 218" x 30" x 40"
- Window unit air conditioners x 2
- Dryer Kenmore 11/4 duty x large
- Washer GE 6 cycle 2-speed X-large capacity
- Microwave GE small capacity turntable
- Dishwasher Whirlpool push button / dial

HHW

- 1 tri-chlor bottle Oxidizer
- Neutrals 1 antifreeze
- 1 windshield wash
- Toxics 5000 spray
- Aqua Chem algacide
- ACIDS 2 lawn mower batteries
- Bases 2 pool chemical pH adjustment

car

5/17/9

Ppt. Iron 2 Keros. containers

2 Gas cans

1 Coleman fuel

2 1 gallon assorted oils  
(used motor, new motor)

5 aerosol cans

1 oil-paint can

Compressed gas 2 35II propane

1 plumber's propane.

1137 - BIG BRACH TOOL BOX IS O.K.

1145 ~~Kenny Owen reports USES has~~

~~2 requested all utilities be disconnected~~

Kenny Owen of USES states all utility providers have been contacted to discontinue service.

-C. Williamson has USES move HHW to outside storage steel. EPA will not dispose of this material.

1315 - 2ND ROLL OFF ON SITE # 25388

1430 - SCAN ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN AIRING OUT.

92°F 60% HUMIDITY IN SHADE  
1500 - USES CLEANING UP SITE.

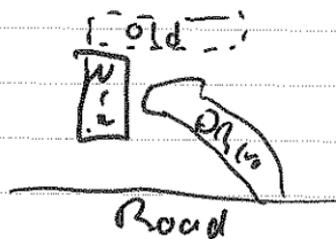
TRZ

1615 - CLEAN UP PHOTOS 2594 TO  
~~2608~~ 2612.  
AND

1645 - START OFF SITE - JOB COMPLETE

8/26/9

0905 C. Berry arrives at site. New trailer is installed & the Hardy's have moved in. Trailer is in a different orientation than the old one on the lot.



- Photograph interior

0930 Warm up Lumex

0945 R=15% Background  $\approx 200 \text{ ng/m}^3$ .  
Likely some lingering residue in the house. Will account for this in readings until next R Test.

- 'Bump' test shows responsiveness to Mercury fillings.

0950 Begin screening of items previously screened "clean" left inside the storage box. Items left include a tool box, computer components, TV, clothing, jewels, holiday decorations, and a butter's tuck.

1030 Most items screened between 200-400  $\text{ng/m}^3$ . Highest observed reading was 860  $\text{ng/m}^3$

*Colin*

8/26/9

1030 (cont) OSC Williamson releases all of the items back to the Hardys without any conditions. Does suggest they simply dispose of any items they feel they do not need.

-The storage shed will remain on site for another week while the Hardys unload it.

1040 WEATHER - cloudy + overcast; humid.  
T: 75°F.

Personnel on site: C. Berg, SPART  
OSC Williamson, EPA  
Grady Springer, ADEM  
William Leshare, USACE

1055 USACE will install permanent stairs + Mr. Hardy will obtain quotes for seeding the area around the trailer

1100 All EPA site ops complete. off site

*CEB*

**APPENDIX E**  
**TABLE OF WITNESSES**  
(1 Page)

## TABLE OF WITNESSES

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