

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VII
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

From: Heath Smith

To: SCOTT HAYES, ERR
Bradley Vann, EPA

Mary Peterson, SUPR/ERSB/PPSS

Subject: Franklin County Lead Site
St. Clair, MO
Latitude: 38.350000
Longitude: -90.980000

POLREP No.: 1

Site #: A7E7

Reporting Period: January 2008 through March 2009

D.O. #:

Start Date:

Response Authority: CERCLA

Mob Date:

Response Type: Time-Critical

Demob Date:

NPL Status: Non NPL

Completion Date:

Incident Category: Removal Action

CERCLIS ID #: MON000705442

Contract #

RCRIS ID #:

Site Description

Franklin County, Missouri, consists of 922 square miles located in the Ozark region of Eastern Missouri bordered by the Missouri River to the north. The county is known for steep hills, deep valleys, caves, springs, and sinkholes. The temperate climate of the area is known for hot summers and cold winters. According to the 2000 Census, approximately 101,579 people live in Franklin County. Because Franklin County is located in the very Northwestern portion of the Lead and Barite District of Southeast Missouri, it has been subject to light to moderate historic mining activities and potentially associated areas of residual contamination.

Lead mining areas were confined to the south central portion of the county where lead-bearing mineral deposits of the Cambrian and Ordovician age are located near the surface. Lead, iron, copper, and barite have been mined in the county since the 1800s and the area grew at its peak to include several distinct mines, the largest of which was Virginia Mine. During its operation, Virginia Mine produced more than 25,000 tons of lead. One hundred and seventy-seven mining sites have been identified by the Inventory of Mines, Operations, and Prospects (IMOP) in Franklin County and waste from these mining sites has the potential to be harmful to human and environmental health if not dealt with properly. The waste contamination concerns are primarily with lead, however may also include minerals containing arsenic, cadmium, and/or barium.

In 2006, the EPA START contractor conducted an Integrated Site Assessment (ISA) in Franklin County. In total, 117 residential properties were screened for lead, barium, cadmium, and arsenic contamination. Four properties were found to have lead soil levels above 400 parts per million (ppm), while 15 wells contained lead concentrations greater than the MCL of 15 parts per billion (ppb). In early fall of 2008, the sampling continued this time in the form of a pilot study to compare a couple of different sampling methodologies in terms of analytical accuracy/repeatability and cost-efficiency/time of effort for the methods. During this effort, two more contaminated wells were discovered, bringing the grand total in Franklin County to 17 thus far, and one more property had contaminated soil greater than 400 ppm, for a total of five in the county.

Current Activities

A mass mailing was sent out in January 2009, to the rural route three (RR # 3) mailing district of St. Clair, Franklin County, Missouri, to request permission for access to additional properties to continue the residential screening of yards and well water. A total of 682 letters were mailed out to property owners in this mailing district. Return letters containing permission from home owners number over 100 by early February. Current plans call for sampling of these properties to start by late February or early March.

To date, 17 private wells have been found to contain lead contamination above Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) standards. Those property owners and any other properties sharing the contaminated wells

were offered bottled water as a substitute for their drinking and cooking water. Field screening results showed five properties that exceed health-based limits of lead in their yard soils. Further investigations will occur in spring 2009 to determine if lead-based paint played any factor in that soil contamination.

Planned Removal Actions

EPA is providing bottled water to residents with contaminated well water. Further investigation will be conducted on properties with possible soil contamination to determine if removal of contamination may be necessary.

Next Steps

START contractors are preparing for the next round of sampling to begin in late winter early spring 2009. Access has already been obtained to 111 new properties for this third round of sampling.

Key Issues

None at this time.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

response.epa.gov/franklincounty

POLREP #1 Last Updated 4/8/2009