

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

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009
From: Paul L. Kahn & Eric M. Daly

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Subject: Elemental Mercury Levels Detected in Soil Samples
Frasier Paint & Paper Soil Site
5 Logan Avenue, Glens Falls, NY
Latitude: 43.3177167
Longitude: -73.6527667

POLREP No.:	14	Site #:	YY
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	Pre-Deployment
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
CERCLIS ID #:	NYN000206215	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

In September, 2007, NYSDEC Region 5 rep. Mike McClean contacted the EPA Region 2 Regional Response Center and requested EPA assistance with an abandoned paint store in the City of Glens Falls, NY. The building had been acquired by the City through a tax foreclosure and the dangerous condition of the building was discovered by while the property was being evaluated for a Brownfields redevelopment Grant.

The building was located in the center of a residential area, adjacent to an elementary school and ball field. The materials inside the building were identified by DEC and Brownfields assessors as paint and solvents.

On September 20, 2007, OSC Eric Daly met with NYSDEC and City officials and performed a preliminary assessment of the building. OSC Daly observed that the roof structure was deteriorated and that approximately 1,000 rusted containers of paint and solvent were haphazardly stacked throughout the facility. EPA conducted air monitoring along the perimeter of the building, inside the premises, and along the school grounds.

The building consisted of: the main level, a basement, and an attic. The entire structure was unstable. The roof was dramatically bowed and perforated and the main room ceiling was collapsing. Containers of solvents and leaking/rusted containers of paint and unknown substances were located on all 3 levels and haphazardly stacked.

EPA was officially requested to conduct a removal action by the Mayor of Glens Falls, the Glens Falls Fire Department, and the Principal of Sanford Street Elementary School. NYSDEC issued a verbal referral of

the site to EPA on September 20, 2007, and, based on the verbal referral, on September 20, 2007, ERRD Director G. Pavlou gave a verbal authorization to proceed with a removal action. A formal written referral was received by EPA on September 21, 2007.

EPA mobilized its ERRS contractors on September 24, 2007. Initial efforts concentrated on stabilizing the structure and identifying, and consolidating the containers. All hazardous substances were packaged into cubic-yard boxes, staged in Conex shipping containers in an adjacent parking lot, and shipped off-Site for disposal. On October 10, 2007 the removal action was completed.

The City demolished the empty structure in the fall of 2007, and hired a consultant to perform a Phase II soil analysis. On June 24, 2008, the City received a report which revealed the presence of elevated levels of mercury in the soil underneath the footprint of the building. Following the release of this report, EPA received a written request from the City for assistance in removing the contaminated soil, and a written referral of the Site to EPA from the NYSDEC for additional removal work was sent on 8/6/2008.

Inasmuch as the school year starts on September 3rd, the time frame in which to acquire additional samples/data, and then perform any needed removal work, is not enough to complete the work prior to the opening of school. Consequently, initial efforts will concentrate on inter-rim measures to secure the Site and acquire additional data. OSC Paul Kahn has taken the lead role in this phase of the removal assessment.

Current Activities

Field screening the six bags of soil acquired on April 30 - May 1 revealed the presence of elemental mercury in parts-per-billion concentrations. Review of the mercury vapors detected by the Lumex Mercury Monitor have been posted to this web site in the Documents section.

A review of the data by EPA's ERT technical staff resulted in an opinion that the levels were high enough to be a problem for the community. The samples were given to ERT for additional confirmatory testing, but plans for the removal action will now go forward.

The contact person for the City of Glens Falls, Tom Donohue, has been contacted and informed of the current findings and situation. He has expressed his gratification that the removal action will finally go forward.

Planned Removal Actions

Integrate the field screening and the lab results into the Action Memo and complete same.

Schedule the removal action to begin as soon as possible after the grammar school is closed for the summer.

Next Steps

Complete the Action Memo and paperwork associated with obtaining funding, selecting a removal contractor, etc.

Key Issues

See above.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
RST/START	\$14,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$1,000.00	7.14%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$14,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$1,000.00	7.14%

* 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/FrasierPaint-PaperSoil

POLREP #14 Last Updated 5/14/2009