

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

Date: Friday, April 23, 2004

From: Davis, Garvey, Nold

To: Robert Sink, City of Omaha
Gordon Andersen, Missouri River Treatment Plant
Todd Davis, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Michael Arends, Missouri River Treatment Plant
Bahnke Donald, U.S.E.P.A.
Bryant Burnett, U.S.E.P.A.
Kevin Mould, U.S.E.P.A.
Robert Stewart, Department of the Interior
Eric Jenkins, Fed. Emerg. Mgmt. Agency

Subject: Omaha Lead Site
Greater Omaha Nebraska Area, Omaha, NE
Latitude: 41.2033000
Longitude: -95.9308000

POLREP No.:	17	Site #:	NESFN0703481
Reporting Period:	4/19-24/2004	D.O. #:	0006
Start Date:	9/25/2003	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	3/22/2004	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	NESFN0703481	Contract #	68-S7-02-04
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The site is located in the Omaha metropolitan area and encompasses Council Bluffs, Iowa, Carter Lake, Iowa, and east Omaha. It is centered around downtown Omaha, Nebraska.

ASARCO Incorporated (ASARCO) operated a lead refinery at 500 Douglas Street in Omaha, Nebraska, for over 100 years beginning in the 1870s. The operation of the refinery ceased in 1997. As a routine part of the refinery operation, lead particles were emitted into the atmosphere at the refinery. In addition, the Gould Incorporated Lead Battery Recycling Plant was located at 555 Farnam street in Omaha and was a secondary smelter of lead from discarded lead batteries. The blast furnace used to smelt the lead at the Gould plant emitted lead particles into the air from that refinery. The Gould plant closed in 1982.

Several other facilities in the Omaha area used lead in their manufacturing processes. A few of these included Carter White Lead at 21st and Locust Street which produced white lead paint bases and red lead and litharge protective coatings until 1936, Omaha Shot and Lead which later became Lawrence Shot and Lead, and then became National Lead Company which manufactured lead shot by melting pig lead, Grant Storage Battery Company, Storage Battery Factory, and Exide Corporation which manufactured lead storage batteries.

Numerous other locations in the Omaha area such as foundries, iron works, metal salvaging companies and other manufacturers used or processed lead at their facilities.

Current Activities

On March 25, 2004, an Action Memorandum Amendment was signed. This amendment changes the scope of work to include daycare facilities and elevated blood levels (EBLs) that were previously addressed under the first action memorandum, however, still addresses highly contaminated properties with soil concentrations of 1,200 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) or greater.

Continued activities are being centralized from the Missouri River Treatment Plant located at 5600 S 10th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68107-3501. The city of Omaha has partnered with the EPA to allow the use of a portion of the facility.

OSC Eric Nold participated in a biweekly team meeting conference call on 4/21. The ERRS contractor

conducted interviews this week to hire a more local labor force. The punch list crew continued to repair damages from last year and this year.

There were ten properties this week that have been excavated and either completed, or are in the final stages of completion, and then backfilled.

Planned Removal Actions

Continued prioritization will be given to EBLs, day care facilities, and highly contaminated properties where children seven years of age or younger live.

Next Steps

The Missouri River Treatment facility has encouraged the EPA to continue to utilize the same areas of the facility for another year under the existing terms as stated in the access agreement that currently expires in May 2004.

The EPA was informed that a request for extension, allowing the EPA access to May 2005, would need to be prepared and sent to the city of Omaha. OSC Dan Garvey completed that document and it has been submitted to the city for their review.

A sample was collected and submitted for analysis of the second 1000 cubic-yard stockpile prior to loading out. Load-out is tentatively scheduled to begin Thursday 4/29.

Key Issues

There is a list of 570 properties, with greater than 1,200 ppm lead, that is currently being prioritized for this phase of the project.

An additional list of 10 EBLs and 4 day cares was received and are receiving the highest priority. Pre-walk thru property visits are being scheduled and excavation began on those properties on April 12, 2004.

After those prioritized properties have been cleaned up, geographic locations will be utilized to maximize available resources concerning the greater than 1,200 ppm lead properties.

response.epa.gov/OmahaLeadPhaseIV