

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
ST Clair Shores PCB Drain #2 - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #2
ST Clair Shores PCB Drain #2
B5VE
St Clair Shores, MI
Latitude: 42.4867400 Longitude: -82.8986700

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From: Jeffrey Kimble, OSC
Date: 3/26/2010
Reporting Period: March 15, 2010 - March 26, 2010

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B5VE	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	12/30/2009	Start Date:	12/30/2009
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

ER/Time-Critical, Fund Lead

1.1.2 Site Description

The St. Clair Shores PCB Drain #2 Site is located in St Clair Shores, Michigan. Several studies and two removal actions have been conducted in the area for PCB contamination. A source of PCBs still exists at the site and may encompass a several block area where PCBs have been documented to be present in significant quantities in an underground storm drain and utility corridor.

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is generally located near the intersection of Bon Brae and Harper Avenue in St Clair Shores,

Michigan. PCBs are bleeding into the sewer from an unknown source are. One source are was discovered and cut off from the sewer during a previous removal action.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Uncontrolled PCBs, as high as 800,000 parts per million, are entering in the sewer and threatening to contaminate 2 canals and Lake St Clair.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

For previous information on past removal actions, follow the link below.

http://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=2082

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On December 09, 2009, EPA ER Branch and Remedial Branch attended several meetings to discuss current and new findings of high level PCBs in the 10 Mile Road Sewer Drain system. The first two meetings were with agency officials and city political leaders and were held to inform the stakeholders of the new information. In attendance were with U.S. EPA were St Clair Shores City officials, Macomb County Sewer District officials, environmental consulting firm ECT, MDEQ, and several political aides.

In those meetings, we discussed the City of St Clair Shores/Macomb County/ECT plans and current action to clean the sewer manholes and ECT's desire to place a series of weirs in the sewers (after cleaning) to allow places for sediments to build up and allow for collection. The City and ECT expressed their desire for EPA assistance to remove the approximate 1 gallon of 820,000-ppm PCB oil currently in the drain system. ECT and the City both expressed fears that if they conducted this work it would use up the remainder of the budget they have for the overall project and they would not be able to complete the work they have planned. The group feels this needs to be conducted ASAP to eliminate the potential for it to migrate down the sewer and threaten the canals. This also has to be done to allow the remainder of the manholes to be cleaned out and the weir system to be installed.

EPA and the other stakeholders then attended a public meeting with the residents. The original intent of this meeting, which had been previously planned, was to inform the residents of the progress from MDEQ and EPA remedial program on the scoring of the site. Discussions were held about the future of the site, as well as the new findings.

Subsequent meetings by U.S. EPA and ECT identified immediate concerns and time-critical concerns at the site. ECT shared current info with U.S. EPA, and this information was used to plan subsequent activities.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

From March 01, 2010 through March 12, 2010, ERRS began setting up the command post area located behind City Hall. ERRS also worked with the City of St. Clair Shores to identify staging areas and use of steel plate while dewatering the storm sewer. START worked on access with West Marine which is where the outfall is located. Access was granted on March 10, 2010.

During the week of March 15, 2010, EPA arranged for the dewatering of the storm drain. Dewatering the storm drain is an important initial step in removing sediments contaminated with PCB from the storm sewer system. Once lake water and run-off water is removed from the drain, EPA will be able to access the storm sewer with specialized equipment that will remove sediments within the drains.

On March 17, 2010 ERRS set up a large plate that prevented the flow of water from the lake back into the storm sewer. This plate isolated the Lange canal outfall. Once the plate was in place and secured, two 8-inch pumps were inserted into the outfall area. The dewatering of the sewer system began and continued throughout the night of March 17, 2010. The water was pumped over the steel plate. Debris was contained within the containment. The water levels within the contained area dropped and pumping continued.

On March 18th and 19th, 2010, dewatering activities continued. The water is being pumped over the new plate from the the area in between that plate and the existing weir at the outfall of the sewer.

From March 22, 2010 through March 26, 2010 dewatering activities continued and crews began jet vacuuming the drain along Bon Brae. Large pieces of debris and sediment were found in the line and caused issues with decanting the water off the truck. Crews removed the debris and staged it for disposal. The removed sediment was dumped into the roll-off box for solidification. The wier that was installed in December 2009 was removed from the manhole on March 22, 2010. Two water samples were collected from the oufall area to confirm the PCB levels in both the the clear and dirty water. The results, for total PCBs, were 59 ppb and 220 ppb respectively.

START delivered the Emergency Contingency Plan to local police, fire, hospital and city manager.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Ongoing, numerous leads have been pursued in the past by multiple agencies.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

This Time-Critical Action will stabilize conditions at the site temporarily. Further thorough assessment is planned to better determine the location and source of the contamination and to provide a long-term remediation.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

After completion of the action memorandum with approval from ERB management, the following actions will be undertaken.

- Dewater the section of drain along Bon Brae Road and clean the high level PCB and sediment from it,
- Install up to 25 in-sewer weirs to act as a sediment traps to allow for more effective sampling of the sediments and also help to pinpoint the location PCBs are entering the sewer,
- Conduct sampling activities in several distinct areas where current City contractors believe PCBs may be entering the drain,
- Dispose of all collected PCB waste sediments,
- Remove and dispose of the temporary "pom-pom" oil retention device, and
- Clean the outfall structure where sediments have collected adjacent to the canal.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Complete time-critical removal.

2.2.2 Issues

There exists both known and unknown sources of PCBs in this area. Specifically for this reason, the site is being studied for the potential to become a remedial action. Further thorough assessment is planned to better determine the location and source of the contamination and to provide a long-term remediation.

2.3 Logistics Section

ERRS contractors, START contractors, and EPA Region 5 FIELDS Team will provide logistical support.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Each agency/contractor will provide their own site supervisor, but all groups will conduct the activities under 1 approved U.S. EPA Site Safety Plan. Considerations will include hazardous levels of PCBs, heavy equipment safety, confined space entry, entrapment, and hazardous road work.

The site-specific emergency contingency plan was distributed to police, fire and the hospital on 3/26/2010.

2.6 Liaison Officer

The OSC.

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

The OSC

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

Robert Paulson will be the Community Involvement Coordinator for this site.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

The OSC is IC.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

MDEQ

City of St Clair Shores

4. Personnel On Site

TBD

5. Definition of Terms

OSC = On-Scene Coordinator

U.S. EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency

MDEQ = Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

PCB = Poly-chlorinated biphenyls

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Periodic

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.