

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

Date: Friday, November 20, 2009

From: Deborah Lindsey

Subject: Ravine - On-Going Removal Action
WRG4 Vermiculite Site
1210 Factory Street, Ellwood City, PA
Latitude: 40.8595660
Longitude: -80.3000080

POLREP No.:	22	Site #:	E358
Reporting Period:	10/24/09 - 11/06/09	D.O. #:	0703-03-009
Start Date:	7/16/2008	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	4/17/2008	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	PAN000305592	Contract #	EP-S3-07-03
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

See POLREP 21 for Site Description information.

Current Activities

For the period of October 24 through October 30

ERRS completed the clearing and grubbing of vegetation in the ravine and loading of the tree debris into lined roll-off boxes. Roll-off boxes were closed up and ready for transport with no additional tree debris expected.

ERRS continued to excavate asbestos-contaminated soils from the ravine. Work focused on the northwest slope of the ravine which is a steeper slope leading up to active railroad tracks. Four grid areas on the northwest slope were identified as containing asbestos contamination and marked for excavation. The OSC requested that ERRS scrape the top 2 inches off the entire northwest slope rather than in designated grids and then be visually checked for vermiculite contamination. The scraped soil was pulled down the slope and staged in the bottom of the ravine. Visual inspection did not identify vermiculite contamination on the slope after scraping. ERRS also scraped the top 3 inches of soil in the southeast corner of the ravine and it was visually inspected for vermiculite contamination. ERRS continued to scrape in this area since visual contamination was still identified. All soils scraped from the slopes were stockpiled in the bottom of the ravine and covered with plastic. Rain on October 28 made conditions too muddy and ERRS stopped work for the day. ERRS returned to work on October 29 and continued to excavate the southeast slope of the ravine and deconned large rocks uncovered during excavation. ERRS began to prepare the Site for a four day demobe period. Equipment was deconned and staged near the Command Post. Soil staging areas were further secured. 24 hour security was provided during the demobe period.

ERRS RM continued to coordinate with analytical lab and potential disposal facilities for approval of T&D of contaminated soils.

START conducting air monitoring/air sampling at up to 4 onsite stations in the ravine area during three days of operations for the work period, weather permitting. START participating in discussions with the OSC and Client Services Team in FT Meade regarding availability of analytical services and looking into the potential of a START procured laboratory. START conducted visual inspections of the northwest and southeast slopes. START confirmed that no visual vermiculite was observed on the northwest slope but the southeast slope still contains vermiculite the entire length. START also documented guidelines for excavating maximum depths using 1 to 2 foot lifts with decision not to excavate greater than 2 feet since backfill will be placed over the entire work areas except for the northwest slope. The northwest slope is too steep to receive 2 feet of backfill so ERRS will feather the backfill on to the slope as much as possible especially in specific grid areas.

For the week of October 31 through November 6

The Site was shutdown from October 30, 2009 through November 2, 2009 for a short scheduled work break. No problems reported at the Site during the break.

ERRS mobilized back to the Site and continued to excavate asbestos-contaminated soils from the ravine. On or about November 4, ERRS reported that they had excavated a minimum depth of 2 feet (according to site guidelines) in all areas and that excavation in the ravine was complete. ERRS then began moving all stockpiled contaminated soil from the ravine to the soil staging area in the upper parking lot. The off-road dump could only be loaded half full since the slope of ravine was slick and difficult to maneuver. ERRS continued to wet down work areas in the ravine and soil staging area as well as access roads. ERRS also began hand digging around the tree roots.

ERRS RM continued to coordinate with analytical lab and disposal facilities for approval of T&D of contaminated soils. Disposal paperwork was prepared and submitted to the disposal facilities for PADEP review and approval of "Form U".

START conducted air monitoring/air sampling at up to 4 onsite stations in the ravine area during three days of operations for the work period, weather permitting. START collected confirmation soil samples in each of the grids designated for excavation except for the area under the soil stockpile. This area will be sampled once all stockpiled material is removed. START did not observe dense amounts of vermiculite in any of the grid areas but did note that sparse flakes of vermiculite were observed scattered within the grids.

The START air sampling/monitoring program included collecting high volume air sampling with an Aircon II sampling pump and co-located low flow air sampling as a backup sample. Air monitoring is being conducted utilizing a Dataram 4000 particulate monitoring units. A meteorological weather station is used to monitor on-site conditions and data used to generate daily wind roses.

Planned Removal Actions

- Complete hand digging around trees
- Begin backfilling all excavated areas with 2 feet of clean soil
- Place rip-rap and large stones around the culvert discharge pipe for erosion control measures.
- Secure agreements with disposal facilities for T&D of waste.

Key Issues

The OSC is continuing to monitor costs closely under the current ceiling. Estimate current funding to carry work through November 20, 2009.

OSC preparing Action Memorandum for ceiling increase since volume of contaminated soil in the ravine was greater than estimated and additional disposal costs are expected

response.epa.gov/WRG4Vermiculite