United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VII
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Thursday, July 1, 2004
From: Davis, Garvey, Nold

To:	Robert Sink, City of Omaha	Gordon Andersen, Missouri River Treatment Plant
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	Kevin Mould, U.S.E.P.A.	Robert Stewart, Department of the Interior
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Subject: Omaha Lead Site
Greater Omaha Nebraska Area, Omaha, NE
Latitude: 41.2033000
Longitude: -95.9308000

POLREP No.:	27	**Site #:**	NESFN0703481
Reporting Period:	June 28-July 2, 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 lead-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.

There were 6 properties excavated, 11 backfilled, and 16 sodded during this reporting period. So far

during this phase of the time- critical removal action (phase III), there have been a total of 117 properties excavated, 116 backfilled, and 110 sodded. Some delays pertaining to sodding the properties has been experienced. This has occurred semi-frequently throughout all three phases of the removal action. Continued communication with the sod sub-contractor is on-going to emphasize timing and coordination of the work tasks.

A test plot was constructed at the Missouri River Treatment Plant to evaluate the viability of hydro-seeding. The test area was backfilled with the exact soil used on properties that have been cleaned up during the removal action. The hydroseeding occurred on June 10, 2004. This test area was watered frequently for the first 14 days, and its growth progress monitored. As of Friday, July 2, 2004, the new grass has sprouted as expected and does not exhibit any type of delayed growth. The test plot does have some "bald" areas and minor ruts due to severe rain that occurred the day after the hydroseed was put down.

On Tuesday, June 29, 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Federal Facilities/Special Emphasis Branch Chief Gene Gunn and Office of External Programs Public Affairs Specialist Jan Lambert were in Omaha at the request of Congressman Lee Terry's legislative director, Jamie Karl. Jamie Karl had requested a tour of the Omaha lead site and an update. On-scene coordinator (OSC) Eric Nold escorted all three on a tour starting at the Black and Veach field office, then going to an excavation in progress, backfill in progress, a completed property with sod, and finally a tour of the staging area at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Based on current projections, we will reach our current ceiling by the second half of August. There are currently enough properties to take the work into early October. The EPA is currently looking into increasing the ceiling (after August 15, 2004) and adding more properties to the original 2004 list of 579.

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. All of these higher priority locations received thus far, have been completed, therefore, geographic groupings of properties have been implemented.

There are currently 23 EPA Emergency and Rapid Response Service (ERRS) contractors and 2 mini-Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) personnel working extended work hours, 6 days a week. The breakdown of personnel is comprised of two excavation crews and two backfill crews. There is also a "punch list crew" that follows behind the other work teams to re-install fences and other needed repairs. Then, a local sod subcontractor lays/installs new sod on the properties. A few of the final steps include having the sod watered by the EPA for a two week period. At that point, the property owner is provided with a instruction sheet (bilingual) that explains future care steps concerning the sod and is encouraged to take over the responsibilities of care. After that, a final letter is sent to the property owner stating that the clean-up has been completed and a sketch of the property depicting the EPA assessment is also provided to the property owner.

Next Steps

The Site initiated a weekend break at 1:00 p.m. on July 2, 2004, for the 4th of July weekend. The Site will resume work activities at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 6, 2004.

Key Issues

There is a list of 579 properties, with greater than 1,200 parts per million (ppm) lead, that is currently being prioritized for this phase of the project. On June 26, 2004, 320 of those properties were taken off of the EPA Removal Branch's list and given to the Remedial Branch for a pilot project through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete. This should assist in the goal of completing all of the list of 579 by the end of this construction season.

Any additional EBLs or day cares (affecting children), once received, are given the highest priority.

After the prioritized properties have been cleaned up, geographic locations will be utilized to maximize available resources concerning the greater than 1,200 ppm lead-contaminated properties. Sometimes there are difficulties encountered when attempting to contact property owners for scheduling to remain in a general area, however, diligent efforts toward this goal are being maintained.

Disposition of Wastes

On Tuesday, June 29th, the seventh 1000 cubic yard stockpile of contaminated soil was loaded out and sent to the Loess Hills Sanitary landfill for use as daily cover.

response.epa.gov/OmahaLeadPhaseIV