

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
FMO Pesticide Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #8  
FMO Pesticide Site  
A3PZ  
Orefield, PA  
Latitude: 40.6322715 Longitude: -75.6149893

**To:** Gerald Heston, US EPA Region III  
Jeff Bartlett, North Whitehall Township  
Dennis Carney, EPA Region III  
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**From:** Ruth Scharr, Federal On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 4/28/2011

**Reporting Period:** April 16 to April 22

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A3PZ	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	9/1/2010
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	7/1/2010	<b>Start Date:</b>	9/17/2010
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Time-Critical Removal

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is characterized as a time-critical removal. The Site includes approximately 1300 acres of land (approximately 1.5 square miles) that were formerly used for the commercial growing and harvesting of fruit from orchard trees and are currently zoned residential or public use in North Whitehall Township, PA. Lead arsenate pesticide was historically used for several decades until its use was banned in 1988 by EPA. Elevated levels of arsenic and lead have been detected in surface soil samples on residential parcels and in public use areas. FMO Pesticide Action Memo was submitted by the OSC and signed on September 1, 2010 approving a Removal Action which address contamination at residential parcels.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located in the Orefield/Schnecksville area of North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Ingestion of lead and arsenic through direct contact with contaminated soil, or ingestion of contaminants from small particles that have been aerosolized from the disturbance of soil.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

### **2.1.1 Narrative**

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

Raised garden beds were installed at three properties.

At the onsite laboratory, 415 samples from 16 properties were reanalyzed in December 2010 and January 2011. 265 samples were processed and analyzed from 11 properties between January and March 2011.

These samples were Phase II and Extent of Contamination samples collected during sampling activities from the fall and winter.

Removal activities were conducted at two residential property the week of April 18, 2011. One property was completed and one property was only started, to be finished the following week. Soils were excavated to a depth of 6 inches below grade and were placed into roll-offs for disposal. Post-excavation samples were collected from the excavation area prior to any backfill activities. Certified clean fill was used to backfill the excavation area. A combination of sod and seed were used to restore the grass cover of the property. Dust monitoring was conducted along the perimeter of the work area and within the work zone during excavation and backfill activities. No air monitoring exceedances were identified.

GPS data was collected at three properties. Two of the properties had the perimeter of the post-excavation area mapped. The third property had additional extent of contamination samples taken and GPSed.

Removal activities have been completed at 5 properties. The resident has opted out of removal activities at three properties. One property that was slated for removal will no longer have removal activities conducted there. This is due to a re-evaluation of the XRF data, revealing elevated Copper levels associated with elevated arsenic levels. The combination of elevated copper and arsenic levels indicates a source not related to pesticides. Removal activities are currently planned at an additional 16 properties.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Property specific work plans for residences requiring soil excavation will continue to be prepared.

Air monitoring will continue to be conducted during excavation activities to ensure contaminated soil is not being spread to areas outside of each work zone.

GPS data will be collected documented excavated areas at each property.

Samples will continue to be processed at the onsite laboratory for Phase II, Extent of Contamination, and Post-Excavation activities.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

No information available at this time.

## **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.