

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Freeman School Lead Site - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial Site Walkthrough  
Freeman School Lead Site  
Bramwell, WV  
Latitude: 37.3254557 Longitude: -81.3133935

**To:**  
**From:** Robert Kelly, OSC  
**Date:** 5/2/2011  
**Reporting Period:** May 2, 2011

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b> CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b> Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b> EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b> Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b> Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b>
<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

CERCLA

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Site consists of a multi-story brick school building situated on approximately three acres, located immediately adjacent to the Bluestone River. The Site is located in a relatively rural setting with surrounding properties characterized by mixed land use. Bluestone Baptist Church, currently unused, occupies the adjacent property to the northeast. The remaining adjacent property is undeveloped. Undeveloped forested land is located across County Route 20/20 to the northwest. The Bluestone River borders the Site to the southeast.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located on County Route 20/20, approximately 0.4 miles west of Route 52, between Freeman and Bramwell, West Virginia.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Possible elevated lead and PCBs in soils.

##### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

According to available records, the WVDEP first visited the Site in 1987 in response to a citizen complaint that Pinnacle was disposing of battery acid in the Bluestone River. The WVDEP performed several inspections at the Site in 1987, 1988, and 2000. Although a company representative indicated to State inspectors that the reclaimed lead was shipped off-Site for recycling, a make-shift smelter located east of the building indicated that some type of manufacturing process was performed on-Site. State inspectors collected two samples of waste material located outside the building for lead analysis. Total lead concentrations of 656 and 5,280 mg/kg were found in these samples, with a corresponding Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) lead concentration of 73.7 mg/l found in the latter sample.

**2. Current Activities**

**2.1 Operations Section**

**2.1.1 Narrative**

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

The OSC and START contractor met on this date with the Town Mayor, Chief of Police, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), and a representative from the Bramwell Foundation, the current property owner, and conducted a Site walkthrough.

The OSC obtained verbal permission to access the property and building from the present owner. The Site is currently vacant, the building deteriorated, and overgrown with vegetation. The smelter was located east (rear) of the building and was constructed from a 55-gallon metal drum, and a inderblock incinerator. Piles of waste material consisting of sand, broken molds, cinders, coke and miscellaneous debris are located on the north and east sides of the building. Lead fragment, some as large as six inches in length and obviously solidified from melted lead were mixed wth the waste. Finer material (e.g., ash from smelting activities) were not observed on Site. Several discarded battery casings are located east of the building.

The building interior provides some indication of the operation, housekeeping, and waste disposal practices of Pinnacle. Two additional smelters, constructed similarly to the one described above, associated solid waste, a 55-gallon drum with unknown contents, a parts washer, drying racks, discarded battery casings, are located inside the building. One smelter is located in a restroom on the first and another in the restroom on the second floor. The smelter room walls and ceilings are coated with soot.

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

According to available information, the building was constructed in 1948. It was used by the Mercer County school system until approximately 1977. From about 1985 through approximately 1987, Pinnacle Manufacturing, Inc. (Pinnacle) utilized the Site. Pinnacle apparently used the Site to manufacture industrial equipment components from lead recovered on site from lead-acid batteries. The Bramwell Foundation purchased the Site in 1998 and is the present owner.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

The OSC will be conducting a Site Assessment during the week of June 20, 2011 to evaluate the extent of contamination on the Site.

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

START will draft a sampling plan and procure laboratory services for analysis of Site samples.

**2.2.2 Issues**

Possible elevated levels of lead in soils

**2.3 Logistics Section**

Not Applicable

**2.4 Finance Section**

**2.4.1 Narrative**

Not Applicable

**2.5 Other Command Staff**

**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

Not Applicable

**2.6 Liaison Officer**

Not Applicable

**2.7 Information Officer**

**2.7.1 Public Information Officer**

**2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator**

Not Applicable

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

Not Applicable

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

City Government

State Government

**4. Personnel On Site**

Bramwell Police Chief

Mayor of Bramwell

Property Owner

EPA

WVDEP

START

**5. Definition of Terms**

*EPA*

*Environmental Protection Agency*

*WVDEP*

*West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection*

*OSC*

*On-Scene Coordinator*

*POLREP/SITREP*

*Pollution Report/Situation Report*

*START*

*Site Technical and Response Team*

**6. Additional sources of information**

**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

For additional information, please refer to "Documents" on [www.epaosc.org/freeman](http://www.epaosc.org/freeman)

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

The next Polrep will be submitted when the sampling event is conducted during the week of June 20, 2011

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.

POLREP #1 Last Updated 7/5/2011