

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: POLREP #13
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
Linda Marzulli, EPA Region III

From: Ruth Scharr, Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 6/23/2011

Reporting Period: 6/10/2011 through 6/17/2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A3PZ	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	9/1/2010
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	7/1/2010	Start Date:	9/17/2010
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	PAN000306719	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

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 for residential or public use primarily in North Whitehall Township, PA. Lead arsenate pesticide was historically used for several decades at the Site 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. The 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

ERRS completed sod restoration at the previous home and moved all equipment and supplies to the next residence, at which hand digging had started last week. Because of underground utilities and the landscaping much of this property requires hand digging. Soils in the back yard were hand dug to a depth of approximately 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. Dust monitoring was conducted downwind of the work area and within the work zone during excavation and backfill activities. No dust levels exceeding action levels were identified from within the work zone. No significantly elevated dust concentrations were identified downwind of the work area. ERRS continues to water the sod each day at four properties, including the property at which work is continuing at. Sod is watered in early morning and later afternoon to avoid burning. Sod was not watered if it rained.

Removal activities have been completed at a total of 9 properties. Two properties are currently underway. Removal activities are currently planned at an additional 11 properties.

A total of 30 rollofs containing an estimated 450 tons of soil have been shipped offsite for disposal.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Property specific work plans for residences requiring soil excavation will continue to be prepared. EPA will be meeting and scheduling with residents where removal activities may take place. At times scheduled between the resident and EPA, excavation of properties will occur, samples will be collected, backfill installed, and sod installed. Removal activities are expected to continue through the summer and fall of 2011.

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 and appropriate levels of personal protective equipment are being utilized by site workers.

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

ERRS will continue to excavate, dispose of soils, restore yards, and water sod.

Close-out letters will be prepared for those properties where we have received validated data for post-excavation sampling. Letters will include maps showing where EPA excavated and restored the property.

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

2.5.1 Safety Officer

2.6 Liaison Officer

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

David Polish 215 814-3327

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

During this period there were three START, 10 ERRS, and 2 to 4 subcontracted landscapers onsite daily.

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.