

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Fortune Metals Inc. - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #2
Fortune Metals Inc.

Brooklyn, NY
Latitude: 40.7326731 Longitude: -73.9496641

To: Oleg Povetko, USEPA
Paul Giardina, USEPA
Stephen Gavitt, NYSDOH

From: Paul Kahn, OSC

Date: 7/25/2011

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 7/15/2011	Start Date:
Demob Date: 7/15/2011	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

A phone call was received in the Region II REOC on 7/15/2012 regarding a scrap metal company in Brooklyn NY where pieces of depleted uranium (DU) were discovered by workers. ERRD sent a response team to the Site to assess the situation.

A team with one OSC and one Regional Rad Rep deployed with a Ludlum 19 and SAM-940. The team arrived at the Site and were escorted to the yard where there was a wooden pallet on which was a pile of lead metal sheathing. Distance readings at 4 feet and 1 foot from the pile registered on Ludlum 19 at 250 and 350 micro rem/hr. On contact with the pile the reading was 500 micro rem/hr, and on contact without the lead sheathing it was 2 milli rem/hr. The SAM-940 was used to identify constituent isotopes and subsequent analysis of the recorded spectra indicated the presence of U-235, U-238 and Protactinium (Pa) 234, a gamma ray emitter.

The team took rad readings with a Ludlum 19:

Entering the area 251 micro rem/hour
1 foot away /lead wrapped parts 200 micro rem/hr
On contact, w/lead wrapping, 500 micro rem/hr.
On contact without lead wrapping 2 milli rem/hr

The parts appeared to be from a military aircraft, probably US Army. There were numerous markings on each piece, including what looked like parts numbers, an "inspected-by" stencil, and most interestingly each piece was stamped with either "Made by NL Industries, Inc." or "Made by National Lead". Each one was stamped on the outside surface with "Depleted Uranium High Salvage Value Install this side down National Lead Company"

The parts were wrapped in lead sheathing and overpacked in a steel drum. The exterior readings were in the 500 micro rem/hr range, well below the OSHA upper limit. The drum was sealed, marked, and segregated.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is an active scrap metal business, dealing with mostly copper, iron, stainless steel, aluminum and copper wire reclamation.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn, a predominantly ethnic Polish community. The premises are in a commercial/light industrial zone, but there are residences within 100 yards of the Site.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The threat is very low level radiation, primarily alpha particles and to a much less degree gamma radiation, 90% of which is stopped by the lead wrapping and steel overpack drum.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The parts were measured, photodocumented, and markings were recorded. The parts were wrapped in lead sheathing, overpacked in a steel "H" drum, and staged for disposition.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The EPA response team ensured that the DU parts were secured and radiation levels well below any OSHA or EPA action levels.

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

Information from the parts, as well as photographs, were e-mailed to the NRC in King of Prussia PA for possible identification. The OSC will contact NL Industries to determine if the company has a product stewardship program and will retrieve the DU parts.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
depleted uranium parts	solid	100 lbs		TBD	TBD

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

See Ops Section

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

None beyond the emergency response action on 7/15/2011

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See Ops Section

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

Region II OSC Paul Kahn
Region II Regional Rad Rep Oleg Povetko

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

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Depleted_uranium