

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Ulah Battery Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #5
Removal Continues with Change in Scope Action Memo
Ulah Battery Site

Asheboro, NC
Latitude: 35.6385953 Longitude: -79.8283982

To:
From: Perry Gaughan, OSC
Date: 9/23/2011
Reporting Period: Sept 12 through Sept 23, 2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	04HV	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	7/28/2011
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	8/30/2011	Start Date:	8/31/2011
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	NCD981864614	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Time Critical Removal Action

1.1.2 Site Description

Region 4 ERRB received a request from North Carolina Department of Environmental Natural Resources (NC DENR) to perform a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) at the Ulah Battery Dump along Dinah Road in Asheboro, Randolph County, North Carolina. NC DENR performed an assessment of the site indicating lead concentrations up to 35,600 parts per million (ppm) in some areas. This exceeds EPA residential Removal Action Level (RAL) of 400 ppm for lead.

1.1.2.1 Location

Dinah Road, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Lead and arsenic contaminated soils are present from battery cracking operations previously done by lead reclaimers along Dinah Road in Asheboro, NC. The reclaimers operated from 1965 to 1985. Hundreds of batteries were cracked to remove the lead plates and further melted in drums to be recycled to local vendors. Battery acid (sulfuric acid) was reportedly allowed to spill onto the ground.

EPA and Superfund Technical Assessment Response Team (START) conducted a site assessment on April 1st, 2010 revealing x-ray fluorescence (XRF) detections up to 59,700 ppm lead and up to 3,735 for arsenic. The Site is a one-acre wooded parcel behind 159 Dinah Road and bordered by a private gravel road, Coy Stella Trail. Battery chips and casings were found to be scattered throughout the property but concentrated in a bermed area along the southern edge adjacent to the private road.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

During the week of July 18th, EPA conducted additional XRF analysis of the property at 159 Dinah Road. This parcel is approximately 140 feet by 280 feet and the front and back yards adjoining the wooded area in the southern half of the property were subdivided into several manageable grids for XRF investigation. In this manner, EPA and Start found that lead levels in two grids of the front yard ranged from 400 - 1450 ppm

lead, and four grids behind the home levels ranged from 397 - 2890 ppm. In addition, two grids in the back yard indicated elevated arsenic levels over 100 ppm arsenic. The driveway leading to the back of the home indicted lead levels approaching 3300 ppm lead.

Subsequent analytical analysis of the soil samples collected from the Site showed an 84.7 to 96.8% correlation to the above XRF findings. As previously indicted, lead levels in the dump area along the southern perimeter of the site ranged from 41,000 to 59,000 ppm lead.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Monday ,Sept 12 through Saturday, September 16th, 2011

ERRs continued removing lead and arsenic contaminated soil from the western property line as well as a few grid areas immediately south of the home. Contaminated soils were removed in six inch increments to achieve levels below EPA's residential clean up limit of 400 ppm lead. ERRs have stockpiled approximately 200 cubic yards of highly contaminated soils and casings (above 5000 ppm lead) for hazardous waste disposal. Dust control measures continue to be used during all excavation operations and Start contractors are conducting air and dust monitoring during all phases of the removal.

While excavating battery casings along the southern property line, it became evident that the adjacent property at 135 Dinah Road also contained a significant amount of casings. The OSC contacted the property owner, received access to conduct an initial assessment and found several areas within the treeline which contained cracked battery casings. START contractors were tasked to grid the one acre property into managable grids and assess each individual grid using xrf analysis. The OSC drafted a Change in Scope Action Memo which was approved by Region 4 management on Monday, Sept 19th.

Monday, Sept 19th through Thursday, September 22nd, 2011

During the week of September 19th, ERRs contractors continued removing lead contaminated soil and battery casings. ERRs contractors continued excavating the western fenceline and also began removing contaminated soil from the southern fenceline of the adjacent property. The lead waste stockpile on site contains approximately 240 cubic yards of highly contaminated soil and battery casings. ERRs continued excavating lightly contaminated areas in six inch increments to achieve desired lead levels below 400 ppm. START contractors continued assessing the property at 135 Dinah Road and conducting confirmation x-ray fluorescence (xrf) analysis for lead and arsenic. On Thursday, September 22nd, the site was secured for a long weekend break.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

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

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

Removal activities are anticipated to take 6 weeks including the neighboring properties.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response 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

Errs Contractors 1-Response manager, 3 laborers, 1 equipment operator, 1 field cost accountant, and the OSC.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

Information collected from local residents indicates that several people in the Ulah area cracked batteries to reclaim lead during the 70's and early 80's. Mr Hoskins provided a copy of a license/permit from North Carolina essentially permitting him to operate a lead reclaiming operation.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.