

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Portage Creek Area - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #4
Special Report - Site Remobilization
Portage Creek Area
059B05
Kalamazoo, MI
Latitude: 42.2839750 Longitude: -85.5791570

To: Mark Mills, Michigan DNR
Daria Devantier, MDEQ
Debbie Jung, City of Kalamazoo
Lisa Williams, U.S. FWS
Todd Goeks, NOAA
Valincia Darby, Department of Interior

From: Sam Borries, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 2/3/2012

Reporting Period: 1/18/2012 - 2/3/2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	059B05	Contract Number:	EP-S5-08-02
D.O. Number:	0087	Action Memo Date:	7/5/2011
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	NPL	Operable Unit:	05
Mobilization Date:	9/26/2011	Start Date:	8/30/2011
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	MID006007306	RCRIS ID:	NA
ERNS No.:	NA	State Notification:	Yes
FPN#:	NA	Reimbursable Account #:	NA

1.1.1 Incident Category

Fund-lead removal action

1.1.2 Site Description

See POLREP #1

1.1.2.1 Location

See POLREP #1

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

See POLREP #1

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See POLREP #1

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Work crews were re-mobilized after the seasonal de-mobilization which took place on November 17, 2011. Work activity focused on securing a work area and land clearing in the SA6 excavation area. A fencing sub-contractor re-located fencing to allow for excavation crews and equipment along the west creek bank. This work took place entirely on City-owned property within the Kalamazoo Stockbridge facility located at 415 E. Stockbridge Avenue. Work crews commenced clearing of all vegetation and woody debris from both the west bank of Portage Creek and within the water channel. Limited preparation activities re-commenced on the de-watering pad located at the John Street support area.

As reported in POLREP #2, an elevated water table in the excavation area of SA7 prevented contaminated soils from being excavated after this area was cleared of vegetation in November 2011. Though construction activities south of Reed Street have returned Portage Creek to its original channel and lowered the elevated

water table, EPA re-assessed conditions and has determined that excavation activities in SA7 are still not feasible due to high levels of precipitation, unseasonably warm temperatures, and continued wet conditions. Site activities in SA7 will not commence until cold weather arrives or dry weather hardens the surface soils of the SA7 excavation area.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA and ERRS contractors re-mobilized to the site on January 18, 2012 after 2 months of no on-site work activities. From January 18, 2012 to February 3, 2012, U.S. EPA and ERRS conducted the following activities:

Site Activities

- Commenced pumping out of rainwater and snowmelt water from the John Street staging/solidification pad (staging pad) in anticipation of continuing construction work;
- Re-located fixed chain-link fence and established three access points along the western bank of Portage Creek in the SA6 work area between Stockbridge Avenue and Lake Street; and
- Commenced vegetation removal and grubbing activities along the western bank of Portage Creek in SA6 utilizing a chipper to decrease the volume of woody debris.

Project Management Activities

- Completed and distributed two Technical Memorandums detailing the approach to site preparation, excavation and restoration activities in the Axtell Creek/SA5 and SA6 excavation areas (documents posted on website);
- Revised the Quality Assurance Project Plan (document posted on website);
- Validated pre-construction investigatory sampling results of sediments in excavation areas SA5,6 & 7; and
- An access agreements was signed with the City of Kalamazoo for city-owned properties along the project area.

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

The major PRP for this portion of the Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site was dissolved through bankruptcy proceedings in April 2010. Other PRPs are being evaluated.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
Removed Fencing	Scrap Metal	6000lbs	N/A	Recycling	Scrap
Removed Fencing	Metal	2000lbs	N/A	Reuse	Staging Area

2.2 Planning Section

A summary of removal activities that will take place in the upcoming week(s) include:

Site Activities

- Complete clearing of vegetation and woody debris along the west bank of Portage Creek in SA6;
- Construct a concrete apron and access road to SA6 work area off Stockbridge Avenue adjacent to bridge;
- Secure work area with temporary fencing and commence clearing of vegetation and woody debris along the east bank of Portage Creek along UpJohn Park in SA5;
- Install a groundwater extraction well and conduct a pump test along Portage Creek in SA6 to determine if the groundwater table can be lowered to facilitate excavation activities;
- Remove rainwater and snowmelt from the de-watering pad at the John Street staging area to facilitate construction work; and
- Re-commence work in SA7 once the area dries out, including excavation, solidification and staging of PCB contaminated soils and transportation/disposal of excavated soils.

Project Management Activities

- Ongoing efforts to obtain site access from property owners who own land along the project boundaries; and
- Identify pre-construction sampling locations for soils in Upjohn Park.

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

See POLREP #2

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

See above

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See above

2.2.2 Issues

Excessive precipitation and unseasonably warm temperatures are preventing access and thus removal of contaminated soils in SA7. See POLREP #2 and Section 2.1.1 above for additional information.

2.3 Logistics Section

The current resources present on site include:

- Three office trailers
- One security trailer
- Portable restrooms

- One wood chipper
- Portable generators and pumps
- One ERRS work crew
- Miscellaneous land clearing tools/equipment

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Sam Borries, Craig Thomas and Paul Ruesch, U.S. EPA FOSCs, are serving as safety officer(s).
The HASP was reviewed and signed by all site personnel.

2.6 Liaison Officer

N/A

2.7 Information Officer

N/A

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

N/A

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

Don DeBlasio - U.S. EPA CIC

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

N/A

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
City of Kalamazoo:
Department of Public Services
Parks and Recreation Department
Economic Development Department
Community Planning & Development
Public Safety Department
Fire Department
Police Department
Bronson Methodist Hospital
Kalamazoo Nature Center

4. Personnel On Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA Removal (ERRS) Contractors (Environmental Quality Management, Inc. and Inland Waters)
Farm 'N Garden (fencing sub-contractor)

5. Definition of Terms

ERRS - Emergency and Rapid Response Services
FOSC - Federal On Scene Coordinator
HASP - Health and Safety Plan
mg/kg - milligrams per kilogram
MDEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
NA - Not Applicable
NPL - National Priorities List
PCB - polychlorinated biphenyl
PRPs - Potentially Responsible Parties
START - Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
U.S. EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

It is anticipated that POLREPs will be generated approximately every 2-4 weeks during the active construction season.

7. Situational Reference Materials

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

Additional information on the overall Kalamazoo River Project can be found at

