

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Elwood Mystery Response - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial PolRep
Elwood Mystery Response

Summitville, IN
Latitude: 40.3502853 Longitude: -85.6034629

To:
From: Shelly Lam, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 4/11/2013
Reporting Period: April 10 - 11, 2013

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: 4/10/2013	Start Date: 4/10/2013
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response - Illegal dump/disposal

1.1.2 Site Description

Information on the site location, description of threat and removal assessment results are provided below.

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is a farm at 3726 West 1700 North in Summitville, Madison County, Indiana. The property is 5.4 acres and contains a burned-out house, four barns, and several silos. The property is in a rural area approximately 5 miles north-northwest of Summitville. Site coordinates are 40.3502853 degrees north latitude and 85.6034629 degrees west longitude.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

On April 9, 2013, various state and local agencies responded because of reports of dead animals on the property. In the process of assessing and removing animals, the Madison County Hazardous Material (Hazmat) Team reported that their decontamination water had a high pH (alkaline) reading and water from a drinking water well on the property had a pH of 12 standard units (SU).

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

As stated above, the Madison County Hazmat Team reported that drinking water at the site had a high pH (up to 12 SU).

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

EPA responded on April 10, 2013 to provide assistance and technical support with highly alkaline drinking water at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On April 10, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Shelly Lam mobilized to the site, met with state and local agency representatives, collected water samples for hazard categorization (Hazcat) screening, and mobilized the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor. START performed field hazard categorization on water samples from two outdoor spigots. START measured pH values between 8 and 9 SU in both samples. All other hazcat results were within normal range and did not indicate the presence of hazardous waste. In consultation with

IDEM, the Madison County Health Department, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and the Purdue Agricultural Extension Service, EPA agreed to test both outdoor spigots for the following analyses: pH, total metals, ammonia, nitrates, nitrites, organophosphates, pesticides, and inorganic compounds such as cyanide, sulfates, phosphates, and fluoride.

On April 11, 2013, OSC Lam and two START contractors returned to the site to collect water samples. However, electricity to the property had been disconnected. As such, well pumps were inoperable. EPA was unable to locate the well heads for direct sampling. EPA, IDEM, and the Madison County Health Department agreed that EPA would return to the site to sample when power had been restored.

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

The Madison County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant and was collecting evidence for criminal prosecution. OSC Lam requested that the water samples be included as takings under the search warrant.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Local and state officials have the lead for disposal of the animal remains.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Planned activities are detailed below.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA and START will return to the site on April 12, 2013 to collect water samples when electricity has been restored.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA will provide the results of water samples to interested agencies through a Pollution Report (PolRep).

2.2.2 Issues

EPA was unable to collect water samples because electricity to the power had been disconnected. As such, well pumps were inoperable. EPA was unable to locate the well heads for direct sample collection. IDEM coordinated power reconnection for the morning of April 12th.

2.3 Logistics Section

Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) provided logistical support to response personnel.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

START prepared a health and safety plan to cover sampling activities.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

Not applicable (NA)

2.5.3 Information Officer

There was extensive media coverage of this site. The Madison County Sheriff's Office provided media interviews for the response.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

The Madison County Sheriff was the Incident Commander for all response activities. EPA worked in Operations with IDEM.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Agencies on-site included:

Madison County Sheriff's Office

Madison County Health Department

Madison County Hazmat Team

Madison County EMA

Madison County Prosecutor's Office

Union Township Fire Department

Richardland Township Fire Department

Anderson Animal Care and Control

Animal Protection League

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Indiana Board of Animal Health

Indiana State Department of Homeland Security

IDEM

EPA

EPA received off-site support from:

ATSDR

USGS

Purdue Agricultural Extension Service

4. Personnel On Site

EPA personnel on-site included one OSC and two START contractors. Numerous personnel from the agencies listed in Section 3.2 were also on-site.

5. Definition of Terms

ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
EMA	Emergency Management Agency
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERRB	Emergency Response and Removal Branch
Hazcat	Hazard categorization
Hazmat	Hazardous materials
IDEM	Indiana Department of Environmental Management
NA	Not applicable
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PolRep	Pollution Report
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
SU	Standard units
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

For additional information, refer to www.epaosc.org/elwoodmystery.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

The OSC will submit a second PolRep once water samples have been collected.

7. Situational Reference Materials

NA