

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #3
Progress
Loewenthal Metals
C5C2
Chicago, IL
Latitude: 41.8552702 Longitude: -87.6498706

To:
From: Steven Faryan, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 7/10/2013
Reporting Period: 7/8/2013-7/11/2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	C5C2	Contract Number:	EP-S5-09-05
D.O. Number:	0121	Action Memo Date:	4/22/2013
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	6/24/2013	Start Date:	6/24/2013
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	ILP00510081	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Time Critical Removal Action

1.1.2 Site Description

Based on historical aerial photos, the Site was home to a large smelting facility and associated railroad spur which operated during the 1940s. In the 1940 Standard Metal Directory, Loewenthal Metals Corporation is listed under aluminum, antimonial lead. The smelter ceased operations in the early 1950s. It appears that the building was razed after that time and all of the demolition debris was buried on site and covered with soil.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located at 947 West Cullerton Street in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois (Figure 1-1). It is situated near the center of the Pilsen neighborhood, a primarily residential area. The coordinates of the Site are 41°51'19" North latitude and 87°39'0.6" West longitude.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Metal constituents found at the Site which exceeded the U.S. EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSLs) include lead, arsenic, copper, mercury, and zinc. Lead and Cadmium were detected in the soil above the RCRA characteristic values. (See Action Memorandum for Threats)

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See POLREP 1

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On July 8, 2013, ERRS worked to remove the top 1-foot of soil and staged it for disposal. Excavation activities were interrupted several times throughout the day due to inclement weather. On July 9, 2013, ERRS finished removing the top 1-foot of soil and staged it for disposal. Top 1-foot of soil will be disposed of as non-hazardous material, as determined from site assessment sampling activities and XRF readings. ERRS began using a hydraulic hoe ram to begin breaking up concrete slab under the soil.

On July 10, 2013, iron plates were installed to protect city side walks when waste disposal trucks arrive Thursday to haul waste off-site. ERRS began to separate clean concrete from contaminated concrete based on visual inspection. Clean concrete is being staged with the soil that was removed and will be disposed of

together as non-hazardous waste.

On July 11, 2013, non-hazardous soil is being loaded in dump trucks and being shipped to Waste Management Laraway Landfill in Joliet, Illinois. Approximately 300 tons of non-hazardous soil and broken concrete will be shipped for disposal on 7/11/13. An additional 200 tons of non-hazardous soil will be shipped next week.

During all Site operations, START has set-up DataRam units and Personal DataRam (PDR) units to monitor all dust/particulates on and off Site. All data Ram and personal data ram readings have been near or at background dust levels for the area (10-100 ug/m³). Average concentrations of dust have been 35-45 ug/m³. All site operations are being conducted using a water fog with a fire hose to minimize dust levels. The action level for nuisance dust is 500 ug/m³.

A personal data ram has been deployed in the cab of the excavator to monitor dust levels for on site personnel.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On June 21, U.S. EPA and BNSF contractor collected soil borings from the railroad property which lies east of the former Loewenthal property and the property runs to the south to 21st street. The samples were shipped to the lab on June 21. Preliminary results were received on 7/1/2013. Final QA/QC of the data is in progress. A map has been prepared to evaluate the samples collected on the BNSF property.

On June 25, 2013, OSC Faryan and U.S. EPA community relations hosted a "open house" at the Casa Morales condos South of the Site. Local community members and groups were invited to the information session.

US EPA's contractor Environmental Restoration removed the top 1 foot of soil and staged the material for disposal. The concrete pad and foundation have been broken and segregated for disposal. Disposal Approval has been received for the non-hazardous and hazardous waste streams.

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

The owner of the property has been identified, but has been non-responsive to repeated attempts to arrange for access to the property.

The U.S. EPA has obtained a warrant from a U.S. Magistrate to conduct the Site Assessment and Emergency Removal Action.

U.S. EPA has recently identified that an investment firm, Sabre Investments LLC, has purchased the back taxes for the property but has not yet filed the deed. U.S. EPA will send certified letters to Sabre Investments to obtain their access if they proceed to take possession of the property.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

ERRS contractors will continue segregation of concrete into "hazardous" and "non-hazardous" piles while awaiting disposal.

ERRS will continue to break-up the concrete slab under the remaining layer of soil and will begin excavation of contaminated soils that remain on site.

ERRS will continue to dispose of non-hazardous concrete and soil and transport the material to Waste Management Laraway Landfill in Joliet Illinois. Approximately 300 tons will be shipped on 7/11/13 and 700 tons of non-hazardous concrete and soil remain to be shipped next week.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

ERRS will excavate the Site down to approximately 3 feet and it will be back-filled with clean material. The excavated material will be fixated on-Site and shipped off for disposal. The XRF unit will be used to screen the soil after excavation to field verify removal clean up standard. Post removal samples will be collected and sent to lab.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

ERRS contractors will continue the disposal of non-Hazardous soil and concrete. The remaining material will be shipped on 7/15/13 and 7/16/13. Hazardous concrete will be shipped July 16, 2013 to EnviroSafe Landfill in Oregon Ohio. Free Flow 200 will be used to stabilize on site hazardous soil to render the material non-hazardous. Stabilization will begin after the hazardous soil is excavated and staged in piles.

2.2.2 Issues

Inclement weather at the Site has continued to be a concern on site. Monitoring of weather forecasts will be included in the morning Site Health and Safety Meeting.

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

Nick Michaleas- ERRS Health And Safety Officer
Tonya Balla - START Health And Safety Officer

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

2.5.3 Information Officer

Heriberto Leon has been meeting routinely with the neighborhood community groups. Fact Sheets were handed out in the 1/2 mile square area around the property. A public meeting and open house were held to provide facts and answer questions that the residents and public had.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

US EPA is the lead agency on Site.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

4. Personnel On Site

US EPA (1)

ERRS (4)

START (1)

5. Definition of Terms

RSL - Regional Screening Level

RML - Removal Management Level

ERRS - Emergency Removal and Response Services

START - Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/loewenthal/

6.2 Reporting Schedule

POLREPs will be generated on a weekly basis during removal activities on-Site. The POLREPS are posted to the website under a public view

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.