

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #5
Progress
Loewenthal Metals
C5C2
Chicago, IL
Latitude: 41.8552702 Longitude: -87.6498706

To:
From: Steven Faryan, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 7/24/2013
Reporting Period: 7/22/2013-7/25/2013

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. The building demolition debris was used to fill the basement.

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 22, 2013, ERRS continued excavation of contaminated soil along western edge of property. Crews mixed in 13-tons of Free Flow fixating agent to top 2 feet of soil, then removed it and staged it on northeastern edge of property for off-site disposal. After 2 feet had been removed (3 feet below grade total), START performed some XRF analyses on newly exposed soil. Results indicated high levels of lead remained in non-excavated areas (4,000+ ppm). A determination was made to excavate until the foundation of the original building was reached. The concrete slab of the original foundation was found at approximately 5-5.5 feet below ground surface. The basement of the original building appears to have been filled in with building demolition debris and trash, which was then covered with soil.

On July 23, 2013, ERRS mixed in Free Flow fixating agent to untreated piles of soil excavated on the day prior and transferred it to staging area for off-site disposal. Crews then continued to apply Free Flow and excavate along western edge of property. Excavation is occurring down to concrete slab that was the basement floor of the original building. Samples were collected from the treated soil pile and results are pending.

On July 24, 2013, ERRS continued to treat and excavate soil along western edge of property, and stage it for off-site disposal. Environmental Restoration Health and Safety Manager conducted a site visit and found no significant health and safety issues.

On July 25, 2013 ERRS excavated and staged 500 tons of high lead contaminated soil and treated the soil with 20 tons of Free Flow 100 stabilization agent. The material was mixed and will be tarped for the weekend and samples will be collected on Monday.

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 back ground dust levels for the area (10-100 ug/m3). Average concentrations of dust have been 15-45 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

US EPA's contractor Environmental Restoration is in the process of treating and excavating soil from 2 feet below ground surface to the original building's concrete foundation (approximately 5-5.5' below grade). Treated and excavated soil is being staged on the northeastern edge of property for off-site disposal. Samples were collected from the treated soil and demolition debris and analytical results are pending.

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.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

ERRS contractors will continue fixation and excavation of soil down to concrete foundation of original building. The excavation will be back-filled with IDOT compliant recycled concrete from a local manufacturer. A layer of top soil will be spread and seeded to prevent erosion

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

ERRS will excavate the Site down to approximately 5.5 feet in areas where there is a basement and it will be back-filled with clean material. In areas where there is no basement, test pits have been conducted and the sand and clay layer is at 2.2 to 3.0 feet. 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 as necessary. Free Flow 100 will be used at a 5 % mix rate to stabilize on site hazardous soil to render the material non-hazardous. Stabilization will begin on July 22 during the excavation of the hazardous soil.

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 from the residents. An open house was held at the neighboring

Resurrection project apartments to brief the residents and media and answer questions.

U.S. EPA has provided fact sheets, lead fact sheets and protecting your family from lead, gardening with lead contaminated soil to the IPilsen farmers market. All of the fact sheets have been reproduced in English and Spanish.

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

XRF - X-Ray Fluorescence

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.