

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #6  
**Progress**  
**Loewenthal Metals**  
**C5C2**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Latitude: 41.8552702 Longitude: -87.6498706**

**To:**  
**From:** Steven Faryan, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 7/31/2013  
**Reporting Period:** 7/29/2013 - 8/2/2013

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

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

#### 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 29, 2013, crews treated stockpiled soil that had been excavated the week prior with Free Flow fixating agent and staged the treated soil for off-site disposal. They also began to excavate the next section of soil, treating with the fixating agent as they did so.

On July 30, 2013, crews continued to treat soil along eastern edge of excavation pit with fixating agent in-situ, and excavate into piles staged for off-site disposal. Crews also began to remove remaining side wall of soil left between the excavation pit and adjacent building on west side of property, as well as scraping the floor of the excavation pit and removing any loose sections of concrete slab. Nine truckloads (234 tons) of engineered sand were dropped off throughout the day which crews began using to backfill excavated areas.

On July 31, 2013, crews resumed backfilling of excavated areas and removing sidewall of soil left between the excavation pit and adjacent building on west side of property. 300-350 tons of engineered sand was dropped off throughout the day which crews used to backfill excavated areas.

On August 1, 2013,

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/m<sup>3</sup>). Average concentrations of dust have been 15-45 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. 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/m<sup>3</sup>.

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. Crews are then backfilling excavated areas with engineered sand. 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 continue to be back-filled with engineered sand 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 with the excavation and disposal of 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. Crews will continue to backfill excavated areas.

#### **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/](http://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.