

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #11
Progress
Loewenthal Metals
C5C2
Chicago, IL
Latitude: 41.8552702 Longitude: -87.6498706

To:
From: Steven Faryan, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 9/5/2013
Reporting Period: 9/2/2013 - 9/6/2013

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 September 3, 2013, crews loaded 13 trucks with treated soil from Pile E for off site disposal. Crews also began treating and excavating soil in area immediately east of excavation pit down to basement slab of original building. Crews are staging excavated soil into Pile G.

On September 4, 2013, crews loaded 13 trucks with treated soil from Pile E for off site disposal, which finished the disposal for Pile E. Crews resumed treating and excavating soil immediately east of excavation pit, along northern sidewalk border, down to basement slab of original building.

On September 5, 2013, crews loaded 9 trucks with treated soil from Pile F for off site disposal. Crews

resumed treating and excavating soil along eastern edge of excavation pit down to basement slab of original building. Crews also treated and excavated Grid 8 to 2 feet bgs. START conducted XRF screening of Grid 8 and found lead levels >500ppm, so crews began excavating an additional 2 feet from Grid 8 and staging the treated soil in Pile G.

On September 6, 2013, START collected a waste disposal sample from Pile G. Crews resumed treating and excavating soil from Grid 8 and loading trucks with treated soil from Pile F. Crews loaded 9 trucks in the morning and 7 additional trucks in the afternoon, transporting treated soil from Pile F to Newton County Landfill in Brook, Indiana.

During all Site operations, START operated and maintained DataRam and Personal DataRam (pDR 1500) units to monitor all dust/particulates on and off Site. The personal data ram has been deployed to the cab of the excavator to monitor dust levels near on-site personnel. All 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 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.

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 eastern edge of property for off-site disposal. Crews are then backfilling excavated areas with engineered sand. Top soil and seed will be graded on top of the sand fill to complete the site.

Samples collected from the treated soil and demolition debris were analyzed and results indicate that the constituents of concern are under regulatory limits.

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 until XRF screening confirms lead levels in soil are below 400 ppm. The excavated area will continue to be back-filled with engineered sand from a local manufacturer. Also, a layer of top soil will be spread over the sand 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. An XRF analyzer unit will be used to field screen excavated areas and composite confirmation samples will verify that the removal clean-up standard has been achieved.

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 4-5% mix rate to stabilize on site hazardous soil to render the material non-hazardous. Crews will continue to backfill excavated areas.

Confirmation Sampling is being conducted in grids where no concrete floor is found. Screening of the concrete is being conducted in the grids with a concrete floor.

2.2.2 Issues

Monitoring of weather forecasts will be included in the morning Site Health and Safety Meeting.

The property to the East of the site has been sampled and results have shown elevated lead levels along the paved walk way and along the BNSF railroad property and Right of Way. U.S. EPA has been meeting with the owners of these parcels to get these areas addressed.

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 Pilsen farmers market. All of the fact sheets have been reproduced in English and Spanish.

An open house was held on September 4, 2013 at the CASA Maravilla at 2021 S. Morgan in Chicago, Illinois from 4-6. Approximately 20 residences attended the open house and news media was present from Telemundo and from DNAinfo.com. An aid for alderman Danny Soliz was also present at the meeting.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

US EPA is the lead agency on Site.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

ATSDR

City of Chicago

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

ATSDR: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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.