

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #12  
Progress  
Loewenthal Metals  
C5C2  
Chicago, IL  
Latitude: 41.8552702 Longitude: -87.6498706

**To:**  
**From:** Steven Faryan, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 9/11/2013  
**Reporting Period:** 9/9/2013 - 9/13/2013

## 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 September 9, 2013, crews worked on backfilling excavation areas that have either been cleared by confirmation samples, or were excavated to the concrete foundation of the original building. START screened Grids 8 and 9 with an XRF, which indicated lead values >500ppm. Grids excavated an additional 6 inches. Crews also worked to cut large trees and pieces of timber into pieces small enough to dispose of.

On September 10, 2013, crews loaded trucks with remainder of Pile F for off site disposal. Crews also continued work on backfilling. Grids 8 and 9 were excavated until START XRF screening indicated lead values below 400. Confirmation samples were collected for Grids 8 and 9. Crews worked to excavate area in northeastern corner of site, along western edge of excavation pit. Soil is being staged in Pile G on eastern

edge of site.

On September 11, 2013, crews removed protective steel sidewalk plates from site. Crews also worked to spread top soil over backfilled parts of site. OSC and START conducted XRF screening of temporary walkway between site and railway east of site, and found lead levels between 700-100ppm. 20 yards of mulch were dropped off and used to cover dirt pathway.

On September 12, 2013, crews loaded trucks with treated soil from pile G for off site disposal and used a hoe-ram to break up large pieces of concrete for disposal. Crews resumed backfilling and treating/excavating soil along eastern edge of site.

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 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.

### **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 6-12 inch 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 and cover backfill with top soil. 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 City of Chicago 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 as 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/](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.