

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #14  
**Progress**  
**Loewenthal Metals**  
**C5C2**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Latitude: 41.8552702 Longitude: -87.6498706**

**To:**  
**From:** Steven Faryan, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 9/25/2013  
**Reporting Period:** 9/23/2013-9/27/2013

## 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>	10/1/2013	<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 23, 2013, the crew loaded soil from Pile H onto trucks for off site disposal. Seven total trucks were filled. ERRS also treated and excavated soil in grid 12. START screened soil in southwest corner of grid 12 to help determine the necessary depth of the entire grid. ERRS moved excess mulch to nearby community garden with skid steer.

On September 24, 2013, the crew finished treating and excavating soil in grids 12 and 14. START screened each grid with XRF to affirm that clean up goal had been met for lead and collected confirmation samples for grids 12 and 14. ERRS continued to load trucks with treated soil from Pile H for off site disposal and backfill excavation areas with engineered sand in locations that have been cleared by confirmation samples. Seven

total trucks were filled.

On September 25, 2013, the crew finished treating and excavating soil in grid 13, and finished loading the remainder of treated soil onto trucks for offsite disposal. START screened grid 13 with XRF and collected a confirmation sample. ERRs continued to backfill excavation areas with engineered sand and spread top soil across areas that have been cleared by confirmation samples.

On September 26th, 2013, the crew finished backfilling excavation areas with engineered sand which was covered with top soil. The top soil was seeded with native grass mix and covered with straw. Back hoe was deconned and demobed. Trailers were also demobed.

The tractor and seeding equipment will be demobilized on September 27, 2013. Additional restoration and demobilization of equipment will take place on September 30, 2013 and October 1, 2013.

During all Site operations, START operated and maintained DataRam and Personal DataRam (pDR 1500) units to monitor all dust/particulates on and along the perimeter of the 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 5-25 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 finished treating and excavating contaminated soil at site, and all treated contaminated soil has been hauled for off-site disposal. Crews backfilled excavated areas with engineered sand. Top soil and seed were 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 decon and demob of site equipment. Confirmation samples will verify that the removal clean-up standard has been achieved. A final PolRep will be prepared.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

ERRS contractors will continue decon and demob of site equipment. Confirmation samples will verify that the removal clean-up standard has been achieved. Samples from the adjacent property to the East of the site will be sent to the USGS lab in Colorado for speciation analysis. A final PolRep will be prepared.

The City of Chicago and their contractor SET Environmental will initiate removal of the contaminated soil on September 30, 2013. A work plan has been submitted to USEPA and work is scheduled to be completed by October 4, 2013.

The City is removing soil on the Sagamon Street Right of Way. The area will run approximately 20 feet to the East of the walking path and 120 feet to the south from Cullerton.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

ERRS contractors will continue decon and demob of site equipment. Confirmation samples will verify that the removal clean-up standard has been achieved. A final PolRep will be prepared.

### **2.2.2 Issues**

The property to the East of the Loewenthal site is owned by the City of Chicago and BNSF railroad. USEPA has been in discussion with these parties to begin the clean up of the soil.

## **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/](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.