

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Southeastern Wood Preserving - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #19  
Residential Soil Excavation Continues  
Southeastern Wood Preserving  
041L  
Canton, MS  
Latitude: 32.6181000 Longitude: -90.0161000

**To:** Matt Taylor, USEPA R4 ERRB  
Richard Ball, MS DEQ  
Shelby Johnston, EPA

**From:** Subash Patel, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 1/21/2014

**Reporting Period:** 01/09/2014 to 01/21/2014

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	041L	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S4-07-03
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	0042	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	9/25/2013
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	11/4/2013	<b>Start Date:</b>	8/31/2009
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	MSD000828558	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>	C10G03	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Fund-Lead Time Critical Removal Action

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Southeastern Wood Preserving Site is an abandoned wood preservation plant which operated from 1928 until it filed for bankruptcy in early 1979. The Site covers approximately twenty acres and is located in a predominantly commercial/residential area just east of downtown Canton, Madison County, Mississippi.

Multiple investigations and actions have been taken by the State of Mississippi and the EPA throughout the years, including an EPA initiated an emergency response action in 1986 to stabilize three unlined surface impoundments that contained creosote sludge and water as well as an August 2009 emergency response action to remove contaminated soil and sediment and installed a slurry wall along the south bank of Batchelor Creek.

These multiple sampling events and response actions have found polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, pentachlorophenol, and dioxins contamination in surficial and in subsurficial soils both on and off-site.

The Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspecting (PA/SI) was completed on July 17, 2009. The Site was proposed to the NPL in March 2011. The Site was listed on the NPL on May 15, 2012. The RI/FS, including a Human Health Risk Assessment, is underway with phase 1 completed in May 2013. In order to evaluate if any of the private properties adjacent to the SWP Site are impacted by Site contaminants, surface and subsurface soil samples were collected during Phase 1 of the RI/FS. Of the 45 properties sampled, nineteen exceeded the Regional Removal Management Levels for dioxins and benzo(a)pyrene in residential and commercial soils. The contamination was found at a depth of 0 – 6 inch. These residential and commercial properties were referred to the Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch to address under a Removal Action.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

There are twelve residential and seven commercial properties of concern. The properties are spread throughout a 17-acre area of Northeast Canton, Mississippi. The properties are located south of the SWP Site, across Covington Drive, between Miller Street to the West, Parker Street (Barfield Street) to the East

and North of Barfield Street. One property of concern is located near the intersection of Yandell Avenue and Miller Street. One additional property of concern is located near the intersection of Miller Street and Covington Drive.

The residential properties consist of small lots with houses and outbuildings. A number of the residential properties have vegetable gardens. A few lots are sparsely vegetated, and exposed surface soil is present; playground equipment is also present. Vacant lots are not fenced, and there is also evidence of exposed surface soil and children playing in these areas.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

The elevated benzo(a)pyrene and dioxin contamination presents a high probability of exposure to persons who live in the community. The contamination is found at ground surface. The Site consists of residential and commercial properties that are unsecured. There are children in this community who play in multiple yards. A number of the yards also have vegetable gardens. The hazardous substances in the soil pose a direct contact threat to the surrounding population. Benzo(a)pyrene and dioxins are classified as probable human carcinogens and have been shown to have mutagenic, reproductive and developmental health effects.

Benzo(a)pyrene and dioxins are hazardous substances as defined by CERCLA 101 (14) and listed in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 302.4. The EPA's TSS has reviewed the EPA residential sampling results and the EPA Removal Site Evaluation and determined there is a threat to public health and the environment resulting from the elevated benzo(a)pyrene and dioxin contamination present at the Site. This contamination is persistent and has been released to the yards of at least nineteen properties of the Center Terrace Community of the City of Canton.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

The Region 4 Superfund Remedial program conducted the Phase 1 Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study between November 6, 2012 and September 30, 2013, which included sampling of surface and subsurface soils from residential and commercial properties adjacent to the SWP Site.

In order to evaluate if any of the private properties adjacent to the SWP Site are impacted by Site contaminants, surface and subsurface soil samples were collected from 45 locations. At each location, a five-point composite surface soil sample was collected for chemical analysis from zero to six inches and subsurface samples were to be collected from six to twelve inches below ground surface, in an approximate 50 x 50 foot grid.

Of the 45 properties sampled, twelve exceeded the Regional Removal Management Levels (RML) for dioxins and benzo(a)pyrene in residential soils, and seven commercial properties exceeded the Regional RMLs for dioxins and benzo(a)pyrene in industrial soils. The contamination was found at a depth of zero to six inches.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

Soil at residential properties along Barfield Street are being addressed. About one foot of soil is being excavated. Sampling results show there is dioxin and/or benzo(a)pyrene concentration above Remedial Management Levels (RML) within the first twelve inches of soil, but concentration is well below RML from a depth of thirteen to twenty-four inches. Clay layer is found at a depth of about eight inches.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

The following is the list of properties that has been addressed as of January 21, 2014.

607 Barfield: Front and back yards complete.  
605 Barfield: Front and back yards complete.  
603 Barfield: Front yard complete. Back yard receiving sod.  
561 Barfield: Front yard undergoing excavation. Back yard is receiving sod.  
557 Barfield: Front yard undergoing excavation. Back yard is receiving sod.

On January 17, 2014, the Covington Drive commercial property owner of parcels 093D-20B-236/00.00 and 093D-20B-237/00.00 informed EPA that he prefers to keep his business open instead of temporarily shutting it down while EPA addresses his parcels. EPA initially informed property owner that his parcels may need to be addressed since they exceeded the residential RML and his property is adjacent to residential homes.

Therefore, EPA has informed property owner that the agency will focus on restoring his property since sample results for owner's parcels are well below commercial RML and owner does not want to temporarily close business. EPA used owner's parcels to gain access to back yards of Barfield Street properties.

However, in the process of restoring these two commercial parcels, the majority of the property's yard will be excavated up to six inches in order to remove swamp mats and restore drainage. Backfill and rock will be used to fill in excavated areas and other areas where heavy equipment were located. Property restoration activities started on January 18 and should be complete by January 21. Owner's business continues to be operational. MSDEQ representative at site agreed with these activities on January 17.

Property located at 519 Barfield Street is assumed to be below EPA's residential RML since wood treating activities did not occur on this lot. The property sits on two parcels, and a soil sample was taken by EPA's Superfund Remedial Program on the parcel closer to where site's facility is located. The sample result was

below residential RML. Therefore, it is assumed that the parcel located farther away from the site is below residential RML.

### **2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

The enforcement process is currently moving forward. The seven commercial properties are currently being vetted to determine liability.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Excavation of yards on properties located at 553 and 549 Barfield Street will begin next. An additional soil sample from 464 Covington Road will be collected and analyzed to further delineate potential excavation area if needed.

### **2.2.2 Issues**

A city ordinance for waste disposal has been raised during a visit by the local landfill operator. The operator informed EPA that waste generated within the city may be required to be disposed in the city's landfill.

EPA's Superfund and Contracting Officer attorneys are determining whether the agency must comply with the city ordinance. Until a decision is made, waste generated from the site will remain staged.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

Not applicable.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

The Safety Officer and Assistant Safety Officers for the site were assigned. A Site Specific Health and Safety Plan was created. EPA, START, ERRS and MS DEQ concurred on the plan. A copy of the plan is found online at [www.epaosc.org/SoutheasternWood](http://www.epaosc.org/SoutheasternWood). A hard copy with appropriate signatures is maintain on-site in the Site Trailer.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Cooperating Agencies**

State of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

City of Canton Mayors Office

City of Canton Police Department

## **4. Personnel On Site**

The following personnel were on-site at various times throughout the reporting period:

EPA: 1

START: 1

ERRS: 10

MSDEQ: 1

## **5. Definition of Terms**

### **5.1 Commonly Used Abbreviations**

OSC: On-Scene Coordinator

START: Superfund Technical Assistance Response Team Contractor

ERRS: Emergency Response Removal Services (ERRS) Contractor

MS DEQ: State of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

TEQ: Toxic Equilivent

## **6. Additional sources of information**

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

The site website and online repository for documents, pictures, figures, and reports are found at [www.epaosc.org/SoutheasternWood](http://www.epaosc.org/SoutheasternWood).

### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

POLREP should be generated monthly unless an issue arises.

#### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

The site website and online repository for documents, pictures, figures, and reports are found at [www.epaosc.org/SoutheasternWood](http://www.epaosc.org/SoutheasternWood).