

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
LaSalle Street Sunken Barge - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial  
LaSalle Street Sunken Barge  
Z5NV  
Chicago, IL  
Latitude: 41.8874298 Longitude: -87.6324879

**To:** Sam Borries, U.S. EPA  
Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA  
HQ EOC, U.S. EPA

**From:** Steve Faryan, OSC

**Date:** 7/11/2014

**Reporting Period:** 7/10/2014 - 7/11/2014

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	Z5NV	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	OPA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	
<b>NPL Status:</b>		<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	7/10/2014	<b>Start Date:</b>	7/10/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	Illinois EPA
<b>FPN#:</b>	E14533	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

Sunken construction barge in Chicago River at LaSalle Street Bridge, Chicago, Illinois. Watercraft navigation is not impeded by the incident.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The incident occurred at an active, permitted construction site managed by Walsh Construction to build a 'river walk' along the south bank of the Chicago River in downtown Chicago.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Construction equipment located on the barge contains diesel fuel, motor oil and hydraulic oil.

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

The barge is submerged in approximately 18' of water on the south bank of the river under the bridge. There is no detectable release of fuel or oil from the construction equipment that was staged atop the barge. There is no visible sheen on the surface of the river, and recreational/commercial use of the channel is unimpeded by the incident. The area is currently surrounded by absorbent boom as a precautionary measure. The area is being monitored 24 hours in the event that a release should occur from submerged equipment. SET Environmental has been hired by the RP to monitor boom and absorb any observable sheen.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

The responsible party Walsh Group Inc., has taken responsibility for the release and has taken all response actions to date. Walsh Group will award a contract to a Salvage company today 07/11/14 and is scheduling mobilization for Monday, 7/14/2014. It is anticipated that the heavy equipment will be salvaged from the river bottom and the barge will be raised by contractors to the responsible party.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Absorbent boom and navigational markers have been placed around the sunken barge. The site is being monitored 24 hours for appearance of a sheen on the water in the event that submerged heavy equipment should release fuel or oil. A Contractor will be hired and a salvage plans will be developed and approved by EPA with the assistance of USCG.

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

Walsh Group, Inc. is the responsible party and has taken full responsibility for the release and response actions. A Notice of Federal Interest was issued on 7/10/2014.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

NA

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Walsh Group and their salvage contractor will submit a salvage plan. The salvage plan will be reviewed EPA in coordination with USCG. EPA will oversee salvage operations and containment and collection of any potential oil release.

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

The construction equipment will be lifted from the river bottom and recovered. The sunken barge will be raised from the river bottom. Any oil released during the effort will contained, collected and disposed. All sorbents, boom and oil will be disposed of properly.

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

Review, provide any comments, and implement the Salvage Plan. Conduct oversight of salvage operations.

**2.2.2 Issues**

None

**2.3 Logistics Section**

The responsible party, Walsh Group, Inc., is coordinating all site logistics.

**2.4 Finance Section**

**2.4.1 Narrative**

FPN E14533 was issued on 7/10/2014 with a ceiling of \$5000.

**Estimated Costs \***

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
USEPA - Direct	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	100.00%
<b>Total Site Costs</b>				
	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	100.00%

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

**2.5 Other Command Staff**

**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

Mike Lawler of Walsh Group, Inc. serves as Senior Safety Officer for the responsible party.

**2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

NA

**2.5.3 Information Officer**

Anne Rowan and Joshua Singer, U.S. EPA Region 5

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

NA

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

United States Coast Guard

**4. Personnel On Site**

U.S. EPA - 1

Walsh Construction - 10 and 2 overnight security watch personnel

SET Environmental - 4

TOTAL - 15

**5. Definition of Terms**

EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency  
OSC - On Scene Coordinator  
NOFI - Notice of Federal Interest  
RP - Responsible Party  
USCG - United States Coast Guard

**6. Additional sources of information**

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

<http://www.epaosc.org/LaSalleStBridge>

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

A final POLREP will be issued upon completion of salvage activities.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.

POLREP #1 Last Updated 7/11/2014