

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Boise Rad Apartment - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region X

Subject: POLREP #5
PolRep #5 - 10/21 through 10/24
Boise Rad Apartment

Boise, ID
Latitude: 43.6625918 Longitude: -116.3447616

To:
From: Greg Weigel, OSC
Date: 10/26/2014
Reporting Period: 10/21 through 10/24

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	10NL	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	10/16/2014
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	10/10/2014	Start Date:	10/9/2014
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	IDN001001341	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	Idaho DEQ participating
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

CERCLA Emergency Response - Removal Action

1.1.2 Site Description

Please see PolRep #1 for the site description.

1.1.2.1 Location

Renaissance Apartments
6342 North Park Meadow Way
Boise, ID 83713

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Threat to human health from exposure to radioactive materials and/or hazardous substances. The apartment residence is located in close proximity to other apartment units, some of which housed children.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Materials reported and confirmed by radiological surveys include Americium 241, Uranium 235 and Uranium 238. Americium 241, Uranium 235, and Uranium 238 are all listed as "hazardous substances" at 40 CFR Table 302.4, Appendix B, implementing CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq.

Radioactive materials at the Site include materials from smoke alarms, radioactive pottery (orange glaze), instruments containing radium dials, uranium ore and depleted uranium. Many of these items were processed and manipulated. There are various piles of radioactive solids, including powders, throughout the apartment and on the patio. There are also various radioactive liquids and residues in containers, including plastic cups, in the apartment. These radioactive materials and other CERCLA hazardous substances found inside the apartment may be released into the environment through various mechanisms, including wind dispersion from the patio deck, discharge through sink drains, and tracking on shoes and pets.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

EPA, ERRS contractor and START contractor are currently on-site to determine the nature and extent of possible radiological and/or chemical contamination at the apartment, two vehicles, two garages, and a storage unit.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

See PolRep #1 for site activities through 10/11/14.

See PolRep #2 for activities covering 10/12/14 through 10/13/14.

See PolRep #3 for activities covering 10/14/14 through 10/16/14.

See PolRep #4 for activities covering 10/17/14 through 10/20/14.

10/21/14

EPA, IDEQ, ERRS, & START conducted the following activities:

Apartment Clearance

EPA Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT) and EPA Region 10 Radiation Task Force Leader (RTFL) personnel, along with the START contractor entered the apartment to (1) finish establishing an uncontaminated, clear area to store screened, uncontaminated personal property while decontamination and/or removal takes place in other rooms; (2) identify, document, and remove contaminated personal items and newly encountered radioactive sources; and (3) identify/document contaminated structural elements of the apartment (carpet, walls, countertops, etc.) as encountered.

RERT, RFTL, and START personnel continued the process of screening and clearing a room in the apartment to store uncontaminated items while decontamination and/or removal of contaminated items and structural components of the apartment are addressed. In addition to direct scan readings, wipe samples were collected to determine if mobile or removable contamination was present. By mid-day, RFTL had cleared a bedroom of radioactive sources and contaminated items. After clearing the female bedroom, the RFTL team screened the female bathroom via direct scan and wipe samples. Several areas with surface contamination were identified and documented in the bathroom.

During the day, several radioactive sources and personal items and wastes were also identified, documented, and segregated from clean items for decontamination and/or disposal. Several locations on the carpets in the male bedroom were identified and documented as contaminated. These areas were clearly delineated for future removal. Two strong sources were discovered in the bathroom adjacent to the female bedroom. These sources were documented and removed.

Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT) support

An EPA RERT Commander is continues to be present at the site to provide scientific support with additional radiation equipment.

Region 10 Response Support Corp Radiation Task Force Leader (RFTL) support

Two EPA Region 10 Response Support Corp Radiation Task Force Leaders have been supporting site operations since 10/20/14.

Public and Media Outreach

Both the EPA PIO and site CIC continue to provide support via telephone and email to further engage with residents, the media, or other interested parties.

Tenant relocation and personal property

EPA continued to provide support to the tenants by providing them access to temporary housing. When possible, EPA is retrieving, screening, and returning critical personal property from the apartment.

10/22/14

EPA, IDEQ, DOE RAP, ERRS, & START conducted the following activities:

Apartment Clearance

EPA RERT and RFTL personnel along with the START contractor entered the apartment to: (1) continue to identify, document, and remove contaminated personal items and newly encountered radioactive sources; and (2) identify, document contaminated structural elements of the apartment (carpet, walls, countertops, etc.) as encountered; (3) decontaminate and/or remove contaminated structural elements of the apartment.

EPA RERT and START completed clearing out the male bedroom/closet and bathroom so ERRS could remove the contaminated carpet and decontaminate interior surfaces. Wipe samples were collected to confirm the effectiveness of decontamination and determine if radioactivity had permeated to the subfloor. Wipe samples from the male bedroom/closet and bathroom indicate that the decontamination and removal was successful.

Concurrently, EPA RFTL and START completed decontamination and wipe sampling of the female bathroom. Results indicate that the decontamination and removal was successful. Following decontamination of the female bathroom, screening and wipe sampling of items and surfaces in the kitchen continued to further characterize the extent of contamination, segregate contaminated items from uncontaminated items, and identify contaminated surfaces.

Department of Energy (DOE) Radiation Assistance Program (RAP) support

Two DOE RAP Team 6 members conducted additional isotopic analysis of radioactive materials at the site in support of disposal and off-site shipment.

Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT) support

An EPA RERT Commander continued to be present at the site to provide scientific support with additional radiation equipment.

Region 10 Response Support Corp Radiation Task Force Leader (RFTL) support

Two EPA Region 10 Response Support Corp Radiation Task Force Leaders have been supporting site operations since 10/20/14.

Public and Media Outreach

Both the EPA PIO and site CIC continue to provide support via telephone and email to further engage with residents, the media, or other interested parties.

Tenant relocation and personal property

EPA continued to provide support to the tenants by providing them access to temporary housing. When possible, EPA is retrieving, screening, and returning critical personal property from the apartment.

10/23/2014

EPA, IDEQ, DOE RAP, ERRS, & START conducted the following activities:

Apartment Clearance

EPA RERT and RFTL personnel along with the START contractor entered the apartment to: (1) continue to identify, document, and remove contaminated personal items and newly encountered radioactive sources; and (2) identify, document contaminated structural elements of the apartment (carpet, walls, countertops, etc.) as encountered; (3) decontaminate and/or remove contaminated structural elements of the apartment.

Hazard Categorization of the unknown chemicals and radioactive materials

The START contractor completed additional hazard categorization of newly discovered radioactive materials in preparation for off-site transport and disposal.

Department of Energy (DOE) Radiation Assistance Program (RAP) support

Two DOE RAP team members arrived to conduct additional isotopic analysis of radioactive materials at the site in support of disposal and off-site shipment.

Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT) support

The EPA radiation specialist that has been present at the site to provide scientific support since 10/16/14 demobilized and will continue to provide remote support as needed.

Region 10 Response Support Corp Radiation Task Force Leader (RFTL) support

Two EPA Region 10 Response Support Corp Radiation Task Force Leaders have been supporting site operations since 10/20/14.

Public and Media Outreach

Both the EPA PIO and site CIC continue to provide support via telephone and email to further engage with residents, the media, or other interested parties.

Tenant relocation and personal property

EPA continued to provide support to the tenants by providing them access to temporary housing. When possible, EPA is retrieving, screening, and returning critical personal property from the apartment.

10/24/2014

EPA, IDEQ, DOE RAP, ERRS, & START conducted the following activities:

Apartment Clearance

EPA and RFTL personnel along with the START contractor entered the apartment to: (1) continue to identify, document, and remove contaminated personal items and newly encountered radioactive sources in the kitchen and living room; and (2) identify and document contaminated structural elements of the apartment (carpet, walls, countertops, etc.); (3) screen and clear personal items to be staged in a cleaned room within the apartment; (4) decontaminate and/or remove contaminated elements of the apartment. During the day, entry teams continued working in the living room primarily, with a few areas of the kitchen.

Department of Energy (DOE) Radiation Assistance Program (RAP) support

Two DOE RAP team members conducted additional isotopic analysis of radioactive materials at the site in support of disposal and off-site shipment.

Region 10 Response Support Corp Radiation Task Force Leader (RFTL) support

Two EPA Region 10 Response Support Corp Radiation Task Force Leaders have been supporting site operations since 10/20/14.

Public and Media Outreach

Both the EPA PIO and site CIC continue to provide support via telephone and email to further engage with residents, the media, or other interested parties.

Tenant relocation and personal property

EPA continued to provide support to the tenants by providing them access to temporary housing. No additional retrieving, screening, and returning critical personal property from the apartment was completed.

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

PRPs include the two occupants of the apartment unit.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

(1) Removal and proper disposal of radioactive and chemical wastes from the apartment. (2) Screening and segregating of apartment contents that has been staged away from the apartment. (3) Clearance of the apartment for re-occupancy.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

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

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

EPA Incident Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

Department of Energy (DOE) Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Team 6

4. Personnel On Site

October 21

EPA: 4

IDEQ: 1

START contractor: 5

ERRS contractor: 1

October 22

EPA: 4

DOE RAP: 2

IDEQ: 1

START contractor: 6

ERRS contractor: 3

October 23

EPA: 4

DOE RAP: 2

IDEQ: 1

START contractor: 5

ERRS contractor: 1

October 24

EPA: 3

IDEQ: 3

START contractor: 5

ERRS contractor: 1

DOE RAP: 2

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.