

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Sierra Zinc Mine & Mill - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region X

Subject: POLREP #3
Further Demolition and debris consolidation
Sierra Zinc Mine & Mill
WAN001002396
Northport, WA
Latitude: 48.7745000 Longitude: -117.6684000

To:
From: David Rees, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 10/27/2014
Reporting Period: 20-24 October 2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	10MC	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	8/28/2014
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	10/13/2014	Start Date:	10/13/2014
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	WAN001002396	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

SWPPP controls and BMPs are being inspected daily. Demolition of the mill building concluded on October 20, 2014. Wood from the mill demolition was sorted and excess scrap metal was removed in preparation for chipping. On October 22nd the Barn Building was demolished. A total of three drums were found during the demolition of the Barn. During demolition, a 55 gallon drum full of MIBC alcohol was inadvertently punctured and the contents were expelled on the surrounding wood and soils. Literature and material safety data sheet review concluded that MIBC alcohol is non-toxic but highly flammable and 94 percent biodegradable within 20 days. Caution was exercised in moving the leaking drum and the surrounding wood and soil material that was saturated with the liquid. The alcohol drum no longer contains fluid and was left near the site of the Barn Building. An empty cyanide drum containing household trash was found and placed among the other stored barrels on-Site. A reinforced drum containing an unknown white solid was found. The drum had bulged considerably and had a four inch crack that revealed a solid white substance (see pic). Extreme caution was exercised while removing the drum from the Barn and the drum was wrapped in plastic and stored away from other chemicals. On October 23rd an employee of Emerald Services arrived on-Site to characterize the drums. Further analytical information will be needed prior to disposal of the following two drums: a drum labeled Cyanamid found in the "oil shop" on-Site and the reinforced drum containing an unknown white solid.

Approximately 1,600 cyds of wood has been placed on the impoundment. Approximate 1,300 cubic yards (cyds) of contaminated material was removed from the 'slough area' west of Goldfield Mine Road and placed on the impoundment. The southwest corner of the tailings impoundment was shaped in anticipation of the installation of the HDPE liner.

Air samples were collected from four locations on October 20th, and from three locations on October 21st.

Air samples were sent for lab analysis.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

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

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Anticipated Activities for October 27th to October 31st:

Scrap metal will be hauled off site for recycling and wood will be chipped and staged on the impoundment.

Shaping of the southwest corner of the tailings impoundment will be concluded prior to placement of the HDPE containment liner and contaminated materials.

Upon completion of preparing the HDPE liner, high concentration contaminated soils near the mill area will be excavated and placed in the HDPE liner. Lower concentration contaminated soils in the mill area will be placed on the tailings impoundment.

Air samples will be collected on Site as frequently as practical.

Excavation of contaminated soils will be guided by screening with a field-portable X-Ray Fluorescence Meter (XRF).

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

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

ACI Northwest: 3 employees [4 employees on October 23rd; 1 employee on October 24th]

REMC: 1 employee

EPA: 1 employee on October 21st and October 22nd.

Dave Blackham with Emerald Services arrived on site to characterize the drums located near the “oil shop.”

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.