

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region X

**Subject:** POLREP #5  
Further consolidation of tailings  
Sierra Zinc Mine & Mill  
10MC  
Northport, WA  
Latitude: 48.7745000 Longitude: -117.6684000

**To:** Lynne Kershner, EPA R10 (POLREP LIST)  
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**From:** David Rees, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 11/14/2014

**Reporting Period:** Nov 3 - 7 2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

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

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

SWPPP controls and BMPs were inspected onsite prior to work each day. Goldfield Mine Road was inspected visually and with an XRF daily for contamination, the road tested clean every day. Wood from the mill and barn building demolition was placed in the impoundment and broken down using tracked heavy equipment. Approximately 7,000 cubic yards (cyds) of material was removed from the mill area and placed on the impoundment. The concrete slabs that were underneath the mill buildings were cleaned off. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the construction entrance was sloped to divert potential stormwater from the mill area to the contracted drainage on the north side of the construction entrance.

Contaminated soils were discovered around Mr. Nixon's (the land owner) outbuilding ('museum') that were removed by hand and placed on the impoundment. The building foundation was compromised due to age/deterioration. The building's foundation was stabilized/repaired.

Two loads of scrap metal were removed by the recycler.

*Sampling:* On October 30, 2014 samples from two drums containing unidentified materials were collected and submitted for analyses.

Air samples were collected from three locations on October 30<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Air samples were sent for lab analysis on October 31, 2014 and November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Analytical results for the following air samples were received on November 6, 2014. The analytical

results are presented below:

| Sample Id      | Date collected | Lead ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) | Reporting Limit ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) | Method     |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------|
| #1 D6 Dozer    | 10/30/2014     | <100                              | 100  | NIOSH 7303 |
| #2 Nixon Fence | 10/30/2014     | <100                              | 100  | NIOSH 7303 |
| #3 Silt Fence  | 10/30/2014     | <100                              | 100  | NIOSH 7303 |

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

*Anticipated Activities for November 10<sup>rd</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>:*

The HDPE liner containing high-lead soils will be welded and covered.

Lower concentration contaminated soils in the surrounding and mill areas will continued be placed on the tailings impoundment. Materials north of haul road will begin to be transported to the 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).

### 2.3 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: 5 employees

REMC: 1 employee

EPA: None

START: None

*Visitors/Agency Personnel*

None

## 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.

POLREP #5 Last Updated 11/14/2014