

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2014

From: Carter Williamson

Subject: ESB

1246 Allene Avenue and Neighboring Properties, Atlanta, GA

Latitude: 33.7167000

Longitude: -84.4008000

POLREP No.:	17	Site #:	A4AB
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	0045
Start Date:	2/15/2006	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	2/15/2006	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:	6/25/2009	NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	GAD078105749	Contract #	68-S4-02-04
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The ESB, Inc., Site (Site), located at 1246 Allene Street in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia, is a defunct manufacturing facility which produced lead-acid automobile batteries from 1948 to 1988. Facility operations included casting lead alloys, producing oxides of lead, mixing lead pastes, and forming positive and negative battery plates. Manufacturing operations ceased in 1988. The Site, situated on 12 acres of land in a mixed-use zoning area in southwest Atlanta, Georgia is bordered by a railroad spur on the north, and residential properties on the west, southeast and south. The nearest residential property is located approximately 500 feet to the west of the facility. A child care center is located directly across the street from the facility to the west. It was alleged that during the manufacturing process, lead particles were released to the atmosphere via emissions from elevated roof stacks at the facility and impacted some of the surrounding properties.

In accordance with the AOC, EPA conducted a fund-lead, time-critical removal action at residential and commercial properties located in the immediate outside perimeter of the ESB facility. This cleanup action included the remediation of lead and arsenic from 48 residential yards and a ditch located downgradient and due north of the facility. Prior to remediation, lead contaminated soils in the yards and ditch revealed elevated lead of 500 mg/kg and 44,000 mg/kg, respectively.

An EPA Fund-lead, Time-Critical Removal Action was implemented at the Site to mitigate lead-contaminated soils identified at residential and commercial properties located in the immediate vicinity of the ESB facility. Lead contamination identified at the properties remediated during this action are suspected to have been directly impacted as a result of historical operations at the ESB facility.

As part of the Administrative Order on Consent for Removal Action (Order) for the ESB, Inc., Site and through a request of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Exide Technologies employed the services of AMEC E&I (AMEC) to perform quarterly groundwater sampling at the Site. As of September 2010, OSC Carter Williamson has overseen the activities associated with the ESB Site.

Current Activities

On June 10, 2013, Exide filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Federal bankruptcy code and notified EPA and EPD that it was ceasing work at the ESB, Inc., Site until a determination was made in the 2013 bankruptcy process as to any future work under the Order. Up to that point, several conference calls and meetings had taken place between EPA, EPD, Exide and AMEC to help progress the clean-up and remediation of the Site. At the time of the bankruptcy filing, Exide had drafted a letter outlining a potential path forward that was discussed during a meeting on March 21, 2013. Exide forwarded a letter and a proposed remediation plan to EPA and EPD on January 21, 2014 titled "Path Forward for Remediation" which addressed several remediation options focusing on soil excavation at various locations and depths on the former ESB Site. This document was forwarded to the Technical Services Section for review and consideration. After reviewing the proposal, the Georgia Environmental

Protection Division (GAEPD) forwarded their recommendations to EPA for comment and final decision. EPD sent forward a letter to Exide outlining an acceptable removal action scenario that would meet both EPD's and EPA's requirements for the site. Since that letter was sent, EPA, GAEPD, Atlanta Code Enforcement, Councilwomen Shepard (District 12) and others participated in a community meeting at Perkerson Park on April 18th to address and update the residents on the progress at the Site. The Atlanta Newspaper Creative Loafing also printed a story of the community meeting and the site. On October 3, 2014, EPA, EPD and Exide met to discuss the bankruptcy proceedings and the future of the clean-up at the former ESB site. According to Exide, they had previously believed that they would emerge from bankruptcy proceedings towards the end of December, however that date has been extended to March 31st. Exide plans to clarify their commitment to the former ESB site to EPA and EPD before the March 31st deadline. Other issues discussed included off-site delineation of groundwater impacts, complying with a commercial, industrial and residential standard, and addressing a site-wide mean average. Discussions continued about protective covenants, direct contact threats, leaching potential, off-site monitoring and access issues associated with the railroads.

Planned Removal Actions

Before Exide emerges from bankruptcy on March 31, 2015, they will notify EPA and GAEPD of what their intentions will be for the former ESB site and how what resources they will commit to finalizing the clean-up at the site. At that point, EPA and EPD will then determine how to proceed based on Exide's plan.

Next Steps

EPA and GA EPD, along with Atlanta Code Enforcement will continue to coordinate with Councilmember Joyce Sheperd, District 12 and her office to discuss their findings and to plan the path forward for the site. EPA will also be in contact with Exide on their remediation proposal and the Exide bankruptcy proceedings. At present, both EPA and EPD are awaiting Exides indication of what they plan to do with the site once they emerge from bankruptcy proceedings in March 2015.

Key Issues

Remediation of the lead contaminated soils present on-site

Code enforcement issues as it relates to the security of the building and the perimeter fencing

Final dissolution of the actual structure (either demolition, selling it to a commercial development or transference to the community for use)

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