

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Wedron Ground Water - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #6  
Progress  
Wedron Ground Water  
C5B8  
Wedron, IL  
Latitude: 41.4370048 Longitude: -88.7745317

**To:**  
**From:** Steven Faryan, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 2/26/2015  
**Reporting Period:** 05/28/2014 to 2/13/2015

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	C5B8	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S5-09-05
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	0090	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	11/16/2012
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	2/4/2013	<b>Start Date:</b>	12/14/2011
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	ILN005510677	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

CERCLA time critical removal action.

US EPA provided an alternate water source to residents with impacted groundwater (benzene contamination) by installing deeper residential wells. The deep wells were designed to be steel cased and cemented into the New Richmond Aquifer to prevent any downward migration of contaminants. U.S. EPA had initially installed carbon filtration units in a 11 residential wells contaminated with benzene at or near the drinking water standard. US EPA, IEPA, and the PRPs, are conducting an investigation to determine the source of the contamination.

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

A mixed rural, residential and industrial area where 14 private residences have levels of benzene above or near the drinking water standard of 5 parts per billion. Bottled water was initially provided to the residents and carbon units were installed on the private wells until an alternate water source could be provided by drilling replacement wells into the deep aquifer (New Richmond). One residential well which provided service to 3 rental units and one home has two separate carbon unit installed to provide clean drinking water. These carbon units will be serviced in April o 2015 after which the landlord will be responsible for the carbon change out.

##### Location

The town is made up of 40 residential homes in Wedron, LaSalle County, Illinois. The town is unincorporated, so there is no local government, water, or sewer department. All of the homes and industrial locations use private wells and septic systems. The town borders the Wedron Silica Plant now owned by Fairmont Minerals and Lockheed Martin formerly, which operates a silica mine, drying and screening process, laboratory, and Technisand plant that coats sand with a phenolic resin. This coated sand is used in Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) of natural gas and oil wells. The Wedron and Dayton Grain facility operated along right of Way owned by Illinois Railtracks and Three underground storage tanks have been removed since August of 2012 along the right of way. An Amoco Oil (British Petroleum) bulk terminal operated along the Illinois RR Right of Way and was located at the north end of WD Grain facility. The Hoxsey Store and Gas station operated as a gasoline filling station into the late 1970's when the store burned to the ground. IEPA has been investigating the soil and ground water contamination at the Hoxsey property.

#### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The chemical constituents that have been identified include: Benzene, Ethylbenzene, toluene, xylenes

(BTEX) and other volatile organics have been detected in private wells above the Maximum Concentration Levels (MCL's)

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

The site investigation is being conducted under the Order began on November 2013 at the Wedron Silica and Technisand property, on the Illinois Railway property, and BP (formerly Amoco Bulk Terminal). The investigations have been completed and final reports are being reviewed by USEPA. Illinois Railway has not yet submitted the final report and this is due to additional step out sampling that was required on the property. The stop out sampling will take place on March 3 and 4 , 2015 and the report will be finalized when all the results are received and and meet the data quality objectives.

IEPA has completed their investigation on the Hoxsey property and the final report is pending.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

In November and December of 2013, EPA conducted additional rounds of residential water sampling. Some of the sampling was done at the request of residents when they became aware of groundwater contamination in the vicinity, and some was done to verify that filters or alternate water supplies were effective at delivering clean water. Any future requests for private wells sampling will be handled by LaSalle County Health Department and Illinois EPA who are collecting private well samples and analyzing the samples at the IEPA laboratory.

In December 2013, EPA oversaw the investigation of additional sub-surface anomalies along the Illinois Railroad right of way. The investigation consisted of excavating identified anomalies and sampling sub-surface soil at agreed upon locations. EPA collected split soil samples from some of the intervals sampled by the Illinois Railroad contractors.

In January and February of 2014, EPA oversaw the investigation centered around the former Amoco bulk plant, which is now owned by BP, who led the investigation. The investigation consisted sampling sub-surface soil at locations on the former Amoco bulk terminal property. EPA collected split soil samples from some of the intervals sampled by the BP contractors.

In March and April of 2014, EPA oversaw the installation of four monitoring wells north of the Wedron Silica property, and EPA also sampled these wells. EPA also sampled IEPA and EPA installed monitoring wells.

In May of 2014, EPA oversaw additional investigation of a location on the Wedron Silica property where AST's had been located. Previous sampling indicated detectable volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination at the locations, and this part of the investigation centered on further delineation. EPA collected a split sample during the work.

Also in May of 2014, EPA oversaw the investigation of sub-surface soil and temporary monitoring well sampling at the Technisand property.

Finally, in May 2014, EPA connected four residences that use the same well to a carbon filtration system. The water at these residences have detectable benzene levels very near, but not above the EPA MCL. The carbon filter will clean the water, and EPA will continue to monitor benzene levels before and after the carbon filters.

On May 9, 2014, BP submitted their Site Investigation Technical Memorandum to EPA. In summary BP advanced 9 soil borings to depths of 14 to 30 feet below ground surface (bgs) on their property and collected 19 soil samples. Samples were analyzed for VOCs, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), pH, and lead. None of the samples exceeded the IEPA TACO screening criteria. BP has submitted a final technical memo summarizing the results. U.S. EPA has reviewed the technical memorandum and quality assurance and submitted comments to BP. All of the comments have been addressed and the technical memorandum was re-submitted. A close out letter is being prepared by US EPA to document that all of the investigation required under the Consent Order with BP has been completed.

On May 23, 2014, Illinois Railway submitted a Site Investigation Report to EPA. In summary, a total of 15 soil borings were advanced to depths of up to 34 feet bgs. U.S. EPA submitted comments to Illinois Railway on the Site Investigation report and requested additional step out borings in locations where the soil concentrations exceeded IEPA TACO standards. Below is a summary of the investigation results.

- A total of 30 **soil samples** were collected and analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, lead, and pH. Several soil samples exceeded IEPA TACO screening criteria for BTEX compounds. In addition, several non-detect benzene results had high reporting limits above the IEPA TACO screening criteria and these may have exceeded the screening criteria if not for matrix interferences in the samples causing elevated reporting limits.
- A total of 4 **groundwater samples** were collected from four of the borings. One groundwater sample exceeded the IEPA TACO screening criteria for benzene and ethylbenzene. Groundwater samples also exceeded screening criteria for lead, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, naphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene. Illinois Railway will conduct "step out" soil borings on March 3 and 4, 2015. Once the data is received a final site investigation report will be submitted to US EPA.

On August 4, 2014, Wedron Silica/Technisand/Lockheed Martin (hereafter referred to as Wedron Silica) submitted their investigation report to EPA and then submitted a revised report on November 25, 2014, based on EPA comments. Wedron Silica advanced a total of 22 soil borings amongst five areas: the Tech Center, former 4,000-gallon gasoline UST area, former 6,000-gallon gasoline UST area, WGS-GP-10 Area, and Pit 2 Reclamation Area. Below is a summary of the investigation results.

- A total of 68 **soil samples** were collected and analyzed for VOCs, lead, pH, and Fraction Organic Carbon (FOC). Soil samples around the 4000-gallon UST area had the highest concentration of VOCs and the most exceedances of IEPA TACO screening criteria. However, the 4000-gallon UST area is located southwest of the town and based on groundwater flow would likely not have affected residential wells in town. One soil sample in the WGS-GP-10 Area had a benzene result that exceeded IEPA TACO screening criteria. Also, one soil sample in each the WGS-GP-10 Area and the 6000-gallon UST area contained high reporting limits for benzene above the IEPA TACO screening criteria and these may have exceeded the screening criteria if not for matrix interferences in the samples causing elevated reporting limits.
- A total of 4 **groundwater samples** were collected from three of the soil borings and analyzed for VOCs. None of these results exceeded IEPA TACO screening criteria.
- The further investigations at the UST area on Wedron Silica will be overseen by Illinois EPA who has the authority under the Leaking Underground Tank program.

IEPA is currently working with Wedron Silica on additional investigations to better define the UST areas with contamination. The IEPA UST Section has assigned a project managers to oversee investigation and remediation.

IEPA is finalizing a data evaluation report for the Hoxsey property and all of the Wedron data. The report has been drafted and is awaiting funding to finalzie the report.

LaSalle County plans storm water control and construction this year on Highway 21 in Wedron.

EPA Air Division and Wedron Silica will be conducting air monitoring for particulates at the Wedron Silca Plant in Wedron, Illinois.

### 1.2 Response Actions to Date

See previous POLREPs

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

**US. EPA has indentified multiple potential responsible parties and has issued information requests to the complany's**

The Agency is overseeing groundwater and soil investigations by BP, Illinois Railway, Technisand, and Wedron Silica Company, Fairmont Minerals, and Lockheed Martin as agreed through Administrative Orders on Consent (AOCs) with the companies. The AOCs are available on the USEPA webpage under Technical Documents. USEPA held a public meeting in Wedron on December 4 2013; April 23, 2014; and August, 2015; to discuss further investigation by the Potentially Responsible parties and to discuss the private well results with the affected residents.

Results of the investigations will be made available on the web sites and the residents of Wedron will be briefed on the investigation results at the next public meeting which is planned in April 8, 2015.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
Solidified Drillers Mud	Solid	12 Tons	001		Republic Servies, Inc., Ottawa, IL
Solidified Drillers Mud	Solid	12 Tons	002		Republic Servies, Inc., Ottawa, IL
Solidified Drillers Mud	Solid	10 Tons	003		Republic Servies, Inc., Ottawa, IL
Waste Water from drilling operations	Liquid	9500 gallons			Ottawa, IL POTW

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

- Prepare close out letter for the BP site investigation report and the Wedron Silica Report. All of the investigation work has been completed by BP that was required under the consent order.
- Prepare Close out letter for the Wedron Silica site investigation and report. All of the investigation work has been completed by Wedron Silica that was requied under the consent order. Further investigation at the UST area on the Wedron Silica property will be overseen by IEPA's underground Storage Tank Section.
- The Illinois Railway site investigation was submitted to USEPA and comments were issued to Illinois Railway along with additional step out sampling that will be required. Illinois Railway will conduct the

step out sampling on March 3 and 4th 2015 wil oversight by USEPA. Once the data is recieved and meets data quality objectives the site investigation report will be finalized.

- EPA plans to change out the carbon filters at the Mike Burmea residences in late March or early April 2015.
- Hold Public Meeting on April 8, 2015.

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

- None

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

NA

### **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

#### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

#### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

#### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

Heriberto Leon USEPA CIC has completed the Community Involvement Plan and has planned and coordinated the 7 community meetings that have been conducted for the Wedron residents. The next public meeting is planned for April 8, 2015 at the Dayton Township facility.

### **3. Participating Entities**

#### **3.1 Unified Command**

NA

#### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
LaSalle County Health Dept.  
LaSalle County Highway Dept.  
Dayton Township

### **4. Personnel On Site**

No Personnel on site at this time.

### **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

### **6. Additional sources of information**

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

[www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/wedron](http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/wedron)

#### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

Additional POLREPS will be issued as needed.

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.