U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Wiley's Bridge Lead Site - Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: **POLREP #6**
Wiley's Bridge Lead Site
A3YB
Reading, PA
Latitude: 40.4421031 Longitude: -75.9274248

To:
From: Todd Richardson, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 3/19/2015
Reporting Period: 3/02/2015 - 3/18/2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A3YB	**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	**Response Type:**	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	5/1/2014	**Start Date:**	5/1/2014
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	
FPN#:		**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category
Removal Action

1.1.2 Site Description

The Wiley's Bridge Lead Site (Site), located in along Wiley's Ln., and on the Blue Falls Grove property, on the banks of, and possibly into the Maiden Creek, is owned by the City of Reading, and the private owner(s) of the Blue Falls Grove Property. The suspected area of concern, owned by the City of Reading appears to be an area of approximately a quarter, to a half mile along a stretch of Wiley's Ln., on the bank of, and possibly into the Maiden Creek. Similarly, the initial area of concern on the Blue Falls Grove property appears to extent from Wiley's Bridge, east along the bank of the Maiden Creek, for approximately one half mile. The actual size the impacted area of the Site may change following an extent of contamination investigation. During Site visits, adults have been observed fishing, and both adults and children have been observed swimming in affected area of Maiden Creek. The Blue Falls Grove Property is an active 38 acre RV, camp ground, fair ground, picnic area, and event (weddings, family/company events and picnics) destination. Families, including children, play, fish, and swim in the area of concern, and are potentially exposed to unsafe lead concentrations in the surface soil and debris at the Site. The Site is surrounded by rural residential property, and approximately 5,000 acres owned by the City of Reading. The Reading property consists of mostly wooded areas, with some hiking trails, and the Ontelaunee Reservoir, which serves as the public water supply for the City of Reading, and some surrounding areas.

The area of concern to the west of Wiley's Bridge was investigated by the City of Reading in the early 1990's. The results of the investigation indicated the presence of elevated lead concentrations and battery fragments in the surface and subsurface soils. It is not clear why the investigation did not continue, and necessary remedial action did not occur.

1.1.2.1 Location
Intersection of Wileys Ln. and Bowers Rd, Reading, PA 19605

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Lead-contaminated soils and soil containing lead-contaminated materials are located throughout the Site. While there is some vegetative cover around the Site, the vegetation does not adequately cover the soil to prevent potential exposure to lead contamination, the soil and waste material is often bare or very poorly vegetated. Residents around the Site, visitors, and trespassers onto the Site have unrestricted access to the contaminated soil areas. Contact with the soil and subsequent incidental ingestion of contaminated soil poses a significant threat to human health of nearby populations.

In the absence of cleanup activities, the Site poses a potential direct contact threat to human receptors (trespassers), as well as the potential for secondary contamination of private residences and businesses. Incidental ingestion of lead in the soil or sediment at the Site may result in increased blood lead levels. Lead is known to adversely affect the central nervous system.
The hazardous substances located in the soils at the Site include lead contaminated, exposed surface soil on an embankment, and on walking trails. There is insufficient vegetation to prevent the migration of the contaminated soil through erosion by wind or precipitation or movement through pedestrian traffic. Areas of erosion have been observed throughout the site. Lead contaminated soils could easily migrate downgrade to heavily used recreational areas and/or into the Maiden Creek.

Reports indicate that RAWA has supplemantal inlets located downstream of the site. They are located approximately 3/4 mile downstream, at the RAWA water treatment plant. These supplemental intakes are used in case there is a need to either blend water from Maiden Creek with the Lake Ontelaunee water, or to exclusively use Maiden Creek water.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results
In May, 2014, PADEP Project Manager, Dave Hrobuchak contacted OSC Richardson regarding reports of battery fragments observed along Maiden Creek, near Wiley's Bridge. On May 1, 2014, OSC Richardson joined PADEP Project Manager Hrobuchak for an initial assessment of the area of concern. Significant amounts of battery fragment waste was observed along Maiden Creek for about a quarter mile, on the bank of Maiden Creek. Five random discrete surface soil samples were collected and sent to a lab for analysis. Analytical results revealed lead concentrations of 15,803ppm, 23,378ppm, 33,884ppm, 55,063ppm, and 68,489ppm. All of the analytical results far exceed the area specific risk based action level of 572ppm (screening number used prior to the WBLC Actoin Memo, which establised an action level of 400ppm), established for the Price Battery Remedial Site.

Following the initial assessment, the EPA OSC again visited the Site. Walking along the bank of Maiden Creek, using an XRF, battery fragments and elevated lead concentrations were found not only in the initial quarter mile west of Wiley's Bridge, but also on to the east of the Bridge, onto the Blue Falls Grove Property. ATSDR was consulted regarding the findings at the site, and support the proposed action. The City of Reading was also briefed on the concerns related the Site, and has granted EPA access to further investigate. EPA has also met with the owners of the Blue Falls Grove Property. After consultation with their respective attorneys, both the owner and lease purchaser granted EPA access to conduct investigation, and necessary remival activities on the Blue Falls Grove Property.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative
ERRS crew excavated the area north of pavillion 5 to the access road for the campground. The excavation was screened with an XRF and ex-situ confirmation samples were collected, prepped and analyzed. All ex-situ soil results were recorded in the site XRF logbook. After completing the area north of pavillion 5, the excavation activities moved to the residential rental house in the campground. A septic tank was unearthed between the house and a restroom building for campers. The septic tank was surrounded by a 2' - 3' vein of battery chips/casings approximately 1' bgs. This area of battery casings appeared to be functioning as a septic leech fiel. XRF readings in this area were as high as 168K ppm lead (16.8%). Due to melting ice/snow and precipitation causing elevated groundwater levels, about 1' of standing water has pooled in the excavated leech field. Excavation of battery casings will be conducted when standing water drains from excavated area. The Ontelaunee Township Septic Manager Contractor (Larson Engineering), inspected the area of the disturbed septic system, and provided recommendations for the replacement of the system to meet PA Code specifications. Historic aerial photographs were obtained from the state showing conditions at the site dating back to the early 1940s. Ludgate engineers were on site to review draft site drawings showing the location of the floodway and flood plain. Representatives from ERT and TISFD were on site to provide input on treatment alternatives to be considered, inorder to potentially reduce costs. They will be providing feedback in the near future based on their visit.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date
Removal Assessment complete
Extent of contamination investigation (near complete with exception of Maiden Creek sediment sampling)
Removal Activities began

2.**1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**
PRPs (property owners) have been identified. Information request letters have been sent to PRPs.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities
Additional Funding Request (Action Memo) to be completed
Action Memorandum to be completed (completed as of 10/16/14)
Removal Activities to commence (as of 11/5/14)

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities
Removal activities may include extent of contamination investigation, stabilization, cover/encapsulation, and/or excavation and disposal (or onsite waste consolidation) of identified areas of lead contamination.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps
Conduct sediment scereening/sampling activities in Maiden Creek
Continuation of clearing/grubbing activities
Conduct engineering evaluation
Evaluate removal alternatives
Draft engineering design plans
Begin implimentation/construction of engineered plans

2.2.2 Issues
Inclement weather periodically slows prgress

2.3 Logistics Section
No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section
2.4.1 Narrative
On 3/18/15 the OSC has requested a modification of Weston's existing TDD for Wileys Bridge to add hours and money. The OSC is in the process of drafting an additional funding request Action Memo, there is an immediate need to increase Weston's hours and funding to allow for the continuation of technical oversight and specialized analytical services. ERT/OSWER who are recommending specific specialized analysis to assist in determining potentially feasible treatment alternatives. Due to the time critical nature of the site, it is necessary to expedite these analysis by sending sample directly to a specialized private lab. In addition I am requesting that Weston assess groundwater in the area of concern, which may involve sub-contracting a drilling/geo-probe company It may be necessary to fund the estimated cost of this modification ($88,601) from the existing contingency funds ($100,000). The OSC has requested that the $100,000 extramural contingency be utilized to fund the the modification of the START TDD.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	$700,000.00	$679,549.17	$20,450.83	2.92%
TAT/START	$69,792.00	$69,099.33	$692.67	0.99%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	$769,792.00	$748,648.50	$21,143.50	2.75%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff
No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities
3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies
EPA, PADEP, ATSDR/CDC, City of Reading, Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA), PA Game Commission

4. Personnel On Site
EPA, ERRS and START contractors.

5. Definition of Terms
No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information
6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

6.2 Reporting Schedule
Weekley - Bi-Weekley

7. Situational Reference Materials