

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #8  
Wiley's Bridge Lead Site  
A3YB  
Reading, PA  
Latitude: 40.4421031 Longitude: -75.9274248

**To:**  
**From:** Todd Richardson, On Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 5/21/2015  
**Reporting Period:** 4/11/2015 - 5/10/2015

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A3YB	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	4/28/2015
<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>	5/1/2014	<b>Start Date:</b>	5/1/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 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 supplemental 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 established 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 removal activities on the Blue Falls Grove Property.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

A crane with professional tree service personnel were mobilized to site to remove three very large trees hanging over the Maiden Creek and next to the bridge with power lines nearby, in preparation for remedial activities on the BFG property. ERRS crew restored all areas around the Falls Room and the area north of pavillion 5. This included installing backfill and topsoil. The areas were then restored with sod or mulch. A stone swale was extended to the creek bank to divert water away from front door of Falls Room. A vinyl fence was installed around the pation on the south side of the Falls Room as a safety measure. With the vegetation removed and only erosion matting securing the bank, the fence was installed to protect the public/guests of the Falls Room from a potentially falling down into the creek. The length of creek bank from the Blue Falls spillway west to Wileys Bridge was lined with hay bales for additional erosion control., as well as construction fencing to restrict public access. The engineering firm which handles the township septic tank code enforcement was on site to conduct a perc test as part of the removal of old system and installation of a new one. These results indicated the area selected for a sand mound is suitable. This septic tank services the rental cottage and a restroom for campers. All of the battery fragments and casings from the area around the rental cottage were removed to the depth of groundwater.

#### 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

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

### 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 screening/sampling activities in Maiden Creek  
Continuation of clearing/grubbing activities  
Conduct engineering evaluation  
Evaluate removal alternatives  
Draft engineering design plans  
Begin implementation/construction of engineered plans

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

Inclement weather periodically slows progress

### **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**

### **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**

Weekly - Bi-Weekly

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

PADEP/EPA Assessment Report