

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: POLREP #9
Wiley's Bridge Lead Site
A3YB
Reading, PA
Latitude: 40.4421031 Longitude: -75.9274248

To:
From: Todd Richardson, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 6/5/2015
Reporting Period: 5/11/2015 - 5/31/2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A3YB	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	4/28/2015
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 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

During this reporting period there were 10 confirmation samples collected from the excavation between the rental cottage and pavillion in Blue Falls Grove campground. These samples were processed and analyzed with an XRF. There were 15 XRF cup samples shipped to a CLP lab for lead analysis. These samples represent 10% of the total processed samples and the results will be used to establish that the XRF is providing laboratory quality data. Replacement shrubs were purchased to compensate for the ones removed during excavating activities around the Falls Room building. In the excavation between the rental cottage and pavillion all standing water was pumped to an area to be removed later and 3" stone placed in the bottom. Quarry shale is to be placed on top of the 3" stone and modified 2A stone as the final layer. It took a few shale sources to get a product that passed the PADEP arsenic cleanup standard of 12 ppm. A secure access path to the campground boat ramp/dock was installed to discourage campers from walking across disturbed soils and coming into contact with contamination. This path was created with wood chips and security fencing. Signage was put on security fencing throughout the campground asking persons to stay out of the work area. A representative from the community involvement section of EPA was on site to distribute lead packets to campers and nearby cottages across the creek from the site. The representative answered all questions concerning the site as well. ERRS began clearing an area for staging rip-rap and soil excavated from the Maiden Creek bank. This area is just to the west of the command post and located on RAWA property. Test pits were screened on a private residence at the corner of Bowers Road and Wileys Road. The test pits revealed no elevated lead readings and the homeowner was sent a results letter stating that the property tested clean. The final design for septic system was received and the engineer was on site to scope out the area it is to be installed and answered all questions.

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