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

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: **POLREP #15**
Wiley's Bridge Lead Site
A3YB
Reading, PA
Latitude: 40.4421031 Longitude: -75.9274248

To:
From: Todd Richardson, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 10/2/2015
Reporting Period: 09/05/2015 - 10/01/2015

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 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
An at grade leach field was installed just west of the rental cottage. ERRS connected a temporary septic holding tank to the rental cottage and then removed the old septic system and surrounding contaminated soil. START screened the excavation area with an XRF to ensure all lead was removed and to determine if the soil would be placed in the hazardous or non-hazardous stock pile. The hazardous stockpile has soil with concentrations exceeding above 5,000 ppm lead. This excavation was backfilled with shale and stone to allow for surface water drainage, followed by backfill with clean fill. The septic tanks will be installed in this location and the installer requested that the area be backfilled to the original grade. They will then re-excavate the soil and install the system. The water line to the pavilion in front of the rental cottage was re-connected. ERRS and a subcontractor installed a 24" diameter silt sock filled with mulch along a 1630' stretch of Maiden Creek bank on the RAWA side of Wiley's Bridge. This is to prevent sediment from entering the creek during excavation activities. The branches of the trees to be removed along the creek bank had all of their branches that were over Wiley's Road cut. This will make their removal easier and safer. Samples of the hazardous and non-hazardous soil stock piles from both Blue Falls Grove and RAWA were collected and sent to a lab for analysis. These results will be provided to the disposal facility. EPA is consulting with the Army Corps of Engineers to revise the bank stabilization design to incorporate "greener" components. The revised design will include the sections of the bank receiving a heavy duty erosion control mat in lieu of/in addition to rip rap from the top of the bank to the bottom of the bank. the Erosion control mat can be seeded and vegetated to allow for increased habitat and greater bio diversity.

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

Creek Bank removal/stabilization work
Groundwater investigation
Erosion control filter sock installation
Continued clearing and grubbing
Installation of temporary coffer dams
Transport and disposal of contaminated soils
Installation of septic system

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 of alternatives
Evaluate removal alternatives
Revise engineering design plans
Begin implimentation/construction of engineered plans

2.2.2 Issues

None

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

The OSC has drafted, and submitted for review, an additional funding request Action Memo. EPA management and ORC is in the process of reviewing the Action Memo. However, there is an immediate need to increase North Star's (ERRS) funding to allow for uninterrupted continuation of work at the site until the Additional funding Action Memo is approved and signed. In the interim, the OSC has requested that $60,000 be de-obligated from the START contract, and placed onto the ERRS contract. This should allow for sufficient funding of both contracts until the new funding request is approved. The additional funding request Action Memo was approved and signed. This puts the project ceiling at $6,564,000.00. The START funding is showing a reduced amount as the contract expires on June 30, 2015. The new START contract commenced on July 1, 2015. The START funding is under the new contract. An additional $500,000.00 was allocated to ERRS on September 1, 2015.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	$5,000,000.00	$1,958,711.25	$3,041,288.75	60.83%
TAT/START	$135,896.00	$52,778.99	$83,117.01	61.16%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	$5,135,896.00	$2,011,490.24	$3,124,405.76	60.83%

* 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, Berks County Conservation District, PA Fish and Boat Commission, USACE, Ontelaunee Township

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

PADEP/EPA Assessment Report

POLREP #15 Last Updated 10/2/2015