

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Former United Zinc and Associated Smelters - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VII

**Subject:** POLREP #2  
Removal Progress  
Former United Zinc and Associated Smelters  
A78Q  
Iola, KS  
Latitude: 37.9244799 Longitude: -95.3999814

**To:** Dave Williams, EPA R7 Superfund

**From:** Randy Schademmann, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 10/9/2015

**Reporting Period:** 10/3/2015 - 10/9/2015

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

|                            |              |                                |                |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Site Number:</b>        | A78Q         | <b>Contract Number:</b>        | EP-S7-13-05    |
| <b>D.O. Number:</b>        | 0054         | <b>Action Memo Date:</b>       | 8/6/2015       |
| <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>         | NPL          | <b>Operable Unit:</b>          | 00             |
| <b>Mobilization Date:</b>  | 9/28/2015    | <b>Start Date:</b>             | 9/29/2015      |
| <b>Demob Date:</b>         |              | <b>Completion Date:</b>        |                |
| <b>CERCLIS ID:</b>         | KSN000705026 | <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 Incident Category: Time-Critical Removal Action

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in and around the city of Iola, Allen County, Kansas. The main area of the former United Zinc property is located on the east side of Iola within a mixture of residential and commercial properties. The facility was one of several zinc and lead smelting operations in the area between 1902 and 1925. Residential and non-residential properties were contaminated with elevated levels of lead.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Lead, a hazardous substance as defined by Section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, has been released into the soil at the Site. The primary contaminants of concern at this Site are lead and lead compounds.

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

Refer to PolRep #1.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

The removal action consists of excavation and proper disposal of soil and/or waste containing lead concentrations greater than 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) from properties meeting the following criteria: residential properties where a composite sample exceeds a concentration of 800 mg/kg; high child impact areas such as schools and daycare facilities where a composite sample exceeds a concentration of 400 mg/kg; and residential properties where a child with a blood lead level of 10 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dl) or greater resides and soil contains lead concentrations over 400 mg/kg. Currently, approximately 350 properties have been identified that meet these criteria. Excavated soil is transported to the Allen

County Landfill, a RCRA Subtitle D landfill, and used as daily cover.

### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Excavation and backfilling operations continued during this reporting period. The following properties have been excavated to date:

| <b>Property ID</b> | <b>Address</b>      | <b>Date Completed</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 929                | 536 S Kentucky      | 9/30/2015             |
| 2278               | 429 S Second        | 10/2/2015             |
| 3058               | 517 N Walnut        | 10/2/2015             |
| 2833*              | 316 W Monroe St     | 10/5/2015             |
| 2111*              | 607 S Jefferson Ave | 10/6/2015             |
| 1593*              | 301 S Chestnut      | 10/7/2015             |
| 2597*              | 24 S Vermont        | 10/8/2015             |
| 2594*              | 16 S Kentucky       | 10/9/2015             |

*\*Indicates properties which were excavated during this reporting period.*

Additionally, the EPA continued efforts to assess properties which were not previously sampled. The EPA completed an initial reconnaissance of these 890 unsampled properties and determined that approximately 300 properties are residential and able to be sampled. Efforts began to obtain access from the owners to sample these properties.

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

The PRP search is ongoing. No PRP has been identified to date.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

| <b>Waste Stream</b>    | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Quantity</b> | <b>Manifest #</b> | <b>Treatment</b> | <b>Disposal</b>                   |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lead-contaminated soil | Solid         | 1,345 tons      | N/A               | N/A              | Allen County Landfill daily cover |
|                        |               |                 |                   |                  |                                   |

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Excavation and backfilling operations will continue during the next operational period. Additionally, a team of START contractors will mobilize to the Site to gain access from property owners to sample approximately 300 residential properties that have not yet been assessed. See Section 2.1.2 for additional information regarding these properties.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

The Site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) on May 21, 2013. A remedial action is being planned.

#### 2.2.2 Issues

No issues at this time.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

Not applicable. The Logistics Section is not activated due to the size of the removal action.

## 2.4 Finance Section

### 2.4.1 Narrative

The below accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. 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.

The Time-Critical Removal Action Memo with a Consistency Exemption from the 12-Month and \$2 Million Statutory Limits was approved on 08/06/2015.

#### Estimated Costs \*

|                           | Budgeted               | Total To Date       | Remaining              | % Remaining   |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Extramural Costs</b>   |                        |                     |                        |               |
| ERRS - Cleanup Contractor | \$8,100,000.00         | \$173,407.00        | \$7,926,593.00         | 97.86%        |
| START                     | \$500,000.00           | \$20,000.00         | \$480,000.00           | 96.00%        |
| <b>Intramural Costs</b>   |                        |                     |                        |               |
| USEPA - Direct            | \$150,000.00           | \$10,000.00         | \$140,000.00           | 93.33%        |
| USEPA - InDirect          | \$4,393,375.00         | \$102,313.00        | \$4,291,062.00         | 97.67%        |
|                           |                        |                     |                        |               |
| <b>Total Site Costs</b>   | <b>\$13,143,375.00</b> | <b>\$305,720.00</b> | <b>\$12,837,655.00</b> | <b>97.67%</b> |

\* 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

The EPA Community Involvement Coordinator for the Site is Karim Dawani. An Administrative Record containing site-related documents is available for review at the following locations:

**Iola Public Library**  
218 E Madison Avenue  
Iola, Kansas 66749

**EPA Region 7 Records Office**  
11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

#### 3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

#### 4. Personnel On Site

EPA Personnel working on the project (not necessarily on site):

OSC Schademann

OSC Luetke

RPM Bahnke (as needed)

CIC Dawani (as needed)

EPA CNSL Roberts (as needed)

EPA Contractors

15 ERRS personnel

2 START personnel

Other Agencies

1 ATSDR representative

#### 5. Definition of Terms

ATSDR - Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry  
CIC - Community Involvement Coordinator  
CNSL - US EPA Counsel  
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency  
MCL - Maximum Contaminate Level  
nd - non detect  
NPL - National Priorities List  
OSC - On-Scene Coordinator  
PRP - Potentially Responsible Party  
RAL - Removal Action Level  
RPM - Remedial Project Manager  
SME - Subject Matter Expert

START - Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

µg/L - Micrograms per Liter  
µg/kg - Micrograms per kilogram  
µg/m<sup>3</sup> - Micrograms per cubic meter

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

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

Lead is a metal and has been listed as a hazardous waste (D008) in the regulations for RCRA. Lead is classified by the EPA as a probable human carcinogen and is a cumulative toxicant. The early effects of lead poisoning are nonspecific and difficult to distinguish from the symptoms of minor seasonal illnesses. Lead poisoning causes decreased physical fitness, fatigue, sleep disturbance, headache, aching bones and muscles, digestive symptoms (particularly constipation), abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, and decreased appetite. With increased exposure, symptoms include anemia, pallor, a "lead line" on the gums, and decreased handgrip strength.

Children are more vulnerable to lead poisoning than adults. For children, lead can damage the central nervous system, kidneys and reproductive system. At higher levels, it can cause coma, convulsions and death. Even low levels of lead are harmful and are associated with decreased intelligence, impaired neurobehavioral development, decreased stature and growth, impaired hearing acuity, and possibly high blood pressure.

**For more information on lead please visit:**

[ATSDR ToxFAQs](#)

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.

POLREP #2 Last Updated 10/16/2015