

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #20  
Wiley's Bridge Lead Site  
A3YB  
Reading, PA  
Latitude: 40.4421031 Longitude: -75.9274248

**To:**  
**From:** Todd Richardson, On Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 2/18/2016  
**Reporting Period:** 01/23/2016 - 02/19/2016

## 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**

ERRS and START have been screening the hazardous soil pile, (above 5,000 ppm), one excavator bucket at a time. Currently, during the excavation, any reading above 5,000 ppm and the entire off-road dump truck stages the soil on the hazardous pile. This happens even if 98% of the truck screens below 5,000ppm. This is to ensure that when samples are collected to determine the soil profile a nugget of above 5000 is taken and it fails the TCLP test which would then render the entire soil pile hazardous. Screening the hazardous soil pile one excavator bucket at a time is currently sending approximately 85% of the previously classified hazardous soil as non-hazardous which is going to greatly reduce disposal costs. The creek bank cleanup and stabilization continued on the upstream northern sections of the bank, with approximately another 150' of bank excavated, and stabilized. This phase of the project consists of the excavation of approximately 24 inches of surface soil/debris, backfilling with clean mineral soil, top soil, seeding, and installation of erosion control matting. Roughly 50' (linear), or less depending on circumstances, of the bank is excavated in the morning, then backfilled and restored each afternoon. This limits the daily area of disturbance to that which can be restored in that day (as required by the E&S Plan). A representative from PADEP and Berks County Conservation District and the site engineer visited the site to observe the creek bank excavation activities. All parties were satisfied with the operation. The area east of pavilion 3 there is a pole barn type shed measuring 25' x 60' with an unpaved floor. A mini excavator was brought in and excavation under shed began. It was determined that there was heavy concentration of battery chips just below the surface. Test pits around the shed showed the battery chips extended in all directions. The campground owner requested to save the shed so he cut the support columns and lowered the roof onto a hay wagon and pulled it out of the way. Excavation in this area began revealing a 2'-3' thick layer of pure battery casings and debris. The drinking water sample results came back and there were no TAL metal results above the action level. The contamination on site has not impacted the drinking water quality.

**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:

Excavation/restoration of BFG: Falls Room Area, Rental Cottage (including the excavation and replacement of septic system).

Maiden Creek bank clean-up 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**

Creek Bank removal/stabilization work

- Drinking water samples
- Erosion control filter sock installation
- Continued clearing and grubbing
- Installation of temporary coffer dams
- Transport and disposal of contaminated soils

**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
- Continue engineering evaluation of alternatives
- Evaluate removal alternatives
- Revise engineering design plans (as necessary)
- Begin implementation/construction of engineered plans

**2.2.2 Issues**

None

**2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

**2.4 Finance Section**

OSC requested a modification of the STAR TDD to add GIS specialist hours and funding to develop a Site GIS Map/Database. On January 8, 2016, START's TDD was modified to add an additional \$43,030.00 through a TDD modification, bringing their TDD amount to \$243,498.00. The OSC also requested an increase in ERRS Task Order to add an additional \$500,000. That TO modification expected to be in place by next week. It is anticipated that another action memo will be necessary to request additional funds above the existing funding ceiling, in order to complete the project.

**Estimated Costs \***

|                           | Budgeted              | Total To Date         | Remaining             | % Remaining   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Extramural Costs</b>   |                       |                       |                       |               |
| ERRS - Cleanup Contractor | \$5,000,000.00        | \$3,305,547.60        | \$1,694,452.40        | 33.89%        |
| TAT/START                 | \$243,498.00          | \$160,395.86          | \$83,102.14           | 34.13%        |
| <b>Intramural Costs</b>   |                       |                       |                       |               |
|                           |                       |                       |                       |               |
| <b>Total Site Costs</b>   | <b>\$5,243,498.00</b> | <b>\$3,465,943.46</b> | <b>\$1,777,554.54</b> | <b>33.90%</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**

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 #20 Last Updated 4/4/2016