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 #26**
Former United Zinc and Associated Smelters
A78Q
Iola, KS
Latitude: 37.9244799 Longitude: -95.3999814

To:
From: Randy Schademann, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 4/29/2016
Reporting Period: 4/23/2016 - 4/29/2016

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A78Q	**Contract Number:**	EP-S7-13-05
D.O. Number:	0054	**Action Memo Date:**	8/6/2015
Response Authority:	CERCLA	**Response Type:**	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:	NPL	**Operable Unit:**	00
Mobilization Date:	9/28/2015	**Start Date:**	9/29/2015
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:	KSN000705026	**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	
FPN#:		**Reimbursable Account #:**	

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 majority of activities focused on excavation at a school athletic field where crews have uncovered a seam of foundry waste. Additionally, restoration activities were completed at 2 residential properties with the application of sod.

A full list of properties (currently 99) addressed during this action is presented in the Notices section of this website.

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 350 properties are residential and able to be sampled. To date, access has been obtained for 220 of these properties (of which 214 have been sampled). Access has been declined for 59 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

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*
Lead-contaminated soil	Solid	19,549 tons	N/A	N/A	Allen County Landfill daily cover
Vegetation from Elm Creek Park berm	Solid	99 tons	NA	NA	Allen County Landfill

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Excavation of the high school athletic field is expected to be completed during the next operational period. Restoration via sod application is planned for the remaining 4 open residential properties next week.

A two-member team of START contractors will continue to gain access from property owners to sample the 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

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

The EPA Community Engagement Specialist for the Site is Tamara Freeman. 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

3.1 Unified Command

Because of the nature of the site, a unified command structure has not been formalized. City, county, and state representatives are kept abreast of activities and issues through routine dialogue.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

City of Iola

Allen County

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

4. Personnel On Site

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

OSC Schademann

OSC Luetke

OSC Schuette (this reporting period)

RPM Bahnke (as needed)

CES Freeman (as needed)

EPA CNSL Sanders (as needed)

EPA Contractors

10 ERRS personnel

1 START personnel

Other Agencies

1 ATSDR representative

5. Definition of Terms

ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry
CES	Community Engagement Specialist
CNSL	US EPA Counsel
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MCL	Maximum Contaminant 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
$\mu g/m^3$	Micrograms per cubic meter

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

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.