

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Thursday, September 15, 2005
From: Mia Pasquerella

Subject: POLREP#2

Lancashire Street Disposal Area
Lancashire Street, Providence, RI
Latitude: 59.7000000
Longitude: -99.3000000

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| POLREP No.: | 2 Site #: | 01BK |
| Reporting Period: | D.O. #: | |
| Start Date: | Response Authority: | CERCLA |
| Mob Date: | Response Type: | Time-Critical |
| Demob Date: | NPL Status: | Non NPL |
| Completion Date: | Incident Category: | Removal Action |
| CERCLIS ID #: | Contract # | |
| RCRIS ID #: | | |

Site Description

The Site is located on the three vacant lots on Lancashire Street in Providence, Rhode Island as well as a number of the surrounding residential properties on Lancashire Street, Sherwood Street, and Columbus Street. The vacant lot is at 41degrees 50' 59.7" north latitude by 71degrees 25' 49.3" west longitude. The Site is bordered to the north by residential property and Glasgow Street; to the east by residential property and Columbus Street; to the south by residential property and Douglas Avenue; and to the west by Lancashire Street.

At the request of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), EPA initiated a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI) consisting of a detailed file review, an "open fields" assessment to check site conditions, and a sampling event on May 17-19, 2004. The sampling event included setting up a sampling grid, taking approximately 200 samples, and having them analyzed by the New England Regional Mobile Laboratory for lead and PCBs. The results yielded levels of lead and PCBs above the RIDEM accepted standard for residential areas of 150 ppm and 10 ppm, respectively. The sampling locations with PCB contamination are on the perimeter of the vacant lots, indicating that there may be a need for further investigation on the neighboring residential areas. The analytical data was then used to conduct a health assessment by Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The site investigation was closed on September 16, 2004 with the recommendation that a time critical removal action be conducted.

On June 2, 2005, EPA initiated the extent of contamination investigation in the Lancashire Street neighborhood. The investigation began by sampling the residential properties abutting the vacant lots. These properties consisted of 51-53, 69-73 on Lancashire Street and 60, 66 on Columbus Street. The investigation process consisted of obtaining permission to access each of the residential properties, setting up a sampling grid with approximately 14 to 20 sampling points, and having the samples analyzed at a private laboratory for lead and PCBs. The results yielded levels of lead and PCBs above the RIDEM accepted standard for residential areas of 150 ppm and 10 ppm, respectively.

On August 22, 2005 the extent of contamination survey resumed on the residential properties surrounding the vacant lots. The survey consisted of 20 properties on Lancashire Street, Columbus Street, and Sherwood Street. The investigation process was consistent with the initial process identified for the survey. Due to the size of these properties, the number of sample locations per property was decreased to between 8 and 10 locations.

Current Activities

During the week of November 14, 2005, six additional homes were sampled according to the sampling plan developed with the extent of contamination survey. These homes consisted of properties where access was not obtained during the second extent of contamination survey but are located in areas of the neighborhood that are likely to contain similar contamination as its neighbors. For example, the properties

on both sides of the property to be sampled qualify for a removal action according to the results obtained in an earlier sampling event. The results of this sampling activity will be reviewed and evaluated to indicate which properties need to be added to the list of properties that qualify for a removal action.

Excavation has been completed for the 2005 construction season. A total of twelve properties have been excavated to no deeper than three feet and lined with geotextile fabric to provide a barrier between the remaining original soil and the clean backfill. During excavation activities, these properties were concurrently being sampled for confirmation purposes and then being back filled to the original grade. Excavation at the additional homes that qualify for the removal action will begin in Spring 2006.

As the stock pile of contaminated soil increases in size, disposal is being scheduled at regular intervals to keep the area manageable. USEPA is currently working with the state to remove the rest of the contaminated soil stockpile prior to closing the site for the winter.

Planned Removal Actions

In Spring 2006, excavation activities will resume in the designated areas on Lancashire Street, Sherwood Street, and Columbus Street.

Next Steps

Finish backfilling all open excavation and prepare the site to close for the winter. This includes securing fencing, applicable signs, and the disposal of the remaining contaminated soil.

Key Issues

An issue regarding the disposal of the contaminated soil is currently being addressed by USEPA and RIDEM. A new addition to the Rhode Island state regulations imposes a hazardous waste tax on the contaminated soil leaving the site for disposal. USEPA and RIDEM are diligently working together to resolve this issue. Both agencies hope to come to a suitable compromise within the next two weeks.

response.epa.gov/LancashireStreet