

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region X  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2006

**From:** Marc Callaghan

**To:** Vonnie Good, Salem Keizer School District    Nathan Sweet, Oregon OSHA  
Jae Douglas, Oregon PHS SHINE Program

**Subject:** First and Final  
Salem\_Keizer School District Mercury Assessment  
Multiple Locations, Salem, OR

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	1	<b>Site #:</b>	10ZZ
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January 25-28	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	1/25/2006	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>		<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Demob Date:</b>	1/26/2006	<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>		<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

#### **Site Description**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency is responding at the request of the Salem Keizer School District, and has partnered with Oregon OSHA and the Oregon State Public Health to assess potential mercury exposure levels at seven schools in the Salem, Oregon school district. The EPA will screen areas of anomalous mercury concentrations in suspected areas of schools and identify areas of mercury concentrations exceeding the site action level of (1ug/m3).

Oregon OSHA is collecting air samples and filter samples at the respective areas of mercury screening at the schools.

#### **Current Activities**

The EPA and START-3 contractors initiated a Removal Site Evaluation on January 25, 2006. The START-3 contractor conducted screening with the Lumex 915+ Mercury Vapor Spectrometer (Lumex) and the Jerome 431-X Mercury Vapor Analyzer (Jerome) at seven elementary schools in the Salem Keizer School District.

The START-3 conducted the following tasks at the seven respective schools. Concentrations were recorded at background using the Lumex at 100 and 200 cm levels at multiple locations inside the gymnasiums to establish normal breathing zone conditions. These concentrations were used to compare to the near-floor concentrations. The START-3 collected readings at a 10-20 foot grid spacing, and recorded the concentrations. To establish reproducibility, the START-3 re-collected at least one transect to observe the variations.

After conducting screening at all schools, and evaluating the data, the Removal Assessment resulting in the following conclusion. All levels recorded at the respective schools resulted in data well below the EPA established levels of concern. The START-3 did not find significant variation when screening the gym floors laterally or vertically.

#### **Planned Removal Actions**

No planned removal actions are planned at this time.

#### **Next Steps**

EPA's role is going to be limited to data collection and technical assistance. EPA's product will include data tables and Graphic representations. This information will be provided to the Oregon State Public Health for the purpose of drafting a final report.

#### **Key Issues**

EPA's OSC Marc Callaghan will attend a meeting in Salem on February 2, 2006 to discuss data sampling

results with the Salem\_Keizer School District staff, OR OSHA, and OR Dept of Health.

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