

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

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006

From: Dominic Ventura

Subject: Continuation of work
Elkton Farm Firehole
183 Zeitler Rd., Elkton, MD
Latitude: 39.6292184
Longitude: -75.8681150

POLREP No.:	25	Site #:	A3DH RV
Reporting Period:	5/15-5/24	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	1/31/2006	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	1/31/2006	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

Work Mission Statement:

Safely and efficiently investigate and remove Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC); Materials Potentially Possessing an Explosive Hazard (MPPEH), Munitions Debris (MD) and explosively contaminated soil(TNT) from the Elkton Farms Firehole Site, as defined in EPA's geophysical study.

Current Activities

During this reporting period the intrusive activities continued within grids: F6,I5,G6 and J5. These activities included magging and flagging of all metal items and the hand digging/shovelling of these flagged materials.

The Rangemaster, originally scheduled to arrive on site on April 17 and then again on May 1, finally arrived on site on May 09. The delay was due to transport permit issues and sub contractor issues during the transport of this large piece of equipment from California. Due to mechanical problems with the Rangemaster (RM), its actual operation (other than field testing) commenced on 5/23. During field testing, the RM was removing the top layer including matted grass. This top layer caused the shaker hopper to mat thereby not allowing the passing of soils thru the hopper. This buildup put undue pressure on the pump mechanism causing its breakdown. A new pump arrived from California on 5/23. The RM restarted on 5/23 and is now running with 3 to 4 inch lifts to prevent a large buildup of soils in its hopper.

The SSHSP ammendment to cover the manual removal of soils from the shaker hopper was completed and is a part of the document. It requires up to 7 personnel to perform this function dependent on amount of soil/grass to be removed and its matting.

FOSC requested USACE to evaluate the efficiency of Rangemaster and the requirement to provide numerous IPC personnel to support its operation, potentially causing overtime to be charged by IPC personnel. Conversations between FOSC, USACE and IPC revealed that the RM will only be run during IPC onsite activities (normal 40 hour week) thereby minimizing OT and that the RM will not leave early to meet its other contractual obligations. The FOSC is still concerned that the efficiency of the RM is not as high as it was originally advertised because of soil conditions. The FOSC will continue to monitor this operation.

On 5/24 Start personnel erected samplers for personnel particulate and heavy metal concentration determination as per the Site Sampling Plan. Verbals are due back in 7 days.

MPPEH RECOVERED DURING WEEK AND DISPOSITION: (SHA-Safe Holding Area)
466-ea 40mm tracers, Range Master Sweep Area (High Density)
2-ea 40mm unfused (High Density)

7-ea Thermite bomblets unfuzed (High Density)
10-ea Slap Flare Base (High Density)
1-ea Booster element (High Density)
2-ea Slap Flare Bases (grid J-5)
6-ea 40mm tracers, (grid J5b)
2-ea Slap Flare Bases (grid J-5b)
19-ea 40mm tracers, (grids I-5b & F-6d)
3-ea booster pellets (grid F-6d)
19-ea 40mm tracers, (grid I-5b)
1-ea Slap Flare Base (grid I-5b)
23-ea 40mm tracers, (grid I-5b & F-6c)
1-ea Slap Flare Base (grid I-5b)
54-ea 40mm tracers, (grid I-5b, I-5a & F-6a)
3-ea Slap Flare Base (grid I-5b & I-5a)
4-ea Booster pellets (grid F-6a)
55-ea 40mm tracers, (grid I-5a & F-6b)
2-ea Slap Flare Base (grid I-5b)
34-ea 40mm tracers, (Range Master)
32-ea 40mm tracers, (grid I-5a & F-6b)
11-ea 40mm tracers, (Range Master)

Through May 18, 2006 the following stats apply:

Total grids - 66 (200x200)
Grids cleared - 22.75
Percent complete - 35%
Grids cleared this reporting period: 0.75
Grids Government Qc'd - 22.75
Grids failed - 0
Total Number of digs - 40,622
Number of live MPPEH - 2,350
Pounds of MPPEH/MD found - 315
Pounds of non MEC scrap found - 1,518

Refer to this web site for updated adobe map of site completion activities:

<https://www.epaossc.net/sites/1299/files/grid%20data%20update%20map%20060526.pdf>

Planned Removal Actions

Continue with mag and dig ops and RM scraping activities.

Key Issues

RM efficiency concerns and budget issues.

response.epa.gov/elktonfarmfirehole