

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

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2007

From: Robert Kelly

Subject: Site Visit

Old Athens Turnpike Lead Site
Old Athens Road, Princeton, WV
Latitude: 37.3729885
Longitude: -81.0771334

POLREP No.:	1 Site #:	
Reporting Period:	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:	NPL Status:	
Completion Date:	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
CERCLIS ID #:	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		

Site Description

On January 9, 2007, WVDEP requested that the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 conduct a removal assessment and possible removal action at the site

BACKGROUND:

On December 2, 2003 WVDEP inspector conducted a Compliance Schedule Evaluation (follow-up) of the former Old Athens Turnpike property in downtown Princeton, Mercer County, WV. Previous industrial waste disposal activity on the property has already been documented as the source of lead contamination of the soil in this residential area. S. S. Belcher, a salvage company, operated on adjacent property from the 1920s through 1990 on property leased from Norfolk Southern Railroad. Clean up of lead contamination on the Norfolk Southern property, resulting from S. S. Belcher's battery scrapping operation, has long been complete and the groundwater monitoring wells closed. The administrative order, however, remains open since 1) the contamination has involved both properties and originated from a single source and 2) since lead contamination in the surface soils on the Old Athens Turnpike has potential to impact the downgradient Norfolk Southern property. The inspection was to assess the current status of the property and the contamination thereon.

Sample results received on December 19, 2003 indicated both samples exceeded 1,000 mg/L (ppm) total lead and one exceeded the TCLP regulatory limit of 5.0 mg/Kg. Sample 1 contained 3,380 mg/Kg (ppm) total lead with a TCLP lead of 3.6 mg/L. Sample 2 contained 151,000 mg/Kg total lead and 780 mg/L TCLP lead.

OSC Kelly has reviewed the history and data submitted by WVDEP. The OSC has determined that further assessment must be completed at the Site. However, there is a clear case of who "owns" the property. WVDEP has documented that the West Virginia Department of Highways (WV-DOH) owns the property, but through letters and meetings with DOH, DOH denies ownership.

The OSC will seek assistance from EPA ORC and Enforcement to investigate who owns the property before proceeding with any field activity.

Current Activities

On February 24, 2007, the OSC and a representative from the West Virginia Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Register visited the site location.

The purpose of the visit was to meet with the residents who lived along the immediate vicinity of the contaminated road. The OSC met with those residents and provided them with a fact sheet detailing what was found adjacent to them and what were the effects of lead. Fact sheet also provided information for residents to be tested if they so desired.

The OSC requested permission from these residents to take soil samples of their yards to determine if there was any lead contamination present.

The OSC contacted the Office of Code Enforcement for the City of Princeton and informed him of his visit and his plans to sample the residents yards.

Next Steps

The OSC will request assistance from the Office of Regional Council to draft up written access agreements for the residents and mail them for their signature.

The OSC will task the regional START contractor to collect samples of the properties as soon as the written access agreements are returned signed by the residents.

The OSC anticipates conducted the sampling event during the month of March while awaiting permission to access the contaminated area.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* 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.

response.epa.gov/athens

POLREP #1 Last Updated 2/23/2007