

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

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2003

From: Dan Garvey, Eric Nold

To: Marie Rabenau, U.S.E.P.A.
Eric Nold, U.S.E.P.A.

Dan Garvey, U.S.E.P.A.

Subject: Omaha Lead

Greater Omaha Area, Council Bluffs, Carter Lake, Greater Omaha Area, NE

Latitude: 41.1997000

Longitude: -95.9303000

POLREP No.:	17	Site #:	NESFNO703481
Reporting Period:	November 3-8, 2003	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	8/18/2003	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	8/18/2003	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	NESFN0703481	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The Omaha Lead site is located in the Omaha metropolitan area including Council Bluffs, and Carter Lake, Iowa. The specific boundaries of the site have not yet been defined because the sampling activities for the entire area of investigation are not complete.

Several businesses and manufacturing companies used or processed lead at their facilities in the Omaha metropolitan area, ASARCO Incorporated (ASARCO) operated a lead refinery at 500 Douglas St. in Omaha for over 100 years beginning in the 1870s. The operation of the refinery ceased in 1997. As a routine part of the refinery operation, lead particles were emitted into the atmosphere at the refinery. In addition, the Gould Inc. lead battery recycling plant located at 555 Farnam Street in Omaha was a secondary smelter of lead from discarded lead batteries, closing in 1982. The blast furnace used to smelt the lead at the Gould plant emitted lead particles into the air from that smelter.

Current Activities

There was limited activity conducted under this action memorandum during the reporting period (most of the activity occurred under the separate removal action for the >1,200 ppm yards). There were 3 properties excavated during this reporting period.

The weekly tracking sheet is included as an attachment, listing the project totals. A portion of the work this reporting period involved meeting with residents who expressed concerns about damage to their sidewalks and/or driveways. A small percentage of properties incur minor concrete damage or some other type of miscellaneous damage which occurs during the course of the removal action. Some of the concrete sidewalks or driveways were in extremely poor condition prior to EPA's presence, resulting in the likelihood of minor damage being probable.

Planned Removal Actions

This brings the total to 83 properties that have been placed under this removal action to date including 32 day cares from Nov.-Dec. 2002.

EBL and Day Cares will continue to receive a high priority for scheduling as they are received.

Next Steps

There have been 69 EBL's and Day Cares that have been completed at this time during both phases of the removal action.

There have been a total of 3,675 cubic-yards of lead-contaminated soil excavated, and 64 properties have been backfilled with 3,130 cubic-yards of clean soil.

Elevated blood-lead (EBL) and Day Cares will continue to receive a high priority for scheduling as they are received.

Key Issues

On November 5, 2003, a small fuel spill occurred. Personnel from the Missouri River Treatment Facility contacted on-scene coordinator (OSC) Dan Garvey and reported that an ERR's dump truck did not have the gas cap affixed resulting in a diesel fuel spill. An estimated 50 gallons of diesel fuel spilled as the truck was headed up-hill on Missouri Avenue. An ERR's clean-up team was immediately dispatched to clean-up the diesel fuel. The truck driver was contacted by radio to secure the gas cap. There was no waterway affected by the spill. The release was estimated at less than 10 gallons. All of the diesel fuel was properly cleaned up.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$2,455,085.00	\$985,668.00	\$1,469,417.00	59.85%
RST/START	\$83,000.00	\$50,832.00	\$32,168.00	38.76%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$2,538,085.00	\$1,036,500.00	\$1,501,585.00	59.16%

* 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/omahalead

POLREP #17 Last Updated 12/9/2003