

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

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003

From: Dan Garvey, Eric Nold

Subject: Omaha Lead

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

Latitude: 41.1997000

Longitude: -95.9303000

POLREP No.:	18	Site #:	NESFNO703481
Reporting Period:	11/10-15/2003	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 this reporting period (most of the activity occurred under the separate removal action for the >1,200 mg/kg yards).

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 incurred minor concrete damage or some other type of miscellaneous damage which occurs during the course of the removal action. Many of the concrete sidewalks or driveways were in extremely poor condition prior to the EPA's presence, resulting in the likelihood of minor damage being probable.

Planned Removal Actions

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

Next Steps

Continue excavation and backfilling of EBL and Day Care properties as they are received.

Key Issues

It was verified that ERRS has been charging to the wrong delivery orders (flip-flopped). A company accountant is scheduled to arrive next week to begin correcting the mistake.

Disposition of Wastes

The fourth 1,000 cubic yard stockpile is being loaded out and sent to the Loess Hills Regional Landfill.