

**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.:	19	Site #:	NESFNO703481
Reporting Period:	11/17-26/2003	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 Site is located in the Omaha metropolitan area and encompasses Council Bluffs, Iowa, Carter Lake, Iowa, and east Omaha. It is centered around downtown Omaha, Nebraska. ASARCO Incorporated (ASARCO) operated a lead refinery at 500 Douglas Street in Omaha, Nebraska, 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 Incorporated Lead Battery Recycling Plant was located at 555 Farnam Street in Omaha and was a secondary smelter of lead from discarded lead batteries. The blast furnace used to smelt the lead at the Gould plant emitted lead particles into the air from that refinery. The Gould plant closed in 1982. Several other facilities in the Omaha area used lead in their manufacturing processes. A few of these included Carter White Lead at 21st and Locust Streets which produced white lead paint bases and red lead and litharge protective coatings until 1936, Omaha Shot and Lead which later became Lawrence Shot and Lead, and then became National Lead Company which manufactured lead shot by melting pig lead, Grant Storage Battery Company, Storage Battery Factory, and Exide Corporation which manufactured lead storage batteries. Numerous other locations in the Omaha area such as foundries, iron works, metal salvaging companies and other manufacturers used or processed lead at their facilities.

Current Activities

Limited activities were performed under this Action Memorandum. Most work was performed on homes exceeding 1200 ppm and is covered under polrep Omaha III.

Punchlist activities continue to be addressed. Accounting issues for new work orders continue to be addressed, 2nd ER accountant (Terry) flown in temporarily from St. Louis. Several meetings were attended with Don Bahnke and BV to address issues with new Risk Assessment. On 25th and 26th ER crews prepare for demobilize. Eight crew members demobilized on 11/25, the rest of the ER crew will depart on 11/26 am.

Continued activities are being centralized from the Missouri River Treatment Plant located at 5600 South 10th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68107-3501. The city of Omaha has partnered with the EPA to allow the use of a portion of the facility

Planned Removal Actions

Removal activity will break for Thanksgiving and return to the site after the holiday. EBL and Day Cares will continue to receive a high priority for scheduling as they are received

Next Steps

Due to the up-coming severe winter conditions in the Omaha area, this removal action is scheduled to shut-down after December 20, 2003. The projected mobilization date of March 2004 will vary depending on the sod company being able to cut sod. Continue excavation and backfilling of EBL and Day Care properties as they are received when ER crew returns.

Key Issues

Accounting issues with the new ER work orders have been addressed and completed. Equipment and site have been secured for the holiday demobilization.

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