

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VII
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Saturday, December 6, 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.:	20	Site #:	NESFNO703481
Reporting Period:	December 1-6, 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. 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).

Planned Removal Actions

This brings the total to 52 properties that have been placed under this removal action to date including 32 day cares from November-December 2002.

Elevated Blood-Levels (EBL's) and Day Cares will continue to receive a high priority for scheduling clean-ups as they are received. Also, any residence with a soil-lead concentration of 1,200 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), where there are children six years of age or younger, are also given a high priority. This additional priority is under the separate removal action.

The work crews are planning to depart from the site from December 23, 2003, through the March-April 2004 time-frame due to the severe weather conditions in the Omaha area. The local sub-contractor who supplies the sod cannot cut the sod during these winter months.

Continued activities are being centralized from the Missouri River Treatment Plant located at 5600 S 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.

There were 3 homes that were excavated and 2 homes that were back-filled this week, operating with two crews under this removal action. A total of 10 homes were excavated and 6 homes back-filled under both removal actions during this reporting period.

Next Steps

During the winter break, the Missouri River Treatment Facility will continue to be made available to the EPA. Current plans are to allow the EPA's START contractor to use some of the office space during the winter to schedule upcoming properties (appointments for access agreements, etc.) for Spring 2004 clean-ups. Also, some limited equipment will be left at the facility by the EPA's ERR's contractor to facilitate a quick start-up in the spring.

Key Issues

A significant effort has been placed on completing all of the Day Cares and EBL properties before the winter break. All assigned properties that fall into these categories have been completed.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$5,435,335.00	\$262,518.00	\$5,172,817.00	95.17%
RST/START	\$83,000.00	\$51,144.00	\$31,856.00	38.38%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$5,518,335.00	\$313,662.00	\$5,204,673.00	94.32%

* 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.

Disposition of Wastes

The fourth 1,000 ton stockpile has been sent to the Loess Hills Regional Sanitary Landfill located in Malvern, Iowa 51551. There is a separation of billing for the two separate removal actions for accountability purposes.

A fifth 1,000 ton stockpile has been sampled and is scheduled for transportation and disposal next week.

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