



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #2
Progress
Pilsen Soil Operable Unit 2 Residential
C5N8RV02
Chicago, IL

To: Bruce Everetts, Illinois EPA
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From: Ramon Mendoza, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 4/28/2017

Reporting Period: 4/24 to 4/28/2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	C5N8RV02	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	8/3/2015
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	2
Mobilization Date:	12/19/2016	Start Date:	12/20/2016
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	ILN000504472	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

This time critical removal action is a PRP lead under an EPA Unilateral Administrative Order.

1.1.2 Site Description

Pilsen Soil [Operable Unit 2 \(OU2\)](#) Residential Site : Operable Unit (OU) 2 is a residential area bounded by West 18th Place to the north, a north-south alley between South Allport Street and South Racine Avenue to the east, West 21st Street to the south, and South Loomis Street to the west. There are about 178 residential properties in this 25-acre OU2 site. About 116 of the properties have non-permanent covers in their yards such as bare soil, grass or gravel and are the focus of EPA actions. In 2010, approximately 1,563 people lived within the boundaries of the Site, and the residential yards have high accessibility to sensitive populations including young children and pregnant women.

1.1.2.1 Location

Chicago, Illinois 60608
See Site Description

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The lead concentration in surface soils are above the EPA screening level of 400 mg/kg lead in residential yards and gardens. Residents living in these homes may be exposed to the lead in these surface soils.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA conducted Site Assessment activities in 2014-15 with additional residential parcels in 2016 sampled. Lead was found in surface soils in the residential yards and gardens above the EPA removal management level of 400 parts per million. The average Site surface soil lead concentrations were 1,412 mg/kg. There is an estimated population of around 1,563 people including children living, walking, working, and playing on the contaminated surface soils in the Site. These people have a high accessibility to residential yards including sensitive populations such as young children and pregnant women. EPA's risk assessment concluded that the soil concentrations of lead at the Site are at an unacceptable risk level to the residents accessing the Site.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Initial residential soil cleanup work was conducted from, 12/20 - 23, 2016. After taking a break from the winter season, residential yard cleanup was restarted on April 24, 2017.

EPA OSC START provided oversight of all removal activities on site. GHD (H.Kramer's contractor) had representatives on-site to oversee the removal work. Removal work was also conducted by GHD's contractor RW Collins. START and EPA OSC, documented property specific removal activities by recording field notes and by taking photographs. Air monitoring as required by OSHA was conducted by GHD.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

a) The following work was conducted from 4/24 - 28/2017 . (Work from Dec. 20-21, 2016 is documented in POLREP #1).

Work was conducted after H.Kramer's contractor contacted the owners and agreed on a scope of work. Below is a removal status summary of each of the properties: All properties are 4-5 ft. below the street level with limited access, which made excavation work more difficult and time consuming. GHD conducted particulate air monitoring during excavation activities. In general, soil was excavated by hand, placed into buckets and lifted to street level and placed by hand onto the flatbed truck. After it was filled the truck was driven to the H. Kramer truck yard and the soil was transferred to steel containers. Which was then transferred to a solid waste landfill (Laraway) in Joliet IL. Air monitoring for particulates were non-detect to .001 mg/m3 (average, below action level). Workers wore level D with rubber booties and gloves. GHD provided a boot wash to protect workers and minimize soil migration outside of the work area. Two homes were excavated for the reporting period

20 S. Throop St., 4/24-25/2017:

Cleanup at this residence consisted of excavation of a garden area which contained large shrubs that the owner wanted to keep. RW Collins Crews hand dug around the shrubs down to approximately 15 inches average below the surface. Any deeper and they would have involved removing the shrubs. The excavated area was refilled with an orange fence marker at the bottom and clean soil. The top was filled with gardening soil from Menards garden store. Approximately 2.775 cubic yards of soil was removed from this home. Owner signed off on the cleanup and was happy to be able to use the area as a garden this year. Work is completed at this home.

20 S. Throop St. 4/25-28/2017:

Cleanup at this residence consisted of hand excavation of the front yard (area of about 924 ft²) down one ft. by the RW Collins Crew. The first step was to locate the gas line area (JULIE Subsurface Finder) which was excavated first. Excavation depth was periodically measured by GHD personnel using string and tape measure with OSC oversight. Excavation was completed on 4/28 and clean soil backfill activities were started same day. About 34.2 cubic yards of soil was excavated from this home. A plastic tarp is placed on the excavation to protect the work area from rain and prevent saturation of the soil (making it more difficult to excavate and handle). Work is ongoing at this home.

b) Additional home access and soil sampling: Owners from three residential properties (2 on Cullerton street and 1 on Throop) contacted GHD and EPA on site and signed consent for access forms. These homes have not been sampled before so GHD and EPA sampled one home on 4/26. In addition, EPA and GHD resampled a home on Allport with owner permission to reconcile conflicting data results. To date, homeowners have given access to 58 residential parcels at the Site.

c) Media Interest: NBC Chicago Reporters and camera person visited the Site on 4/24-25. EPA Media support was present and the OSC was interviewed. Chicago Tribune photographer and reporter visited the site on 4/25 and interviewed the OSC with EPA Media support present again. One of the owners was interviewed by the Tribune.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-epa-trump-backlash-met-20170427-story.html>

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Cleanup-of-Lead-Contaminated-Yards-Pilsen-420745533.html>

d) Community group PERRO representative visited the Site on 4/24 and was accompanied by EPA Community Involvement Coordinator.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

During EPA's Removal Site Evaluation (2013-14), H. Kramer & Co. was identified as a significant contributor to the lead found in surface soils in the residential parcels at the Site, due to historical fugitive air emissions of dust which contained lead (slag and zinc oxide).

The response work is being overseen by EPA/START contractor and is being conducted by H. Kramer's contractors under a Unilateral Administrative Order issued by the USEPA (Sept. 2016). Previous sampling work was conducted from April to June 2016 by H. Kramer's contractors at the Site under an EPA (CERCLA Administrative Order on Consent; to determine the amount of homes above the lead screening level of 400 mg/kg which needed to be cleaned up.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #/Ticket#	Treatment	Disposal

Soil		10.16 tons	1/851385		Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped 12/16
Soil		estimate 18 tons	TBD		Laraway RDF, Waste Management, Joliet, IL. Shipped week of 4/26/2016

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Backfilling work the home at 20___ Throop will continue. The owner has requested the fresh sod be laid down.

We anticipate working at a garden at third home on Cullerton week of May 1.

EPA will continue oversight of the cleanup work.

EPA and GHD plan to sampling the two homes this week which gave consent on Cullerton street.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See Section 2.2.1.

2.2.2 Issues

Currently, excavation work is being conducted by hand using shovels, buckets, and wheelbarrows. We are looking at more efficient methods as work continues. Safety is number one priority to make sure crews and community is safe.

2.3 Logistics Section

In addition to the crew and hand tools, work is supported by one skid, one flatbed truck, 10 yard containers and one pickup truck.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

START Total budget was at \$50,000. Of this amount, about \$39,000 (as of March 2017) was spent overseeing the responsible party and collecting/analyzing soil samples under the EPA Administrative Order on Consent and technical support for the Unilateral Administrative Order for the Site. EPA Plans to ask for additional START fund to continue the oversight work by START to support the cleanup

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	\$50,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$11,000.00	22.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$50,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$11,000.00	22.00%

* 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.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Ramon Mendoza, EPA OSC

Walt Pochron, Ivan Navarro; GHD (H. Kramer contractor)

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

EPA Community Relations: Heriberto Leon

2.5.3 Information Officer

EPA PIO: Rachel Bassler

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

None

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

City of Chicago, Alderman Solis Office
City of Chicago Dept. of Public Health;
Illinois EPA
ATSDR

4. Personnel On Site

Pilsen OU2 Removal – Personnel Counts Notes: START is EPA's oversight contractor GHD and RW Collins are H. Kramer Contractors.					
Date	EPA	GHD		RW Collins	EPA/START
4/24- 28/2017	1	2		5	1

5. Definition of Terms

N/A

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

<https://www.epa.gov/il/pilsen-area-soil-site>

6.2 Reporting Schedule

POLREPS will be issued once per week as appropriate.

7. Situational Reference Materials

See link for the Site at: <https://www.epa.gov/il/pilsen-area-soil-site>