



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Emergency Response Unit
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: September 12, 2001
Subject: Hermiston Lab Site
From: Mike Sibley, OSC, USEPA, Region 10, Emergency Response Unit
Tel: Office (206) 553-1886
TO: See Distribution List on last page

POLREP No.3

II. BACKGROUND

Site ID: SSID # 108M
Delivery Order No: 81-10-19
Response Authority: CERCLA
FPN No: NA
NPL Status: NA
State Notification: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Action Memo Status: July 12, 2001
Removal Start Date: August 27, 2001
Expected Completion Date: September 2001
Site Web Page: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/hermiston>

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

Emergency Response Action

B. Site Description

1. Site Location

See Polrep #1.

C. Assessment Results

See Polrep #2

IV. Response Information

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

September 1, 2001 (Saturday)

Personnel on site: Rocky Mountain Catastrophe (RMCat)(5 contractors), Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) (1), IT group (1) = Total of 7.

Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 85° F expected.

Three RMCat members were switched out last night to provide a fresh crew and personnel with experience conducting field screening. Chemicals located in the front office and storage room of CapMartin mining were removed and staged in the backyard enclosed area for screening. Approximately 150 containers were removed from the rooms. This will allow the owners access to the front rooms after the chemical hazards have been removed.

Several containers were pulled from the green trailer located to the north of the fenced backyard which contained mercury, calcium carbide (a water reactive compound), and metallic solids. These containers were added to the inventory staged in the backyard.

The crew began field screening the unknown containers today and then segregating them into waste streams. Air monitoring conducted with a photoionization detector (PID) and a hydrogen cyanide monitox meter have indicated no levels in the air above background. Air monitoring will continue throughout the removal activities.

September 2, 2001 (Sunday)

Personnel on site: RMCat (5), IT Group (1), START (1) = Total of 7.

Weather: Clear skies with a high in the lower 90s expected.

While the owners cleaned out the front office and storage room which had previously been cleared of chemicals (see September 1), the RMCat crew continued to inventory and field screen containers with unknowns in the backyard fenced area (outside). These containers were from the office, the storage room, the laboratory, the truck trailer, and those which were already located outside in the backyard.

September 3, 2001 (Monday)

Personnel on site: RMCat (5), IT Group (1), START(1) = Total of 7.
Weather: Clear skies with a high in the upper 80s expected.

Crew continues to field screen containers from the laboratory. At this point, there were 1,105 containers inventoried and 316 containers which have been screened for hazardous characteristics. Eighteen 60-pound metal drums from outside the metal fence (backyard area) identified as "molecular sieve" were found to contain arsenic and will need to be disposed of properly.

Eight drums have been generated containing materials which have been either bulked (consolidating materials by mixing them together in a new container), over packing ,and lab packing.

September 4, 2001 (Tuesday)

Personnel on site: RMCat (5), IT Group (1), START (1), DEQ (1) = Total of 8.

Weather: Clear skies with a high in the lower 90s expected.

Test results are received for the pallets of white bricks sampled last week which were suspected of containing asbestos. Analytical results from Certified Environmental Consulting lab indicated the bricks did not contain detectable amounts of asbestos. Two members of the RMCat field crew were replaced today as they were required on another job. The new crew was oriented with the site activities before they began work. are expected next week.

An inventory of the outside lockers and white camper top trailer in the backyard was initiated today. By the end of the day, RMCat had inventoried 1,575 containers and conducted screening of 316 unknowns.

September 5, 2001 (Wednesday)

Personnel on site: RMCat (5), 1 IT Group, 1 START, 1 DEQ (8 total).

Weather: Partly cloudy skies with a high in the upper 70s expected. Wind gusts in excess of 25-30 mph have been forecasted so dust suppression with water will be conducted today.

The inventory and field screening continued today for containers located within the white trailer. By the end of the day, 1,847 containers were identified and 66 containers have been generated from bulking, over packing, and lab packaging.

Twenty-six pieces of equipment (possibly capacitors) suspected of containing PBS were removed from a metal frame and packed in a metal drum with other PCB equipment for proper disposal.

Two drop boxes were delivered to the site from the Waste Management facility in Arlington, Oregon. The drop boxes will be filled with contaminated debris and wastes from the site. Containers of solids and liquids (unknowns) located in the fenced backyard were segregated. Hazard categorization (field screening) of samples from these containers will begin tomorrow to segregate the unknowns as either non-hazardous or into hazard characteristic waste streams.

September 6, 2001 (Thursday)

Personnel on site: RMCat (5), IT Group (1), START (1) = Total of 7.

Weather: Partly cloudy skies with a high in the upper 70s and a slight breeze from the south.

All of the containers at the site have been inventoried and the unknowns have been screened for hazardous characteristics. The total number of inventoried containers remains at 1,847. The hazardous wastes have been consolidated into 83 containers which meet DOT specifications. These containers are staged in the enclosed backyard of the laboratory to be disposed of properly when the necessary requirements for disposal are completed.

September 7, 2001 (Friday)

Personnel on site: RMCat (5), IT Group (1), START (1) = Total of 7.

Weather: A high in the lower 80s is expected with light winds.

Remaining debris is removed from the laboratory and disposed of in the contaminated waste drop box along with the assay oven (lead contamination) and the crushed white trailer (full of acids, bases, mercury).

All of the 83 waste containers have been labeled and staged around the inside of the locked backyard awaiting disposal. A map was generated by START identifying the locations of the various staged wastes and provided to the Hermiston Fire Department. The drop boxes provided by Waste Management have been covered with tarps secured by bungee cords. The contents of the two boxes will be disposed of at the Arlington, Oregon facility.

The crew departs the site at midday. Containers with hazardous chemicals and contaminated debris and furniture have been bulked and packaged for proper disposal.

2. Removal Actions to Date

September 1, 2001

| Type | Quantity | Location Where Taken |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Scrap metal for recycling only Flat bed trailer 6 B | 25,100 lbs | Ross Machine & Iron for baling and transport to Schnitzer Steel Products |

September 2, 2001 (no wastes removed from the site)

September 3, 2001

| Type | Quantity | Location Where Taken |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Office Trash and Debris Roll-off box 54 | 3,780 pounds (1 box) | Sanitary Disposal, Inc., transfer station for transport to Finley Butte landfill |
| Cardboard for Recycling Truck #6 | 2 cubic yards | Sanitary Disposal, Inc., transfer station for recycling |
| Nonhazardous wood & debris Roll-off box 199 | 4,580 pounds (1 box) | Sanitary Disposal, Inc., transfer station for transport to Finley Butte landfill |

September 4, 2001

| Type | Quantity | Location Where Taken |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Scrap metal for recycling only Roll-off boxes 142 & 141 | 6,470 pounds (2 boxes) | Ross Machine & Iron for baling and transport to Schnitzer Steel Products |
| Office Trash and Debris Roll-off box 54 | 2,300 pounds (1 box) | Sanitary Disposal, Inc., transfer station for transport to Finley Butte landfill |
| Scrap Circuit Boards for Recycling Roll-off box 225-S | 3,040 pounds (1 box) | Ross Machine and Iron, Inc. |
| Nonhazardous wood & debris Roll-off box 107 | 5,160 pounds (1 box) | Sanitary Disposal, Inc., transfer station for transport to Finley Butte landfill |

September 5, 2001 (no boxes removed from the site)

September 6, 2001 (no boxes removed from the site)

September 7, 2001

| Type | Quantity | Location Where Taken |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Nonhazardous wood & debris Roll-off box 107 | 7,760 pounds (1 box) | Sanitary Disposal, Inc., transfer station for transport to Finley Butte landfill |
| Scrap metal for Recycling only Roll-off box 47 | 7,380 (1 box) | Ross Machine and Iron, Inc. |

Summary of Daily Inventory and Hazardous Characterization

| Date | Inventory | Hazardous Characterization |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 9/1 | 304 | 131 |
| 9/2 | 485 | 159 |
| 9/3 | 316 | 26 |
| 9/4 | 470 | 0 |
| 9/5 | 272 | 33 |
| 9/6 | 0 | 33 |
| 9/7 | 2 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1,849 | 382 |

3. Enforcement

Enforcement actions are being reviewed at this time by EPA.

B. Planned Removal Activities

- Identify disposal facilities for the various hazardous waste streams, complete waste profiles, submit identities of disposal facilities to EPA.
- Complete the summary of the inventory of containers found at the site, indicating labeling, results of haz cat tests, and waste stream into which the container was consolidated.
- Review the removal investigation work plan from IT Group (phase II), to include the following: conduct soil sampling at various depths to gauge the impact of the wastes on the site soils and surrounding areas; conduct wipe sampling to ascertain whether the building will require further decontamination before future use; conduct sampling to determine if ground water has been affected

C. Next Steps

EPA, and E&E to continue to perform oversight of the removal actions until completion, including the soil and wipe sampling at the site.

V. Cost Information

Estimated costs are summarized below:

| | Established Ceiling | Estimated Costs (as of 9/8/01) |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| EPA | \$ 2,500 | \$ 600 |
| START | \$ 29,600 | \$ 17,000 |
| ERRS | \$ 35,000 | \$ 13,038 |
| Total | \$ 67,100 | \$30,638 |

Note: The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. 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.

VI Disposition of Wastes

No hazardous wastes have been removed from site (see Summary of Daily Inventory and Hazardous Characterization table above). The removal contractor, RMCat, is preparing the necessary documentation for proper disposal. Several disposal facilities may be utilized to remove all of the wastes. All hazardous wastes have been staged in the fenced yard awaiting disposal.

VII Distribution

To:

Terry Eby, EPA Headquarters
Chris Field, Mary Matthews, OSC-s, EPA Region 10 Emergency Response Unit
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Attention: Chuck Donaldson,
Emergency Response
EPA Oregon Office, Attention: Dan Opalski
EPA Oregon Office, Attention: Dan Heister

VII Status

Site actions are pending.