

Incident Briefing
US Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Region 8 Response Unit

June 27, 2017

Reilly Coal Tar
Provo, Utah

Site Description

The Site is located south of Provo, Utah at the intersection of Mountain Springs Parkway and East 1800 South Street in unincorporated Utah County. The Site is an abandoned coal tar distillery which operated from 1924 to 2002. The structures on the Site have been removed but the concrete foundations remain.

Land use in the area is largely industrial. The Ironton Canal constitutes the northern Site boundary and discharges to Spring Creek and Utah Lake's Provo Bay approximately 4 miles west of the Site. There is a seasonal wetland to the south and groundwater tends to flow westward beneath a nearby industrial facility.

The owner of the property filed for bankruptcy in 2016.

Removal Objectives

1. Excavate contaminated source material from along the Ironton Canal and the nearby historic drainage.
2. Drain, collect and dispose of contaminated liquids from this excavated source material.
3. Land farm the solid source material in the upland area to the east of the Site.
4. Restore the excavated area and improve Site drainage to prevent contaminated material from migrating to the Ironton Canal and Spring Creek.
5. Coordinate with UDEQ to establish an environmental covenant on the property to guide future remediation activities.

Removal Assessment

Previous assessment efforts by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control indicate that soil and groundwater at the Site are contaminated with **volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds** and that this contamination has migrated off-site. The State is considering development of a full remediation plan for the Site in conjunction with the bankruptcy trustee.

In June 2017, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Response Unit (EPA) and the UDEQ Division of Environmental Response and Remediation conducted a removal evaluation to determine if any work needed to be performed to

stabilize the Site until the full remediation plan could be developed and implemented. The EPA and UDEQ Team excavated a series of exploratory trenches and holes across the Site to identify areas of subsurface contamination and historic depositional patterns. The Team found that contaminated soil and groundwater exist across the Site with some areas having contaminated deposits in excess of 13 feet. The deposits to the east of the Site tend to be solidified coal tar byproducts while deposits roughly to the west tend to be more aqueous with contaminated fluids readily entering the exploratory trenches and pits after excavation.

Drainage at the Site was once designed to dewater the facility into the Ironton Canal and Spring Creek. That drainage network was eventually plugged at its outfall with the Ironton Canal and a secondary containment wall was constructed along the northern boundary of the Site. Unfortunately, the footings of this containment wall are only a few inches deep and the EPA/UDEQ investigation found a source area of relatively aqueous and mobile material along the former drainage system and beneath this wall along the canal. This source material could enter the creek/canal during periods of high groundwater and storm water runoff entering the creek/canal from upstream development could erode into the Site and flood the source material downstream into Provo Bay.

Progress to Date

An Action Memo to authorize a Removal Action is being prepared and submitted to UDEQ and EPA management for approval or disapproval.

Planned Actions

Sampling results from the removal evaluation effort are still pending. Once these results are received, they will be processed and added to the record.