

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
35th Avenue Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #14  
Transitioning to Phase 4  
35th Avenue Site  
B4M3RV00  
Birmingham, AL  
Latitude: 33.5627531 Longitude: -86.7989565

**To:**  
**From:** Richard Jardine, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 7/23/2015  
**Reporting Period:** 7/2/2015 to 7/27/2015

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	B4M3RV00	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S4-07-02
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	00034	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	9/25/2013
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	2/17/2014	<b>Start Date:</b>	2/18/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	ALN000410750	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	SEP 2013
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

As detailed in an Action Memorandum dated September 25, 2013, EPA had initially identified approximately 50 properties in the Birmingham communities of Fairmont, Harriman Park, and Collegeville that exhibited levels of soil contamination that exceed, either threefold or a magnitude of measure, Region 4 residential removal management levels for lead, arsenic, and/or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. In addition to contamination deposited by airborne means over the previous 100 years, or potential contaminant migration due to flooding, these properties likely received fill material from one or more of the local industrial businesses. For further discussion of background information, please refer to previous POLREPs for this Site.

Early in the removal action for the 50 homes, EPA amended the original scope of work to allow for greater consistency with remedial goals that provide for a more permanent remedy. An Action Memorandum dated March 12, 2014 described the amended scope of work.

EPA expanded the scope of work, as detailed in an Action Memorandum dated August 11, 2014, to allow for removal of contaminated soil from properties where the soil concentrations for contaminants of concern exceed Region 4 Removal Management Levels *and* children either live there or routinely and frequently visit. This change of scope included approximately 30 properties, including the Collegeville Center and North Birmingham Homes public housing developments.

EPA expanded the scope of work, as detailed in an Action Memorandum dated January 6, 2015, to allow for removal of contaminated soil from properties where soil concentrations exceed two times the Region 4 Removal Management Levels for carcinogens; specifically arsenic and benzo[a]pyrene. This change of scope included approximately 35 properties.

EPA expanded the scope of work, as detailed in an Action Memorandum dated July 20, 2015, to allow for removal of contaminated soil from properties where soil concentrations exceed the Region 4 Removal Management Levels for contaminants of concerns; specifically arsenic, lead, and benzo[a]pyrene. This change of scope includes approximately 260 properties.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

EPA is completing Phase 3 properties where owners granted access. Phase 3 includes residential homes where soil concentrations for arsenic and benzo[a]pyrene exceed two times the RML. In addition, three residential properties with RML exceedances located adjacent to a Phase 3 property were also addressed.

These properties include CV0256, CV0790, and CV0252. Thirty-five properties were addressed in Phase 3. One Phase 3 property will be addressed in Phase 4 instead of Phase 3 since property owner prefers to wait till middle of August before beginning removal activities.

Phase 4 will address about 260 residential properties with RML exceedances for lead, arsenic, and/or benzo[a]pyrene. Sampling for Phase 4 is ongoing. In addition, the EPA is requesting access from about 850 residential properties owners who have not granted access yet. Sampling access request letters were mailed to property owner's addresses in July in an effort to gain access.

On July 17, 2015, the Housing Authority Birmingham District at Collegeville (HABD) informed EPA of two children having elevated lead concentrations in their blood. On morning of July 20, EPA went to the front yard of where the children live and sampled the soil with a X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) unit. A small area by the sidewalk was found to have elevated levels of lead in soil (highest reading was about 2,300 ppm). In afternoon, this area was excavated, backfilled, and sodded. EPA later learned that the two children with elevated lead concentration appear to not be on HABD's lease agreement. A third child, whose name is on HABD's lease agreement, did not have elevated lead concentration. EPA will continue to work with HABD and the local health agency to determine additional areas where the two children may have come in contact with lead.

EPA continues to meet with property owners on an ad hoc basis at the Command Post or at their respective properties to answer questions regarding the pending excavation efforts and respond to their concerns. During this reporting period, the EPA attended several public meetings in the three communities and a Birmingham Coalition meeting. EPA also attended a Health & Career Services Fair at Hudson K-8 School on July 25 to inform the public of ongoing cleanup/access activities.

START continues to monitor site conditions including air monitoring and sampling as well as removal documentation and soil profiling as directed by the OSC. Air sampling has included periodic personnel air sampling on a representative ground technician and an excavator operator. To date, air monitoring indicates all operations are well controlled and have minimized blowing dusts.

EPA continues to work with AL DOT regarding soil contamination concerns involving Shuttlesworth Bridge construction in Collegeville. AL DOT is voluntarily conducting a removal action in the bridge construction area. EPA also met with the City of Birmingham to discuss how abandoned residential buildings on potentially contaminated property and potentially containing asbestos should be handled.

During Phases 1, 2, and 3, seven properties owners have denied the EPA access to remove contaminated soil from their properties.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

No information available at this time.

## **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.