



Valley Drive Abandoned Slurry Site Update

USEPA Region 8

Operational Period 01:

Thursday, September 15th, 2022 – Saturday, September 24th, 2022

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Valley Drive Abandoned Slurry Site is located at 185 West Valley Drive, Kalispell, Montana. This Removal Action involves the cleanup and proper disposal of hydrocarbon waste and debris abandoned by a former construction company. The waste contains numerous Polynuclear Aromatic Compounds (PAHs); ethylbenzene, xylene, and naphthalene. The Site was identified through a report by a private citizen to the National Response Center (NRC) and has been the subject of attempts by both Flathead County and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to compel cleanup by the property owner. Conditions at the Site present a threat to public health and the environment and meet the criteria for initiating a removal action under 40 CFR § 300.415(b) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

In July 2022 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requested access to inspect and conduct cleanup activities on-site. However, this request was denied by the property owner. As a result, the EPA, via the Department of Justice (DOJ), sought a Warrant for Access through the Federal District Court for the District of Montana. The Court issued the requested warrant on September 7, 2022 and EPA mobilized to the Site on September 15, 2022. The warrant expires on November 30, 2022.



Southeast Side of Site



Northeast Side of Site



Hydrocarbon Waste Product

SAFETY MESSAGE

- Always watch out for yourself and the coworkers/public around you.
- Always protect yourself, coworkers and public from exposure to contaminants.
- Prevent contamination from spreading beyond work area.
- Discuss site conditions daily.
- Conduct daily safety checks on equipment and general site conditions.
- Remove, mark or remedy hazards when you see them. Notify OSC of all hazards.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Mobilize response team on September 15, 2022.
2. Mobilize equipment as needed beginning on September 15, 2022.
3. Clear debris and trash from property.
4. Ship debris and trash off-site for proper disposal.
5. Construct solidification pit.



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OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES (Continued)

6. Obtain sawdust to be used as stabilization agent.
7. Begin opening and draining hydrocarbon waste from tanks.
8. Solidify/stabilize drained hydrocarbon waste.
9. Begin shipping solidified hydrocarbon waste off-site for proper disposal.
10. Begin cutting and sizing tanks for scrap metal recycling.
11. Begin shipping scrapped tanks for recycling.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

1. Completed the mobilization of equipment and personnel
2. The Site was cleared of trash and debris by September 17, 2022.
3. The stabilization pit was completed and bedded with sawdust by September 17, 2022.
4. Sawdust delivery started on September 16, 2022.
5. Tank work began on September 19, 2022. As of September 24, 2022, five tanks have been emptied and disassembled.
6. The hydrocarbon waste from the emptied tanks has been stabilized.
7. One roll-off box (approximately 10 yds³) of solidified waste was shipped off-site on September 23, 2022.
8. Two roll-off box (approximately 60 yds³) of steel was sent off-site for recycling.
9. The ERRS crews continue to process tanks.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

For the Operational Period is September 25th – October 1st, 2022, the following operations are planned:

1. Keep a supply of sawdust to be used as stabilization agent.
2. Continue the opening and draining hydrocarbon waste from tanks.
3. Solidify/stabilize drained hydrocarbon waste.
4. Continue shipping solidified hydrocarbon waste off-site for proper disposal.
5. Continue cutting and sizing tanks for scrap metal recycling.
6. Continue shipping scrapped tanks for recycling.

WEBSITE

For additional information please visit the EPA Valley Drive Abandoned Slurry Response page:

https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=15686



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OPERATIONAL PERIOD 01 HIGHLIGHT PHOTOS:



Consolidated white goods and debris



Laying of sawdust in solidification pit



Draining of tank #1



Draining of tank #2



Removal of first roll-off carrying solidified waste



Loading of first roll-off for metal recycling