

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Minot ND Floods-2011 - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VIII

**Subject:** POLREP #5  
Progress  
Minot ND Floods-2011  
  
Minot, ND  
Latitude: 48.2329061 Longitude: -101.3042450

**To:**  
**From:** Steven Way, OSC  
Tien Nguyen, OSC  
**Date:** 7/30/2011  
**Reporting Period:** 7/24 - 7/29/11

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b> Stafford Act	<b>Response Type:</b> Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b> FEMA	<b>Incident Category:</b> Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b> Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b> 7/11/2011	<b>Start Date:</b> 7/11/2011
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>

1.1.1 Incident Category

Stafford Act/CERCLA

1.1.2 Site Description

In late June 2011 the Souris River overtopped its banks causing extensive flooding in Ward and McHenry Counties in North Dakota. In Minot, ND over 4000 homes and businesses were inundated with flood waters, with over 2000 structures completely submerged. The nearby towns of Burlington, Sawyer, and Velva were also impacted. FEMA has issued a Mission Assignment to EPA to accomplish four objectives: Remove household hazardous wastes from the impacted area; decontaminate and prepare white goods and e-waste for recycling; collect and process orphan containers; and to conduct environmental monitoring and sampling in impacted and work areas. Initial recon was begun on July 11, 2011.

1.1.2.1 Location

Minot, North Dakota  
Burlington, North Dakota  
Sawyer, North Dakota  
Velva, North Dakota  
Ward County, North Dakota  
McHenry County, North Dakota (TBD - if requested)

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Due to extensive flood damage FEMA has tasked EPA to collect and managed household hazardous wastes (HHW), white goods, e-goods, and orphaned haz-mat containers. In addition EPA will be providing air monitoring/sampling support throughout the operational theater.

Additionally, it was determined during the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> that Vermiculite (Zonolite) insulation is present in some neighborhoods after it was observed on curbside areas with debris. This material contains asbestos fibers. The ESF 10 Mission Assignment is be modified to clarify that it includes removal of vermiculite from curbsides.

### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

HHW and E-waste continue to be available for collection with the Minot Evacuation Zones at levels that demand continued collection. Although, curbside HHW numbers are somewhat lower than the first week, the scattered orphan containers are abundant.

Reconnaissance of orphan containers along waterways and canals has identified significant numbers of small containers, drums and small tanks. Preliminary screening information is available on the website referenced below. Asbestos (vermiculite) piles are being inspected by the Recon Team to verify locations and quantity, and then these are marked with barrier tape pending removal. A grid system of Ward County has been developed to allow tracking and management of operational information.

OSC Peronard, along with a START and ERRS contractor have been conducting reconnaissance since July 11, 2011. As the flood waters have been receding residents have begun cleaning out their homes. For the most part residents have been making an effort to segregate HHW, white goods, and e-goods from other debris. From initial assessment work it would be reasonable to expect 55 gallons of HHW per home, and 1-2 white goods per home. It is difficult to estimate the quantity of e-goods. Orphaned containers (predominantly propane tanks) have been observed strung along the temporary levies, in flooded hedge rows, and underneath river crossings.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The staging area for handling HHW, white goods, e-wastes, and orphaned containers is complete. All areas are in service and receiving waste. Preparation and clean-up activities in the RV park continue to allow additional trailers to move in for EPA crews.

(FEMA personnel have requested space within the RV park area and EPA will provide services - water and wastewater removal.

Air monitoring and sampling activities have been expanded across the Minot area and stationary samplers and monitors provide real-time and time-weighted data. Monitors and samples include volatile organics, particulates (PM 2.5) and fibers. To date air monitoring has not indicated any issues. Fiber sample detections analyzed for asbestos form fibers have shown no asbestos fibers have been detected. A website for displaying air sampling/monitoring results is being constructed by ERT. A map of the sample locations can be found here: [http://www.epaosc.org/sites/7093/files/Minot\\_Air\\_Monitoring\\_Locations.pdf](http://www.epaosc.org/sites/7093/files/Minot_Air_Monitoring_Locations.pdf)

Reconnaissance teams (START and SERAS contractors) under OSC direction have inspected areas between and including Burlington, Minot and Sawyer in Ward County, and the city of Velva in McHenry County. Large areas in the areas outside of Minot remain inaccessible due to standing water and/or heavy mud conditions on roads. Container and tank locations are being identified and logged electronically and downloaded each day. Significant tank and container accumulations are being found in ox-bow areas disconnected from the main river channel. The heavy vegetation limits visibility along shorelines. Additional Recon is planned during the week of August 1<sup>st</sup>. A request for a boat and assistance in investigating the river banks will be submitted to the State wildlife agency.

A link to a website <http://react.nvs-inc.com/EPASilver/> contains a visual summary of the recon assessments, as well as other operational data. This website also has the ability to show a view of the extent of flood and depth of water information in an overlay format with EPA recon data. OSC Nattis, along with ERRS personnel, conducted a helicopter recon on the morning of July 24, 2011. The overflight effort included the acquisition of georeferenced digital photographs of orphan container areas. This information is currently being uploaded to the EPASilver website.

Minot: HHW and E-waste collection sweeps have occurred in all Evacuation Zones (1 – 9) a minimum of one time. A second sweep was made through Zones 1 through 5 in most areas as of July 28<sup>th</sup>; and Zones 6 (west half), 7 and 8 were covered a second time on July 29. The collection of HHW and e-goods by ERRS personnel continues, as does the processing of white goods. (<http://www.epaosc.org/sites/7093/files/all%20debris%20zones.pdf>)

Orphan container recovery started in Moose and Oak Park(s) on July 25. Various container types are located in canals and land, and operations require boat access and excavator equipment for recovery. Completion of removal of land based containers is expected by July 30.

Asbestos/Vermiculite reconnaissance and removal of loose, curbside vermiculite from residential property has been identified in 12 locations. Two removals are complete.

Ward County: HHW collection was started in areas between Burlington and Minot along Hwy 15. Other areas were not accessible due to standing water

Velva, ND (McHenry County): A Recon Team inspection was completed and determined that access was not adequate to mobilize collection crews.

The collection of HHW and E-goods by ERRS personnel continues, as does the processing of the HHW and white goods. The ACoE continues processing debris and delivering white goods from Zones. A link to the Zone map is provided here:

<http://www.epaossc.org/sites/7093/files/all%20debris%20zones.pdf>

Below is a summary of the quantities of collected material as of 1700 CDT on July 29, 2011:.

### **Total Counts (Curbside Collection and Orphan Container Collection)**

#### **HHW**

- 36,258 Small Containers (< 5gal)
- 710 Containers (5-30 gal)
- 37 Drums (30-85 gal)
- 2 Tanks (>85 gal)
- 941 Propane Tanks
- 66 Other Gas Cylinders

#### **White Goods**

- 118 AC Units
- 581 Refrigerators
- 1391 Inert Goods

#### **Electronic Goods\***

- 200 Cubic Yards

#### **Other Materials**

- 90 Batteries
- 114 Fire Extinguishers
- 457 Light Bulbs
- 62 Ammunition / Fireworks/Gun Powder
- 116 Small Engines

\*based on a visual estimate, a more accurate figure will be tracked as the material is packaged for off-site shipment

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Orphan container collection efforts will start on July 25, 2011. OSC McComb will lead these efforts.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Waste collection activities will continue through the duration of the project. Generally, EPA will coordinate collection activities with the ACoE, working in parallel with them in each work zone. Recon and air monitoring will continue as well.

Asbestos (vermiculite) removal resources are being acquired to allow for removal of the debris/vermiculite waste.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

We shall continue on in good style.

### **2.2.2 Issues**

None.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

NA

## **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

NA

### **2.6 Liaison Officer**

NA

### **2.7 Information Officer**

#### **2.7.1 Public Information Officer**

NA

## **7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator**

NA

### **3. Participating Entities**

#### **3.1 Unified Command**

NA

#### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

NA

### **4. Personnel On Site**

Staffing levels for the current reporting period:

EPA	5 (2 as of 7/29)
R8 START	3
ERRS	53
SERAS	3
R4 START	1

### **5. Definition of Terms**

NA

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

#### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

NA

#### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

NA

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

NA