

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VIII

Subject: POLREP #6
Progress
Minot ND Floods-2011

Minot, ND
Latitude: 48.2329061 Longitude: -101.3042450

To:

From: Steven Way, OSC
Tien Nguyen, OSC
Kerry Guy, OSC

Date: 8/5/2011

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

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

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 and asbestos placed on curbsides. In addition EPA will be providing air monitoring/sampling support throughout the operational theater.

Additionally, it was determined during the week of July 25th 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; this is being done in coordination with USACE inspectors managing debris removal.

A grid system of Ward County has been developed to allow tracking and management of operational information. Generally areas outside Minot remain difficult to access via rural road systems. The initial recon has identified only small amounts of HHW curbside in Sawyer and points between Minot, and larger containers are located in areas difficult access with the saturated conditions. HHW and E-waste continue to be available for collection with the Minot Evacuation Zones at levels that demand continued collection.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The Operation Section is organized into a Container Collection Branch (with 5 Groups), an Asbestos Collection Group, the Collection-Pad Division, Recon Group and the Monitoring Group. This organization will be adjusted as tasks require. Operations are largely focused in Minot during this period. Some collection has occurred and continues in Burlington. Additional details of the response actions are below.

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.

ERT has been operating the 6 station ambient air monitoring network for the past 14 days. During that time the system has identified numerous alarms, however in all of the recorded observations we have yet to identify a verifiable exceedance due to actual environmental conditions. The threshold levels are listed in the table below:

Parameter	Instrument	Alarm Type	Value
VOC-8H	AreaRAE	Exceedance	1 ppm
ConcHr-24H	E-Bam	Exceedance	0.065 mg/m3

All of the VOC alarms were confirmed by our on-site personnel to be related to moisture issues. There were no exceedances of the 24 hour PM 2.5 action limit of 0.065 mg/m3 recorded during the past 14 days.

Of the 94 ambient air samples analyzed for asbestos to date, none have exceeded the action level of 0.1 f/cc. Six of the samples analyzed by NIOSH 7400 (PCM) to date, have exceeded the screening level of 0.01 f/cc and were re-analyzed by NIOSH 7402 (TEM) as per the agreed upon sampling strategy. All of the NIOSH 7402 samples analyzed to date have been non-detect.

Based on this information it would appear that we have sufficient information to characterize the ambient air quality in Minot during this debris removal phase as being below the agreed upon EPA threshold levels for this response. A map of the sample locations can be found here: http://www.epaosc.org/sites/7093/files/Minot_Air_Monitoring_Locations.pdf

Reconnaissance teams (START and SERAS contractors) during the week of August 1st have focused on verifying the container preliminary rapid recon findings, and they have assessed asbestos deposit locations. A request for a boat and assistance in investigating the river banks has been made with

USFW, Lake Darling Office. The focus of this operation will be identification of larger tanks and drums in the main river channel both west and southeast of Minot.

Minot: HHW and E-waste collection sweeps have continued in Minot, but at a reduced number of crews. The processing of white goods continues. To date the ERRS crews have conducted three (3) rounds of Curbside HHW collection throughout the City.

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

Orphan container collection is complete in Moose and Oak Park(s) on land and water as of August 4. Collection in grid NE04 is near completion with the exception of one large tank (apprx 1500 gal tank). Access to the tank with an excavator is needed recovery. It will be necessary to move the tank to access the openings to sample and determine the contents. Collection and removal of water based containers is underway in Roosevelt Park and State Fairgrounds areas. Planning to retrieve large items such as three (3) twin 2000-3000 gallon of propane tanks at Souris Valley golf course area and its upstream

More than 56,000 of HHW items were collected at the curbside, including more than 50,000 small HHW containers, more than 3,000 white goods items and more than 2,400 other items such as batteries, fire extinguishers, etc... In addition, a total of 460 cubic yards of electronic goods were collected.

Asbestos/Vermiculite reconnaissance and removal of loose, curbside vermiculite from residential property has been identified at locations. Bagged insulation is being collected from the debris piles and curbside; this was performed in the NW area of town. On August 4 approximately 80 cy of bagged ACM were collected by four (4) crews. Collection is anticipated to continue for the next week or two. The volume of material being collected will rapidly exceed the capacity of the staging area to hold the accumulations. Disposal arrangements are being made. The remainder of the debris/ACM at 1704 1st Ave, SE was removed August 5th.

Ward County: HHW collection was started in areas between Burlington and Minot along Hwy 15. Other areas were evaluated again on 8/4 and determined to be not accessible due to standing water

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.

Below is a summary of the quantities of collected material as of 1700 CDT on August 4, 2011:.

Total Counts (Curbside Collection and Orphan Container Collection)

HHW

- 51,182** Small Containers (< 5gal)
- 1265** Containers (5-30 gal)
- 138** Drums (30-85 gal)
- 27** Tanks (>85 gal)
- 1118** Propane Tanks
- 72** Other Gas Cylinders

White Goods

- 150** AC Units
- 981** Refrigerators
- 1911** Inert Goods

Electronic Goods*

- 466** Cubic Yards

Other Materials

- 142** Batteries
- 174** Fire Extinguishers
- 693** Light Bulbs
- 567** Ammunition / Fireworks/Gun Powder
- 173** Small Engines

The asbestos containing material disposal arrangements are being finalized. The ND Dept of Heath has been contacted regarding the appropriate facilities in ND to receive asbestos and that are in compliance. Give the current situation in Minot and the need ensure rapid removal and disposal of asbestos debris waste, it was determined by the OSC to not require asbestos

disposal facility to be on the approved CERCLA Off-Site disposal list. According to the NDDOH, Minot and Sawyer both have State approved asbestos disposal facilities.

Currently, the asbestos waste collected by EPA will be shipped to the Clean Harbors facility in Sawyer. The CERCLA off-site rule (found @ 40 CFR 300.440) allows the OSC to waive the requirements of the rule in certain circumstances. The conditions present in Minot satisfy the basis to apply this waiver in order to facilitate the quick disposal needed to safely complete the task of removing vermiculite insulation remove from the streets, sidewalks, and yards of Minot under the ESF 10 Mission Assignment. This waiver is provided for in the NCP at 40 CFR 300.440(a)(2):

(2) In cases of emergency removal actions under CERCLA, emergency actions taken during remedial actions, or response actions under section 311 of the Clean Water Act where the release poses an immediate and significant threat to human health and the environment, the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) may determine that it is necessary to transfer CERCLA waste offsite without following the requirements of this section.

***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

EPA and contractor crew sizes is anticipated to remain at the current level for another 2 weeks to allow for work into more remote areas and perform large tank recovery. The Minot area HHW and other material collection will continue as needed.

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.

Removal of loose vermiculite insulation piles will begin August 6.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

We shall continue on in good style.

2.2.2 Issues

There has been an on-going issue with the badging, background checks and licensing of EPA Contractor Employees. OSC Peronard is working with the State AG's office and has come up with a solution to supply the needed badges and satisfy other information requirements regarding EPA contractors. These actions are conducted under CERCLA authority and licensing is a form of permitting and is not required. (Furthermore, ER is a licensed contractor in ND, and ER performs background checks on their employees.)

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