

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VIII

Subject: POLREP #12
Progress
Minot ND Floods-2011

Minot, ND
Latitude: 48.2329061 Longitude: -101.3042450

To:

From: Paul Peronard, OSC
Duc Nguyen, OSC
Angie Zavala, OSC (R10)
Eric Tomaszewski, USCG

Date: 9/17/2011

Reporting Period: September 11-18, 2011

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 4,000 homes and businesses were inundated with flood waters, with over 2,000 structures completely submerged. The nearby towns of Burlington, Sawyer and Velva were also impacted. FEMA 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 orphaned containers; and to conduct environmental monitoring and sampling in impacted and work areas. Initial recon began 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 as needed)

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Due to extensive flood damage, FEMA tasked EPA to collect and manage household hazardous wastes (HHW), white goods, e-goods, orphaned haz-mat containers and asbestos on curbsides. In addition EPA provided air monitoring/sampling support throughout the operational theater. During the week of July 25th, it was determined that vermiculite insulation (aka "Zonolite" or "Zonolite Attic Insulation" or "ZAI") is present in some of the older homes and neighborhoods. Consequently, this asbestos bearing material has been appearing in the curbside debris piles as home owners return and gut their houses.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Returning property owners continue to bring out HHW and e-wastes for collection. Orphaned containers continue to be present in a few areas but most of the operational area has been cleared (see Operations Section). The number of properties with, and the amount of asbestos bearing materials are decreasing steadily as well throughout the Minot area.

Recon Teams continue to use the established grid system of Ward and McHenry counties to systematically track and manage the presence of hazardous materials. Summaries of these assessments can be found on the EPA Field Assessment Viewer (<http://react.nvs-inc.com/epasilver/>).

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The Operation Section is organized into three branches:

- I. Processing Pad Branch (OSC Peronard)
 - Container Group (Waste Sorting/Bulking)
 - White Goods Team (Cleaning/Freon Removal/Mercury Removal)
 - START Team (Monitoring/Hazard Categorization/Counting and Reporting)
- II. Container Collection Branch (OSC Zavala , USCG Tomaszewski)
 - Curbside HHW Collection Group
 - Orphaned Container Collection (Land) Group (open access collection)
 - Orphaned Container Collection (Remote) Group (river and difficult access collection)
 - Recon Team
- III. Asbestos Collection Branch (OSC Nguyen)
 - Bag Collection Group (collected bagged asbestos material)
 - Excavation Group (excavate debris piles)
 - Vac Group (vacuum loose piles of ZAI)
 - Recon Team

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Process Pad Branch: The Pad crews continue to sort and bulk the incoming streams of HHW and orphaned containers (OCs). As of 9/11/11, over 110,000 containers (of which 11,000 were orphan containers) have been collected and processed at the Collection Pad. This includes: small containers, drums, tanks, propane tanks, cylinders, batteries, fire extinguishers, fluorescent bulbs, ammunition, small engines and other.

White goods continue to be received from the USACE collection operation, and to date 5,800 have been received. This tally includes over 2,080 refrigeration/freezer units, 221 air conditioners, and 3,500 inert goods (stoves, washers, etc.). EPA ERRS crews process the units: First, spoiled food is removed and disposed of in the landfill, the refrigerators are then cleaned with bleach, and then finally freon, compressor oils, and mercury switches are removed for recycling. The White Goods Team has cleaned all of the received refrigerators and all of the inert white goods to date. Freon, oil, and/or mercury switches have been removed from over 2,080 refrigerators. The freon has also been removed from the 221 AC units as well. The processed refrigerators, ACs, and the inert white goods, have been turned over to the city of Minot for scrap-metal recycling. The total e-waste recovery volume is over 565 cy. More than 500 cy (approximately 120,000 lbs.) of e-wastes have been shipped off-site for recycling. In addition, over 1,600 propane tanks have been sent to the local gas company (Ferrell Gas) for re-use.

On September 11, 2011, the disposal/recycling sub-contractor (EQ) brought in a team of technicians to begin the final preparation (labeling, placarding, etc.) of the bulked loads of flammables, paints, oil, oxidizers, pesticides, caustics, acids, and batteries for off-site shipment. Between September 12-17, 2011 the following materials were shipped off-site:

- 1. 96 Drums of flammable aerosols (fuel blending)
- 2. 192 Drums of flammable solvents/gasoline (fuel blending)
- 3. 120 cy of latex paint (recycling)
- 4. 18 cy of waste oil

More off-site shipments will continue next week. A tally of the running total of material shipped off-site for disposal can be found at the following link:

<http://www.epaosc.org/sites/7093/files/Disposal%20Recycle%20Quantities%20Summary%20Report%20as%20of%20091711.pdf>.

The START Team is currently keeping up with the identification of incoming unknown materials without difficulty. Photo #1 presents a typical situation of potentially hazardous material brought into the Process Pad. A badly corroded container of Calcium Carbide

was brought into the processing pad. START chemists determined that the contents had reacted with flood waters, rendering the contents into a calcium hydroxide solution and paste with a pH of 14. This material was bulked with other caustics.

Asbestos Collection Branch: As of September 11, 2011, EPA has removed over 3,200 cy ZAI containing material from properties in the affected area. This has resulted from a total of 386 cleanups at 282 properties. As has been discussed in previous polreps, EPA has been experiencing the problem of having to do multiple cleanups at several properties where the owner has brought the ZAI material to the curb in an episodic fashion. EPA has done a more thorough assessment throughout the flood zone and believes that 278 of the properties that we have addressed will not require further action. This leaves 4 properties still to be cleaned, plus any newly discovered properties. Because recon efforts continue, each day a few more properties are added to the asbestos queue. However, for the second straight week the number of outstanding properties has shrunk daily. It now appears that the number of properties where the owners are continuing to gut their homes is dwindling. However, it is likely that there is a substantial number of homes in the flood zone that still contain ZAI that have not been touched by their owners. This may result in ZAI containing debris being generated in the future. This concern has been forwarded on to FEMA and the city of Minot through meetings at the EOC, as well as back to FEMA at the JFO.

Container Collection Branch: HHW collections continue in Minot, but OC collection efforts are now complete.

As of September 17, 2011, over 11,000 OCs have been collected. The entire operational theater has now been inspected and cleared of OCs. Work this past week focussed on clearing the last of the remaining large OCs from the Souris Riverine corridor. Photos #2-3 show a set of large (1,500 gallons each) chasis mounted propane tanks being floated and pulled across the river to an access point. The tanks were then loaded onto a lowboy provided by their owner so as to be returned. Two such sets of these tanks were moved this past week, along with 6 other 500+ gallon tanks. If possible, orphan tanks and/or containers are returned to their original owner.

The HHW Collection Group has finished the final sweeps through all areas outside the city of Minot. Work continues within the city of Minot, though overall collection numbers continue to decrease. The EPA and USACE issued a joint information statement/news release prior to and over the Labor Day weekend regarding collection activities. In effect, the EPA announced that it will begin the final sweep for curbside collection of HHW on September 19, 2011. It is anticipated that this effort will take 3-5 days, after which collection responsibilities will be turned over to the city of Minot. At this time, EPA HHW collection teams are working in are following the USACE debris collection teams as they make their final sweeps in Minot.

A summary of the collection efforts to date, as well as a graphical representation of collection trends can be found at the following link: <http://www.epaosc.org/sites/7093/files/Total%20Count%20as%20of%20091711.pdf>

A link to a website <http://react.nvs-inc.com/EPASilver/> contains a visual summary of all recon, collection, and other information through the area of operation.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

EPA, START, and ERRS contractor crew sizes have all been reduced at the end of this operational period. While collection efforts are slowing down, the processing pad will stay very active as materials are shipped off-site.

Unless there is a change in trend for the collection of ZAI, it is anticipated that most of EPA's ESF 10 mission will be completed by September 30, 2011. It is possible that some of the off-site shipments may have to be scheduled for after September 30, 2011, depending on disposal facility capacity.

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 USACE, working in parallel with them in each work zone. Recon and air monitoring will continue as well.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

We shall continue on in good style.

2.2.2 Issues

No new issues to report.

2.3 Logistics Section

Steps are now underway to prepare to demobilize some of the trailers at the RV camp. As ERRS, START, EPA, and USCG personnel levels are lowered, the trailers will be cleaned, winterized, and transported off-site. It is planned that the RV camp will be empty by September 30, 2011.

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	3 (2 as of 09/16/2011)
USCG	1 (0 as of 09/17/2011)
R8 START	5 (3 as of 09/17/2011)
ERRS	51 (42 as of 09/16/2011)
SERAS	0
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