

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 Forest City HS & Ceramics Factory - Removal Polrep  
 Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
 Initial  
 Forest City HS & Ceramics Factory  
 C5G4  
 Forest City, IL  
 Latitude: 40.3664274 Longitude: -89.8347545

**To:** Bruce Everetts, Illinois EPA  
 Valencia Darby, Department of Interior  
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**From:** Andrew Maguire, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 2/7/2013  
**Reporting Period:** February 4-8, 2013

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	C5G4	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	TO-01-12-11-1015	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>		<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>		<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	2/4/2013	<b>Start Date:</b>	2/5/2013
<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

### **1.1.2 Site Description**

The Forest City Removal (the Site) occupies approximately 4.6 acres and contains the former Forest City High School. Within the 4.6 acres lie two buildings, a Quonset structure, and two underground storage tanks (USTs). Building 1 is a two-story brick building that formerly contained the school cafeteria, offices, a boiler room, and classrooms. In 2005, Building 1 was partially destroyed by a tornado causing the roof and second floor to both collapse. Due to the lack of structural stability and overall safety concerns, Building 1 has been deemed inaccessible. Building 2 is a one-story brick and concrete masonry unit containing a gym, two locker rooms, two bathrooms, a boiler room, and four classrooms. Miscellaneous debris, waste, and ceramic manufacturing materials from when the building operated as a ceramic manufacturer from 1984 to 1999 remain inside.

In June 2012, Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston) conducted a site assessment (SA) at the property. SA activities confirmed the presence of containerized ignitable and hazardous waste, elevated levels of lead, arsenic, and asbestos in the soil adjacent to Building 1, and asbestos containing materials (ACM) both friable and non-friable within the two buildings.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

The Site is located at 409 Southwest Main Street in Forest City, Mason County, Illinois and is composed of the former Forest City High School. The Site is bordered to the north by agricultural and forested areas, to the south by Main Street, the Illinois and Midland Railroad, a private residence, and agricultural land, to the east by Village Park, and to the west by an unoccupied commercial property and forested land. The Mason-Tazewell Drainage Ditch is approximately 0.2 miles south of the former school, and the Site as a whole is located within the Lower Illinois-Lake Chautauqua watershed.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

The confirmed threats include an unknown number of ignitable and hazardous waste containers associated with the former ceramic manufacturing operations, elevated levels of lead, arsenic, and asbestos in the soil south of Building 1, and ACM both friable and non-friable throughout the buildings.

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

An initial site assessment was conducted on June 14, 2012. A total of nineteen waste solid, waste liquid, soil, and asbestos samples were taken during the assessment. Analytical results confirmed the presence of ignitable and toxic hazardous wastes in containers, the presence of lead and arsenic in the soil, and asbestos above regulatory concentrations. During assessment activities, ambient air was monitored for mercury vapor, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, lower explosive limit, oxygen, and volatile organic compounds; all monitoring readings were at or below background levels.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

On February 4, 2013 United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), Superfund Technical Assessment & Response Team (START) contractor Oneida Total Integrated Enterprise (OTIE), and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor Environmental Quality Restoration (EQ) mobilized to the Site. Upon arrival, ERRS setup of two site trailers that will be utilized by themselves, US EPA, and START throughout the duration of the removal. The approved health and safety plan (HASP) was reviewed by EPA, START and ERRS crew members in preparation for the start of removal activities on February 5, 2013. At 5pm central time, EPA On-scene Coordinator (OSC) Andy Maguire, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) Teresa Jones, and START contractor Santino Nardulli lead a two-hour informational meeting at the Forest City town hall. At the meeting, details about the planned cleanup activities at the former high school were discussed, and any inquiries by the general public were addressed.

On February 5, 2013, ERRS crew members began removing miscellaneous debris, waste, and former

ceramic manufacturing materials from the four former classrooms of Building 2. The individually containerized hazardous and ignitable waste was collected and placed in 55-gallon drums for later disposal. All of the light ballasts containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) and bulbs containing mercury vapor in the four classrooms were removed, dismantled and packaged for later disposal. A representative from EPA Region 5's Field Services Team was on-site to institute the VIPER system that will be utilized throughout the duration of the removal. VIPER is a system that transmits monitoring equipment readings in real-time to a remote location. A minimum of two DataRAM 4000s (DataRAM) will be utilized in conjunction with VIPER to monitor particulate dust in the ambient air on and off site. Initially, two DataRAMs were positioned outside of Building 2 facing Main St. In addition to the DataRAMs, a MultiRAE multi-gas air monitor (MultiRAE) will be used to monitor the breathing air in Building 2 while removal activities are being conducted. The MultiRAE monitors breathing air for carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, lower explosive limit, oxygen, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

On February 6, 2013, the ERRS crew continued removing debris, and hazardous materials from the four classrooms of Building 2. In addition to the classrooms, the crew began addressing the debris in the hallways of Building 2. Additional 55-gallon drums for hazardous waste collection were delivered to the Site along with a disposal roll-off box.

On February 7, 2013 debris and hazardous waste collection continued within Building 2. In addition to the hazardous waste, the ERRS crew began addressing the friable and non-friable ACMs. The ACM was collected, and double-bagged in preparation for disposal. A VOLVO SJIII 4632 man-lift was brought onto site in order to remove the light bulbs containing mercury vapor that still existed within the former gym of Building 2. Property owner Mr. Dale Schurtz visited the site to discuss the timeline in which his remaining possessions will need to be removed from the Quonset structure.

On February 8, 2012 the ERRS crew concluded removing debris, and hazardous waste from Building 2. At the conclusion of the work week, 17 55-gallon drums of ignitable and hazardous waste containers, and 1 55-gallon drum of PCB light ballasts were collected. In addition to the ignitable hazardous waste collection and debris removal, approximately 107 bags ACMs were collected in double bags for later disposal. Mayor Dan Gordon stopped by the Site to reveal the newly surveyed property boundary once the removal action is complete. The new property boundary roughly runs north to south in between the current location of the Quonset structure, and Building 1. The Quonset structure and adjacent land to the west will remain the property of Mr. Dale Schurtz, while the area east of the Quonset structure where Buildings 1 and 2 stand will belong to Forest City,.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
ACM	Debris	107 Bags			
Ignitable Waste	Small Containers	17 - 55 Gal Drums			
PCB Ballasts	Ballasts	1 - 55 Gal Drum			
Mercury Switches	Switches	5			

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

During the week of February 10, 2013 an asbestos abatement crew will be on-site to abate the ACM from Building 2 and PSC will be on site to load and transport the 18 55-gallon drums of ignitable and PCB waste to the disposal facility.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Beginning the week of February 25, 2013 ERRS crews will begin deconstructing the tornado damaged buildings in order to safely access, collect and dispose of the remaining ACM materials and debris.

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

**2.2.2 Issues**

**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**

- 1 - EPA OSC
- 1 - START
- 8 - ERRS

**5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

**6. Additional sources of information**

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

<http://www.epaosc.org/forestcityhs>

<http://epa.gov/region5/cleanup/forestcity/index.html>

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

POLREPs will be delivered weekly during field activities.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.