

[All POL/SITREP's for this site](#)

Portage Creek Area
Kalamazoo, MI - EPA Region V
POLREP #5
Progress

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
 Portage Creek Area - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #5
 Progress
 Portage Creek Area
 059B05
 Kalamazoo, MI
 Latitude: 42.2839750 Longitude: -85.5791570

To: Mark Mills, Michigan DNR
 Daria Devantier, MDEQ
 Bruce Merchant, Kalamazoo City
 Debbie Jung, Kalamazoo City
 Lisa Williams, U.S. FWS
 Todd Goeks, NOAA
 Valencia Darby, Department of Interior

From: Sam Borries, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 2/24/2012

Reporting Period: 2/3/2012 - 2/24/2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	059B05	Contract Number:	EP-S5-09-05
D.O. Number:	0087	Action Memo Date:	7/5/2011
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	NPL	Operable Unit:	05
Mobilization Date:	9/26/2011	Start Date:	8/30/2011
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	MID006007306	RCRIS ID:	NA
ERNS No.:	NA	State Notification:	Yes
FPN#:	NA	Reimbursable Account #:	NA

1.1.1 Incident Category

Fund-lead removal action

1.1.2 Site Description

See POLREP #1

1.1.2.1 Location

See POLREP #1

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

See POLREP #1

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See POLREP #1

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Work crews continued and completed clearing and grubbing activities in SA6, SA5D and along the eastern side of the John Street staging pad. A curb cut was completed and installed along Portage Creek from Stockbridge Avenue for access to excavation areas in SA6.

As reported in POLREP #2, an elevated water table in the excavation area of SA7 prevented contaminated soils from being excavated after this area was cleared of vegetation in November 2011. Though construction activities south of Reed Street have returned Portage Creek to its original channel and lowered the elevated water table, EPA re-assessed conditions and has determined that excavation activities in SA7 are still not feasible due to high levels of precipitation, unseasonably warm temperatures, and continued wet conditions. Site activities in SA7 will not commence until cold weather arrives or dry weather hardens the surface soils of the SA7 excavation area.

EPA is preparing to install a laminated mat road bed to access SA7 in order to begin excavation activities. Laminated mats are scheduled to be delivered the week of March 19th. EPA has completed current preparation activities for SA7 and will demobe site personnel and equipment until the week of March 19th. Weather permitting, EPA and contractor personnel will return March 19th to install the laminated mat road into SA7 and begin excavation.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

From February 3 to February 24, 2012, U.S. EPA and ERRS contractor conducted the following activities:

Site Activities

- Continued periodic pumping out of rainwater and snowmelt water from the John Street staging/solidification pad (staging pad) in anticipation of continuing construction work;
- Install and remove temporary fencing in UpJohn Park during clearing and grubbing activities.
- Completed vegetation removal and grubbing activities along the western bank of Portage Creek in SA6, eastern bank of SA5D (UpJohn Park) and a truck access route on the east side of the John Street staging pad. A chipper was used to decrease the volume of woody debris; and
- Mobilized a drilling contractor and installed two eight inch wells and 11 piezometers for a ground water pump test along Portage Creek in SA6 from February 13 -24.

Project Management Activities

- Submitted the revised the Quality Assurance Project Plan to EPA quality assurance/control personnel for EPA review;
- Ordered laminated mats for road construction access to SA7 excavation area;
- Continued validation of pre-construction investigatory sampling results of sediments in excavation areas SA5,6 & 7; and
- Conducted weekly update meetings with the City of Kalamazoo on site progress.

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

The major PRP for this portion of the Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site was dissolved through bankruptcy proceedings in April 2010. Other PRPs are being evaluated.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
Removed Fencing	Scrap Metal	6000lbs	N/A	Recycling	Scrap
Removed Fencing	Metal	2000lbs	N/A	Reuse	Staging Area

2.2 Planning Section

A summary of removal activities that will take place in the upcoming week(s) include:

Site Activities

- Mobilize to the site during the week of March 19th to take delivery of SA7 laminated mats and install mats on access road.
- Commence excavation in SA7 if the area is dry enough.

Project Management Activities

- Ongoing efforts to obtain site access from property owners who own land along the project boundaries;
- Identify pre-construction sampling locations for soils in Upjohn Park; and
- Arrange meeting with the City of Kalamazoo Park and Recreation Department and others for discussion on type/kind of restoration plantings desired for various segments of the Creek.

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

See POLREP #2

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

See above

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See above

2.2.2 Issues

Precipitation and unseasonably warm temperatures are preventing access and thus removal of contaminated soils in SA7. See POLREP #2 and Section 2.1.1 above for additional information.

2.3 Logistics Section

The current resources present on site during this reporting period include:

- Three office trailers
- One security trailer
- Portable restrooms
- One wood chipper
- Portable generators and pumps
- One ERRS work crew
- Miscellaneous land clearing tools/equipment

All personnel and equipment are being temporarily demobed until the week of March 19.

2.4 Finance Section**2.4.1 Narrative**

NA

2.5 Other Command Staff**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

Sam Borries, Craig Thomas and Paul Ruesch, U.S. EPA FOSCs, are serving as safety officer(s). The HASP was reviewed and signed by all site personnel.

2.6 Liaison Officer

N/A

2.7 Information Officer

N/A

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

N/A

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

Don DeBlasio - U.S. EPA CIC

3. Participating Entities**3.1 Unified Command**

N/A

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
City of Kalamazoo:
Department of Public Services
Parks and Recreation Department
Economic Development Department
Community Planning & Development
Public Safety Department
Fire Department
Police Department
Bronson Methodist Hospital
Kalamazoo Nature Center

4. Personnel On Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA Removal (ERRS) Contractors (Environmental Quality Management, Inc. and Inland Waters)
Farm 'N Garden (fencing sub-contractor)

5. Definition of Terms

ERRS - Emergency and Rapid Response Services
FOSC - Federal On Scene Coordinator
HASP - Health and Safety Plan
mg/kg - milligrams per kilogram

MDEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
NA - Not Applicable
NPL - National Priorities List
PCB - polychlorinated biphenyl
PRPs - Potentially Responsible Parties
START - Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
U.S. EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

It is anticipated that POLREPs will be generated approximately every 2-4 weeks during the active construction season.

7. Situational Reference Materials

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

Additional information on the overall Kalamazoo River Project can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/kalproject/index.htm>.

[Click here to view Attached Images](#)

[web sites](#) | [regional web sites](#) | [profile](#) | [bulletins](#) | [images](#) | [documents](#) | [Pol/Sitreps](#) | [contacts](#) | [links](#) |