

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region I

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial
Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II
01QB
Dartmouth, MA
Latitude: 41.6146590 Longitude: -70.9445240

To:
From: Cayla Jimenez, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 8/13/2024
Reporting Period: July 15, 2024 - August 13, 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	01QB	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	7/8/2024
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	7/15/2024	Start Date:	7/15/2024
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	MAN000101112	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Time-Critical Removal Action

1.1.2 Site Description

In July 2018, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) responded to an odor complaint at an unoccupied residential lot at 85 McCabe Street in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood of Dartmouth, MA. MassDEP identified buried waste material and subsequently executed soil sampling for PCBs. Historical records were uncovered shortly thereafter that revealed that refuse dumping had been occurring in the Neighborhood since at least the 1930s. In May 2019, MassDEP conducted sampling at 18 additional properties in the Neighborhood. On half of these properties, a subsurface layer consisting of coal ash, glass (including fragments and intact containers), brick, and coal-clinkers was discovered, which came to be a defining characteristic of the contaminated properties. High levels of lead and PCBs were measured in several locations as well. MassDEP initiated an additional sampling regime in September 2019 at volunteer residential properties across the Neighborhood. The sampling results indicated a wide range of lead and PCB concentrations, many of which exceeded the EPA lead Removal Management Level and the MassDEP PCB Imminent Hazard Level. In October 2020, EPA received a request from MassDEP to provide residential sampling assistance, and from July 2020 through June 2021, EPA and MassDEP sampled almost 50 additional properties. In June 2021, MassDEP requested support from EPA to conduct removal actions at residential properties in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood.

From the time of MassDEP's initial request for removal action support in June 2021 through June 2024, EPA conducted removal actions at fourteen properties to address lead and PCB contamination. Requests for exemptions to monetary and temporal statutory limitations were necessary on three occasions to continue removal actions at additional properties, including one school. Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II is a continuation of the work completed under the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site moniker and addresses four additional residential properties in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood. Two of these properties were selected due to concentrations of lead measured on the properties at more than three times the EPA Removal Management Level while the additional two properties were selected due to a combination of factors, including high lead concentration, presence of PCBs, and proximity to properties in the Neighborhood known to exhibit extremely high concentrations of PCBs prior to actions taken by EPA to address contaminated soil. Work began to address contamination at these four properties in July 2024 and is expected to be completed in December 2024.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in the Bliss Corner Neighborhood, which is primarily residential and extends approximately 1/3 mile from north to south and east to west in Dartmouth, Bristol County, MA. A large wetland area spans the south-southwest portion of the Neighborhood, and the northeast border of the Neighborhood is Rockdale Avenue. Rockdale Avenue marks the boundary with the City of New Bedford. The borders of the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Removal Response II study area are Milton Street to the west, Matthew Street to the north, Stackhouse Street to the east, and a wetland area to the south. For the purpose of the removal action to be executed under the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II, the geographic coordinates of 41.614659, -70.944524, indicating a location near the center of the wetlands approximating the center of the study area, constitute the geographic center of the removal action.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

PCBs and lead are the primary contaminants of concern. The source of the fill material used at each property and depth to

which it was used is unknown and varies significantly, resulting in a wide range of PCB and lead concentrations in the soil at each residential property. PCBs and lead are hazardous substances as defined by Section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9601(14), and may find potential exposure routes through common residential activities including gardening, outdoor recreation in lesser vegetated areas, and installation of household assets (i.e., swimming pools, fruit and nut trees, etc.).

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Table 1: Mean lead and PCB concentrations measured at four residential properties as compared to EPA RMLs, MassDEP Residential Standards, and MassDEP IH Levels.

Site Indicator	Mean Lead (ppm)	EPA RML Lead (ppm)	MassDEP MCP Lead (ppm)	MassDEP Site-Specific IH Lead (ppm)	Mean PCBs (ppm)	EPA RML PCBs (ppm)	MassDEP IH PCBs (ppm)
MC6	911	200	200	1000	1	23	10
DO3	501	200	200	1000	5	23	10
MC7	721	200	200	1000	ND	23	10
EW4*	85	200	200	1000	4	23	10

* Despite the comparatively low mean lead and PCB concentrations measured at EW4, the proximity to a highly contaminated property addressed through a prior removal action indicates EW4 warrants additional investigation and a removal action.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

EPA mobilized equipment and personnel to the staging area at 247 Russells Mills Road (the staging area location remains the same between the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site and the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II). EPA removal activities began at MC7 on July 15, 2024 as well. Initial removal activities included the removal of dense and overgrown vegetation, the removal of a pool, and the demolition and removal of three sheds on the property. Removal activities at MC7 were preceded by the development of a restoration plan for the property, with which the property owners concurred after independent consideration and discussion with EPA.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

- Mobilized to the Site
- Received consent to access MC7, EW4, and MC6
- Conducted Site Walks of MC7, EW4, and MC6
- Worked with the EPA enforcement team to develop access agreements for an adjacent property where location of heavy equipment will likely be necessary
- Worked with the EPA enforcement team and Community Involvement Coordinator to develop Portuguese outreach materials and agreements for DO3
- Arranged for the support of the EPA mobile laboratory for future field sampling for PCBs at EW4 and DO3
- Developed and achieved consensus on a site restoration plan for MC7
- Established and maintaining air monitoring for particulates at the staging area and MC7
- Removed and disposed of excess vegetation, three sheds, and a pool at MC7
- Excavated and backfilled ~75% of the back lawn of MC7
- Removed the fence encircling MC7
- Submitted initial contaminated soil samples for assessment for future transportation and disposal

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

This EPA action is being conducted as a "Fund Lead" action. Information regarding potential responsible parties can be found in the Enforcement Strategy of the Action Memorandum.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Please refer to table below for a summary of all transportation and disposal. The final POLREP will include all manifest numbers.

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
Non-haz lead contaminated soil	Soil	0 tons	NA		
PCB TSCA contaminated soil	Soil	0 tons	NA		
	Soil	0 tons	NA		

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Over the next several weeks, EPA will work to complete the removal action and restoration at MC7 and begin the removal action at MC6. EPA will concurrently maintain air monitoring via DustTraks and the VIPER Monitoring System at the staging area and properties where active work is ongoing. EPA will also seek access to complete a site walk and conduct a removal action at DO5 and assemble restoration plans for MC6, EW4, and DO5 based upon information gathered during the Site Walks. Finally, EPA will complete removal actions and restoration at MC7, MC6, EW4, and DO5.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

- Finalize a restoration plan for MC6
- Finalize a restoration plan for an adjacent property where access for heavy equipment will likely be necessary
- Gain consent to access DO3
- Gain consent to access an adjacent property
- Conduct a Site Walk at DO3
- Establish and maintain air monitoring for particulates at each property

- Complete the removal action at MC7
- Complete restoration at MC7
- Mobilize equipment to MC6 and prepare for the removal action
- Complete the removal action and restoration at MC6
- Develop and finalize restoration plans for DO3 and EW4
- Complete the removal action and restoration at DO3 and EW4

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See Section 2.2.1.1 above.

2.2.2 Issues

The following issues may have a negative impact on the project:

- Limited area for contaminated soil staging at the 247 Russells Mills Road Command Post
- Elevated water table, especially during periods of heavy rain or abnormally cool and wet weather
- Freezing temperatures as we enter the winter season, which may render excavation difficult

2.3 Logistics Section

EPA maintains a Command Post and staging area at 247 Russells Mills Road. This is the location for the receipt and storage of all supplies prior to its use throughout Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II, as it was during its predecessor, Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site. EPA maintains an agreement with Town of Dartmouth to use the Command Post as a contaminated soil staging area through the Spring of 2025. EPA has identified and confirmed a source for clean backfill and topsoil.

EPA has set up an account for electricity support at the command post and the Town of Dartmouth is providing water and recycling services to the project.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

EPA is conducting this removal action as a "Fund Lead" action. Project funding is documented in the 2024 Action Memorandum, and is summarized in the chart below. Costs shown below include "pending" or anticipated costs, but may not include all pending costs.

		Budgeted	Total to Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs					
	ERRS	1,500,000.00	245193.4	1254806.6	83.65
	START	300,000			
Intramural Costs					
	Total Site Costs	1,800,000.00	245,193.40	1,254,806.60	83.65

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up to date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The EPA OSC is the Site Safety Officer. A comprehensive Site Specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) is in development for this Site and will be available at the Command Post shortly. The HASP developed for the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site which all staff on site have reviewed and signed is in effect until the finalization of the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II HASP. All on-site staff members will be responsible for reviewing and signing the Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II HASP upon its finalization.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

The EPA OSC is the Site Liaison Officer.

2.5.3 Information Officer

The preceding Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site generated significant interest in the community, both amongst the residents and the local government. The Site has also drawn significant attention from media outlets and elected officials. In light of the attention garnered by Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site, Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Removal Response II retains the Site Community Involvement Coordinator designated during the original project who continues to assist EPA in their public outreach and community-wide communication.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

U.S. EPA, MassDEP, and Town of Dartmouth

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

U.S. EPA, MassDEP, and Town of Dartmouth

4. Personnel On Site

EPA: 1
 START: 1 Weston Solution
 ERRS: 5 Environmental Restoration (site average, but number may vary)

5. Definition of Terms

Not Applicable

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Progress reports will be provided periodically using the POLREP format as EPA reaches significant project milestones.

7. Situational Reference Materials

Not Applicable