

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

SDMS Document



111458

JUL 19 2001

SUBJECT: Consolidated Iron and Metal Superfund Site, Orange County, NY
Emergency Removal Action Request

FROM: John E. La Padula, Chief
New York Remediation Branch

TO: Bruce Sprague, Chief
Response and Prevention Branch

John E. La Padula

NYRB is requesting that RPB conduct an emergency removal action at the Consolidated Iron and Metal site, located in the City of Newburgh, Orange County, New York. The site is an inactive car and scrap metal junk yard that operated from approximately 1960 to 1999. The principal contaminants at the site are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals, particularly lead. This emergency removal action is being requested in response to a complaint received from a local resident reporting the following site conditions:

- Unabated access to and from the site by trespassers;
- Illegal business transactions occurring in abandoned buildings on the site;
- Scavenging of site contents by trespassers;
- The presence of drums on site that appear to be leaking liquid onto site soils;
- Local children swimming at the adjacent property immediately to the north of the site;
- A wind screen to prevent soils from blowing off the site has fallen and is in disrepair; and
- The lack of warning signs indicating that hazardous substances are present at the site.

NYRB requests that the emergency removal action respond to these reported site conditions, especially with respect to securing the site to prevent trespassing.

In 1998, while Consolidated Iron and Metal was still operating, RPB sampled an ash/slag pile at the site that was generated by the aluminum smelting operation and found it to be contaminated with lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). As a result of this sampling event, a removal action was conducted to properly dispose of the lead and PCB contaminated materials. The scrap metal in the pile was segregated out and the resulting fine pile, estimated at 6,600 tons, was removed from the site in 1999 and placed in a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-approved treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF) for stabilization and landfilling.

In 1999, RPB sampled other processed soil piles at the site which were also found to be contaminated with lead and PCBs; these soil piles, too, were shipped to a RCRA-approved TSDF. In September 1999, RPB also conducted an Integrated Assessment (IA) at the site to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination. Surface and subsurface soil and ground water samples were collected and analyzed, indicating the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, PCBs, and metals at concentrations greater than background in the surface and subsurface soils. Based on the sampling results, the Consolidated Iron and Metal site was proposed to the National Priorities List, and became final on June 14, 2001. NYRB began a remedial investigation/ feasibility study

(RI/FS) of the site in March 2002 and is currently reviewing a draft RI/FS work plan. A potentially responsible party search is ongoing.

It is unlikely that field work will commence at the site prior to the 2003 spring season. Accordingly, NYRB is requesting that RPB conduct an emergency removal action to secure and stabilize the site.

cc: M. Negrelli - NYRB
C. Berns - NYCSFB
M. Ferriola - RPB
G. Zachos - ERRD