

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Lewis Chemical - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region I

**Subject:** POLREP #2  
Progress  
Lewis Chemical  
01NE  
Hyde Park, MA  
Latitude: 42.2528593 Longitude: -71.1197482

**To:**  
**From:** Athanasios Hatzopoulos, OSC  
**Date:** 6/9/2023  
**Reporting Period:** 4/10/2023 to 6/9/2023

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	01NE	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	1/26/2023
<b>Response Authority:</b>		<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	4/4/2023	<b>Start Date:</b>	3/16/2023
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	MAD053455911	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Time critical removal action.

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is approximately a one-acre vacant lot that is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and metals. It is located in a mixed commercial residential neighborhood in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, and comprised of three parcels. Two are owned by the City of Boston (city) and the third owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as environmental preservation land. Approximately 20,858 people reside within one mile of the Site. Also, within one-mile radius there are 15 schools, three nursing homes and six childcare centers. It is adjacent to the Neponset river and based on information in EPA's EJSCREEN environmental justice screening tool, 11 of 12 Environmental Justice Indexes for the area within a one-mile radius of the site exceed the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile on a state basis and 5 of 12 exceed the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile on a national basis.

On June 21, 2022, and November 9, 2022, MassDEP and city respectively requested EPA's assistance to address hazardous substances existing at the Site. In October 2022, EPA initiated a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation and confirmed that the contaminants in Site soils pose a risk to public health and the environment.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located at Fairmount Court and at 12-24 Fairmount Court. The city acquired Fairmount Court in 1990 through a tax foreclosure and in 2001 became owner of 12-24 Fairmount Court, the larger of the two parcels and the location of former industrial facilities, also through a tax foreclosure. The square footage of the two parcels is approximately 30,120 square feet. The Commonwealth owns the third parcel comprising the Site which is approximately 8,500 square feet, running along the Neponset River. The entire Site abuts the Neponset River to the south, with approximately 580 feet of frontage. The elevated Fairmount Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) train station and railroad tracks are adjacent and located to the north and northwest of the Site with approximately 520 feet of common boundary. Fairmount Court dead ends at the northeast entrance of the Site. The Site is located at latitude 42° 15' 10.368" N, and longitude 71° 07' 11.136" W.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The primary hazardous substances at the Site include, but are not limited to PCBs, VOCs and metals. These are "hazardous substances" as defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA and 40 CFR § 302.4. In October 2022, EPA initiated a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI) to evaluate if the hazardous substances in Site soils pose a risk to public health or the environment. Sampling data indicate the presence of elevated levels of PCBs, VOCs, and metals in soils. The Site soils are exposed to weathering and are likely migrating to the Neponset River. Access to the Site is largely unrestricted. Human exposures to these contaminants present a potential health threat.

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

Historically the city and DCR have performed soil sampling activities at the Site. Soil data collected by DCR shows that PCBs were detected in 373 of 540 soil samples collected between June 2020 and March

2021 as part of investigations to characterize the extent of PCBs in soil. Concentrations of PCBs in 234 of the 373 soil samples where PCBs were detected contained concentrations above the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) Method 1, S-1 Standard of 1 mg/kg, and 87 of 373 samples contained PCBs at 50 mg/kg or above. Based on samples collected by the City of Boston, the soil on the city-owned parcels is contaminated with PCBs at levels consistent with Commonwealth-owned parcel. Additionally, both data sets reveal that soil areas where PCBs have been detected are also contaminated with elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals. The levels of PCBs, VOCs, and metals are also exceed EPA's Removal Management Levels<sup>1</sup> (RMLs). The results of the sampling data can be found in the document section of this website.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

A time-critical removal action (RA) was recommended in the Site Investigation Closure Memorandum dated December 21, 2022. An Action Memorandum was prepared and signed by the SEMD Director on January 26, 2023. The results of the sampling data can be found in the Lewis Chemical Site file.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

For information on response actions performed prior to April 10, 2023, please refer to POLREP #1.

##### Weeks of April 10, 17 and 23, 2023

ERRS performed the following tasks:

Began land clearing and grubbing activities.

Installed a temporary metal barrier between MBTA sidewalk and Fairmount Court per earlier meetings with MBTA.

Contacted vendors and requested quotes for equipment rentals, trailer, electrical work etc.

Removed electrical pole from the Site after Eversource (electric utility company) cut electricity from street pole that dead-ended at an unknown location within the Site from previous ownership.

The OSC met with the EPA remedial program manager, DCR and MassDEP representatives to discuss future work on the riverbank.

##### Weeks of May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023

ERRS performed the following tasks:

Continued land clearing and grubbing activities.

Removed existing metal fence between the city owned and DCR owned portions of the Site.

Installed temporary construction fence as well as erosion control sock to prevent soil loss caused by water runoff.

Hired a specialized tree cutting company to cut and remove trees from the riverbank and the area which abuts the MBTA train tracks.

Used water as engineering control to suppress dust while moving equipment thru Site.

Hired electrician to bring in electric power from street pole to trailers.

EPA prepared signs to inform MBTA passengers of the removal action work that is being performed at Lewis Chemical Site. Signs will be placed at two MBTA station locations that are visible to train passengers.

##### Week of June 6, 2023

ERRS performed the following tasks:

Completed Site clearing and grubbing activities and readied Site for excavation work.

Collected soil samples for waste disposal characterization.

Resurfaced Fairmount Court area in front of Fairmount train station by adding additional sand stone for smoother handicapped and/or bicycle access to train station.

Used water as engineering control to suppress dust while moving/using equipment thru Site.

Notified MBTA and Keolis of tree cutting operations, and cut/removed all trees from Site.

EPA began drafting a traffic management plan for the trucking operations used to dispose the hazardous wastes and bring in clean soil. Representatives from MassDEP and the City of Boston's Inspectional Services, Fire and Police, Public Health and Transportation Departments' were invited to meet/review plan and comment as needed.

#### 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>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The goal of the RA is to minimize the direct contact threat and remove the source contamination by excavating and disposing of soils contaminated with PCBs and other hazardous substances. The excavated areas will be resampled, delineated with geotechnical fabric, and backfilled with clean soil. After EPA has completed removal and cleanup work, post-removal site controls (such as deed restrictions if necessary) will be implemented by the city or by DCR under MassDEP oversight.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

- Continue developing and implementing a Community Involvement Plan for the duration of the RA.
- Continue developing/amending the scope of work as the RA progresses.

- Continue site security as necessary based on conditions.
- Mobilizing additional personnel and equipment.
- Re-delineating work zones and decontamination area as work progresses.
- Performing air monitoring and implementing dust control and suppression for worker protection and public health, as needed.
- Excavating soil contaminated with PCBs and other collocated contaminants.
- Treating and disposing surface/ground water accumulated in excavated areas if necessary.
- Conducting onsite decontamination of larger debris, and segregating hazard-free debris.
- Developing a traffic management plan for the disposal of hazardous wastes and incoming clean soil. The plan will be discussed and agreed upon with city and MBTA officials.
- Conducting post-excavation soil characterization to verify and document conditions that remain
- Providing and placing geotextile fabric and warning barrier across excavation areas.
- Transporting and disposing of contaminated soil at EPA approved disposal facilities. Removing and disposing other hazardous substances discovered during this removal action.
- Backfilling excavated areas and capping the excavated footprint of the Site.
- Repairing response related damages; and
- Demobilizing resources.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Next steps include the activities outlined in the previous two sections.

#### 2.2.2 Issues

None at the moment

### 2.3 Logistics Section

n/a

### 2.4 Finance Section

#### Estimated Costs \*

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$3,080,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,073,000.00	99.77%
START	\$185,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$145,000.00	78.38%
Extramural Contingency 20%	\$653,000.00	\$0.00	\$653,000.00	100.00%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
USEPA - Direct	\$100,000.00	\$230,000.00	(\$130,000.00)	-130.00%
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$4,018,000.00</b>	<b>\$277,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,741,000.00</b>	<b>93.11%</b>

\* 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

No information to report at this time.

#### 2.5.2 Liaison Officer

No information to report at this time.

#### 2.5.3 Information Officer

No information to report at this time.

### 3. Participating Entities

#### 3.1 Unified Command

n/a

#### 3.2 Cooperating Agencies

MassDEP/DCR

City of Boston

### 4. Personnel On Site

EPA OSC

START-3 staff

ERRS-6 staff

### 5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

### 6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

### 7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.

