



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, CO 80202-2466

SDMS Document ID



380035

POLLUTION REPORT
ROCKWOOL BUTTONS SITE
CITY AND COUNTY OF PUEBLO, COLORADO

I. HEADING

Date: December 30, 1998
From: Hays Griswold, OSC
To: Anne Spencer, EPA Headquarters
Subject: Rockwool Buttons Site
City and County of Pueblo, CO
POLREP No.: Final POLREP

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: 1M
Response Authority: CERCLA
CERCLIS No: COD073405961
Action Memo Status: Approved - 10/22/96
Start Date: 4/9/97
Completion date: 12/3/98

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA Time Critical, Fund-Lead

B. Preliminary Assessment Results

These buttons were generated in the Rockwool manufacturing process and were once a part of the pile of contaminated waste materials from the wool insulation manufacturing conducted at the nearby Rockwool Industries facility; they fail the TCLP for lead and have been regulated by the Colorado State RCRA Program. They are 2-3 feet in depth, 4-5 feet in diameter, semi-conical, and contain 2-3 tons of waste material which is contaminated with lead and arsenic. This waste material is a solid mass of once-molten rock.

C. Situation

1. Site Location

The Site encompasses a total area of approximately 3 acres in an industrial area of northeast Pueblo -bounded by Joplin Avenue on the east, Fountain Creek on the west, the Arkansas River on the south, and the Atcheson Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to the north. The property is unsecured and has two or three light industrial



operations. A residential neighborhood is near the Site; thus there is a potential problem with children wandering onto the Site.

2. Description of Threat

The hazardous wastes at the Site are summed up by their name - "buttons". These "buttons", each of which contain 2-3 tons of waste material, are grouped on the Site near an operating business. They were brought onsite by an entrepreneur, who has since died. The entrepreneur had visions of making money through reprocessing or smelting the salable precious metals which are present in the "buttons". He acquired the "buttons" from Rockwool Industries and moved them off the Rockwool property to another location. After some "operating" difficulties on the property, he moved them to their present location. Up until the time he died, his attempts to procure and sell precious metals from the "buttons" were unsuccessful. The "buttons" of contaminated material remained unclaimed, abandoned, and unwanted where he last put them. They were "stored" on the property as a favor to him by the owner.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

Removal Actions Completed

On April 9, 1997, EPA's START Contractor mobilized to the Site to begin to characterize the waste buttons and profile them for disposal. Initial analysis indicated that it would be difficult and expensive to transport the "buttons" to a disposal facility; therefore other disposal options were investigated. The reprocessing option was checked but no gold was found by reprocessing (small amount of platinum); therefore it would be too expensive to reprocess the "buttons". So on 10/23/98 the USBR contractor began the work of removing the "buttons" and contaminated soil from the storage locations back to the original Rockwool Repository. The "buttons" and contaminated soil were placed on the repository without disturbing its integrity. The new small pile was then sealed and capped to the same engineering specifications as the main pile. The work was completed on 11/25/98. Final sampling of the ground water wells was conducted on 12/2&3/98. The Removal is now considered complete.

V. COST INFORMATION

A budget of \$489,000 was established in the original Action Memorandum.