



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466POLLUTION REPORT
ROCKWOOL BUTTONS SITE
CITY AND COUNTY OF PUEBLO, COLORADO

I. HEADING

Date: July 23, 1997
From: Hays Griswold, OSC
To: Anne Spencer, EPA Headquarters
Emergency Response
Subject: Rockwool Buttons Site
City and County of Pueblo, CO
POLREP No.: Initial POLREP

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: IM
Response Authority: CERCLA
CERCLIS No: COD073405961
NPL Status: Not listed
Action Memo Status: Approved - 10/22/96
Start Date: 4/9/97
Completion date: N/A

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 remain unclaimed, abandoned, and unwanted where he last put them. They are "stored" on the property as a favor to him by the owner.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. 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 indicates that it will be difficult to transport the "buttons" to a disposal facility. At this time the OSC and EPA Contractors are evaluating alternatives for disposal.

B. Planned Actions

Select an alternative for disposal.

V. COST INFORMATION

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