



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

SDMS Document ID



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POLLUTION REPORT
ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES FACILITY SITE
CITY AND COUNTY OF PUEBLO, COLORADO

I. HEADING

Date: August 18, 1997
From: Hays Griswold, OSC
To: Anne Spencer, EPA Headquarters
Emergency Response
Subject: Rockwool Industries Facility
City and County of Pueblo, CO
POLREP No.: POLREP #3 and Final

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: 2K
Response Authority: CERCLA
CERCLIS No: COD073405961
NPL Status: Not listed
Action Memo Status: Approved - 9/16/96
Start Date: 12/9/96
Completion date: July 16, 1997

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA Time Critical, Fund-Lead

B. Preliminary Assessment Results

In 1989 this facility began developing a "closure plan" in accordance with Section 265.258(b) of the Colorado Hazardous Waste Rules. Accordingly, Site investigations and waste characterization reports were prepared by Water, Waste, and Land, Inc. (WWL) for Rockwool Industries. The results of these studies formed the basis for the Closure Plan which was finalized in December, 1992; and in 1993 the initial closure work began. However, the closure plan was not completely executed.

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division of the CDPHE sent a letter (dated April 22, 1996) to Region VIII describing the present conditions and requesting assistance on this Site. It is reported that the owner spent approximately \$2,000,000 in its cleanup activities before abandoning the site. Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) was conducted for both lead and arsenic. For both metals the test results exceeded the allowable limits of 5 milligrams per

liter (mg/l) - up to 130 mg/l. The State reports that the owner ran out of money, and it has been unable to obtain final performance of the closure plan by the company. The unfinished cap is rapidly eroding and exposing the synthetic cap. The synthetic cap will deteriorate when exposed to the weather. The OSC observed a ten-fold increase in the exposure of this cap due to the erosion from unusually intense rainfall in the timespan of two months. This removal work will repair the closure cap and complete the specific items which were recommended in the original plan of December 1992.

C. Situation

1. Site Location

The Site is located at 600 Old Smelter road in Pueblo, Colorado. It encompasses a total area of approximately 49 acres in an industrial area of northeast Pueblo adjacent to Interstate Highway #25 near the confluence of Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River Channel.

An active railroad right-of-way (Atchison, Topeka, and the Santa Fe) delineates the northern boundary of the Site, while the 1921 channel of the Arkansas River forms the southern Site boundary. The western and eastern property boundaries are adjacent to Interstate Highway #25 and Smelter Hill, respectively.

2. Description of Threat

The waste pile from the manufacture of mineral wool insulation consists primarily of mineral wool process waste called "shot" that is contaminated with elevated levels of lead; and arsenic contamination occurs in discrete pockets. Both of these metals are hazardous substances as defined by section 101(14) of CERCLA.

It is considered likely that there is an hydraulic connection between the shot pile and the shallow underlying aquifer. As a result of the deterioration of the protective cover, there is the potential for these hazardous substances to migrate into this aquifer. Additionally, contaminated surface water could flow into the diversion and drainage ditches and into the drinking water supply for the nearby population.

The area is unsecured and anyone can venture onto the Site where there is direct exposure to hazardous materials - residences with children are immediately north of the Site. The Site shows evidence of trespassers and vagrants who have been on-site.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Removal Actions Completed

EPA completed an IAG with BOR, and BOR mobilized its contractor to the Site on 12/9/96. The following actions were completed:

- Amended vegetative material was placed on the top surface of the pile and erosional damage was repaired.
- Pile of "shot" waste in southeast corner of property and contamination from "mop up" operations was incorporated into the original closure pile.
- Rip-rap was placed on the slope surface channel.
- Vegetative layer was seeded.

As of July 16, 1997, the Site was inspected by the OSC to determine if the capping, vegetative layer, and seeding had been completed as per the originally approved closure plan. Therefore, this Removal is now considered completed.

V. COST INFORMATION

A budget of \$1,123,600 has been established in the original Action Memorandum. Estimated expenditures are in the range of \$750,000.