



ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

MEMORANDUM

Site: <u>Rockwool Insul</u>
ID # _____
Break: <u>1.5</u>
Other: <u>4-18-91</u>

TO: Paul Doherty, EPA/DPO

FROM: Jim Kudlinski, E & E/TATM *DL for J.K.*

THRU: Joe Chandler, E & E/TATL *JCC*

DATE: April 18, 1991

SUBJECT: Site Assessment, Rockwool Industries, Cameron, Missouri.
 TDD# T07-9102-016
 PAN# EMO0852SAA

EPA OSC: Robert Wiggans



INTRODUCTION

The Ecology and Environment, Inc., Technical Assistance Team (E & E/TAT) was tasked by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Planning and Response (EP&R) Branch to conduct a followup site assessment at the Rockwool Industries site near Cameron, Missouri. These activities were to be conducted as part of an ongoing response to an anonymous report received by Meredith Farnan, EPA Office of Regional Council, concerning the burial of drums containing hazardous waste northwest of the Rockwool plant. TAT was tasked to conduct a geophysical survey of the site in an attempt to locate the drums, and to collect samples of affected environmental media.

BACKGROUND

The Rockwool Industries, Inc., site is located approximately three miles west of Cameron, Missouri, on County Road A (Figure 1: Site Location Map). The legal description of the land is: SW1/4, Sec. 21, T. 57N, R. 30W. The company was incorporated on May 3, 1973, establishing a rockwool thermal insulation manufacturing plant which operated for eight years prior to declaring Chapter 7 bankruptcy in 1981. At the time of plant closure, large quantities of stock material as well as all processing equipment were abandoned.

TAT conducted a background study on the manufacturing process of rock wool insulation under TDD # T07-9001-029 to determine potential waste streams. A complete description of the manufacturing process is included in the previous letter report; the potentially derived wastes were concluded to consist of the following substances: phenol and formaldehyde (possibly as phenol-formaldehyde resin), hexamethylene-tetramine, methylene ethers, and ammonia.

A preliminary search for a potentially responsible party (PRP) was performed through TDD# T07-9001-028, which entailed personal conversations with neighboring residents, and an investigation into corporate affiliations of Rockwool Industries, Inc. When in business, Rockwool Industries, Inc., was a subsidiary of The Susquehanna Corporation, Denver, Colorado. During the February investigation, TAT interviewed four nearby residents to determine any knowledge of the allegations against Rockwool. Two residents, John P. O'Connell, and Elmer Lee Groebe, informed TAT of the burial of unknown material south of the facility. Neither of the two men interviewed could give TAT an accurate description of the location or time of the alleged occurrence other than it was about 8 to 10 years ago and involved solid material.

As a result of the information provided by the two residents, TAT conducted a limited geophysical survey in the area south of the facility. Data obtained during this activity was inconclusive, but did not reflect the potential for buried drums to be located on the southern tract of land.

The City of Cameron leased the property to Rockwool Industries, Inc., under an IDB lease that will expire in 1993. Currently, the city has contracted a demolition company to remove the northern half of the building and sell this material as scrap. The City of Cameron has also contracted the services of Environmental Evaluations, Inc., (EEI) Springfield, Missouri, to act as an environmental consultant during the demolition and future sale of the property. EEI conducted a routine Phase 1 Real Estate assessment of the property in March 1990, where several environmental considerations were mentioned. Most of the recommendations made by EEI were directed towards the closure of an underground storage tank (UST), the removal of stock and process chemicals, and the removal of waste slag and other debris from the northern tract of land. EEI did not mention the possibility of hazardous materials buried on or nearby the former Rockwool facility. All stock materials that were abandoned in the facility were either sold or picked up by representatives of the Susquehanna Corporation for disposal.

The purpose of the current TDD was to determine the feasibility of a geophysical survey north and west of the Rockwool facility, and investigate the allegations of hazardous materials buried on site. TAT was tasked to further investigate other industries that manufacture rockwool insulation in order to characterize potential waste streams prior to further investigative actions such as exploratory trenching or ground penetrating radar.

SITE ACTIVITIES

February 26, 1991: TAT members Jim Kudlinski and Lynn Parman traveled to the abandoned Rockwool facility in Cameron, Missouri, to conduct a site reconnaissance prior to initiating geophysical activities. Phil Lammers, Cameron City Manager, met TAT on site and provided a recent surveyor's plat defining the physical boundaries of the property (Figure 1: Site Map). Lammers updated TAT on the ongoing cleanup and demolition being conducted.

The northern half of the Rockwool building had contained all of the process equipment and chemical storage tanks. The maximum height of this area was four stories (40 to 50 feet) above ground level. The City of Cameron contracted a demolition company to reduce this area of the facility to be of equal height to the southern half of the building (10 to 20 feet), which consists primarily of warehouse space. This action was being conducted to reduce the hazard of an aircraft striking the building from an active air field approximately 1/8-mile south of the former Rockwool facility.

Lammers also informed TAT of the City's intentions to divide the property into two tracts of land (Figure 2: Site Map). Tract 1, which contains the former Rockwool building and the southern half of the property, will be sold to McCauley Bros. Trucking Company. Tract 2, the northern half of the property, consists primarily of several concrete holding bins and loading docks, the iron slag off the loading dock, and several acres of waste iron slag. Waste iron slag, also known as residual-cured phenol-formaldehyde resin, is a dark cinder-like material which is often generated as a non-hazardous by-product of rockwool insulation. In some areas of tract 2, the waste iron slag had been piled to heights of 15 feet or greater. In addition, several areas of tract 2 were littered with household debris including dishwashers, furniture, and trash. TAT estimated that the waste iron slag covered 80 percent of tract 2 at an average depth of three to five feet. The City of Cameron plans to retain tract 2 and utilize the waste iron slag for the City's highway and road maintenance operations. Tract 2 also is the area where drums are reported to be buried.

Considering the amount of metallic debris present in tract 2, it does not appear that a geophysical survey can be conducted efficiently at this time.

The tracts of land on both the east and west side of the facility contain active agricultural production areas that appeared to have been recently plowed.

FOLLOW UP

TAT attempted to contact other manufacturers of rockwool insulation in order to obtain more specific information on possible hazardous waste streams. Attempts were made to contact the Fiberex Corporation, and US Gypsum in Auora, Illinois, which were previous manufacturers of rockwool insulation. At the present date, no telephone numbers or addresses were available for either of the two companies. During the course of TAT's investigation, it was discovered that rockwool insulation is no longer an economical form of home or industrial insulation, and no additional manufacturers have been located.

SUMMARY

TAT was tasked by EPA to conduct a geophysical survey to locate drums allegedly buried at the site of an abandoned rockwool insulation facility near Cameron, Missouri. Under previous TDD's TAT investigated the production process of manufacturing rockwool and PRPs. Prior to

initiating a geophysical survey, TAT further investigated the suspect area of burial and determined that due to the large quantity of metallic material present, a geophysical survey of this area could not be conducted in a reliable manner. Additional background information was obtained and followup investigations were conducted in order to further determine the nature of possible hazardous materials generated by a facility that manufactures rockwool insulation. All known by-products of rockwool insulation are classified as non-hazardous material and all abandoned stock materials have been removed. TAT has completed its investigation at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

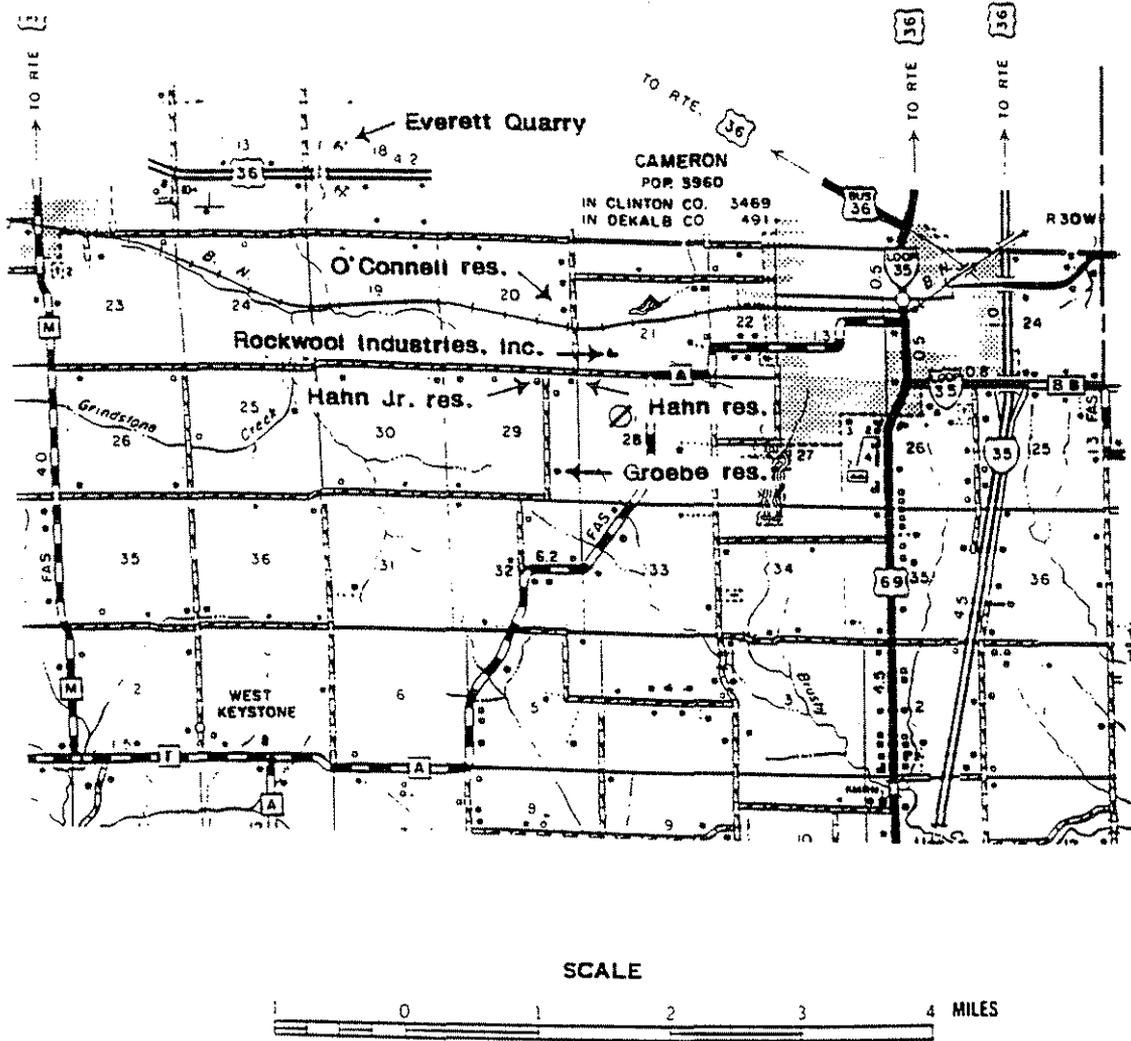
Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Site Map

Preliminary Assessment, EPA Form 2070-12

jk/jh

FIGURE 1 : SITE LOCATION MAP

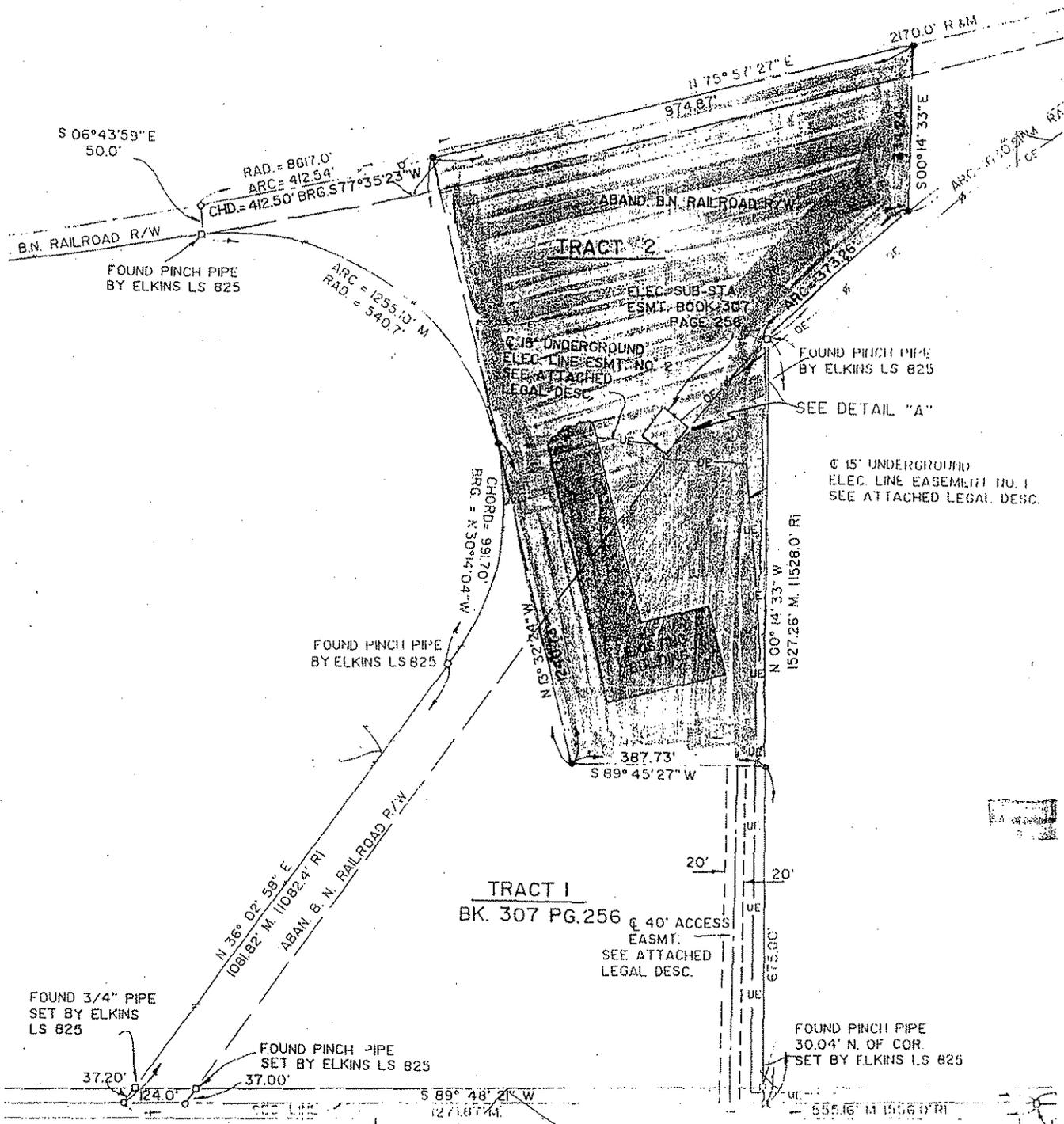


ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES, INC.

CAMERON, MISSOURI

TDD# T07-9102-016 PAN# EMO0852SAA

NOTE: THE S. LINE OF THE SW. 1/4 OF SEC. 21, T-57N, R-30W
 WAS ASSUMED TO BEAR S 89°41'21" W FOR THE ATTACHED
 PLAT.



- = MONUMENT FOUND
- = LS MONUMENT SET
- = COMPUTED CORNER
- ⊕ = POWER POLE
- UE = UNDERGROUND ELEC. LI.
- OE = OVERHEAD ELEC. LINE
- = EXISTING FENCE
- R = RECORDED DISTANCE
- M = MEASURED DISTANCE

FIGURE 2 : SITE MAP
 ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES, INC.
 CAMERON, MISSOURI

TDD # T07-9102-016
 PAN # EMO0852SAA

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT		I. IDENTIFICATION	
EPA	PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS	01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS			
01 <u>X</u> A. GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION	02 <u> </u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u> </u>)	<u>X</u> POTENTIAL	<u> </u> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u><50</u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
One underground storage tank is located on the facility. Tank is believed to have been installed prior to 1974 and has not been upgraded since that time.			
01 <u>X</u> B. SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION	02 <u> </u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u> </u>)	<u>X</u> POTENTIAL	<u> </u> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u><50</u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
Site runoff discharges from the Northeast and Southeast areas. Runoff from the Northeast area of the facility comes into contact with the building and waste slag storage area. Runoff from the Southeast does not come into contact with industrial or production areas of the building.			
01 <u> </u> C. CONTAMINATION OF AIR	02 <u> </u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u> </u>)	<u> </u> POTENTIAL	<u> </u> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u> </u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
None Known			
01 <u>X</u> D. FIRE/EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS	02 <u>X</u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u>02/26/91</u>)	<u>X</u> POTENTIAL	<u> </u> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u><50</u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
Approximately 30 drums containing waste oil, solvents, and wax emulsion; small containers of paint/paint waste, and 4 large tanks approximately 30 feet by 8 feet with unknown material were located inside facility. The majority of these wastes have been removed.			
01 <u>X</u> E. DIRECT CONTACT	02 <u> </u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u> </u>)	<u>X</u> POTENTIAL	<u> </u> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u><50</u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
The majority of the process chemicals and stock material located inside the building have been removed, but a 2 acre open landfill consisting of iron slag and waste material is located on the facility grounds. This area is secured by a chainlink fence.			
01 <u>X</u> F. CONTAMINATION OF SOIL	02 <u> </u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u> </u>)	<u>X</u> POTENTIAL	<u>X</u> ALLEGED
03 AREA POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u>≈ 2</u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
(Acres)			
Large quantities of waste slag are located in the Northwest and Northeastern corner of the property. In addition, lead acid batteries, paint cans and 4 drums are located in this area. Potential exists for contamination of soil in this area. Drums also were allegedly buried in this area.			
01 <u>></u> G. DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION	02 <u> </u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u> </u>)	<u> </u> POTENTIAL	<u> </u> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u> </u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
None Known			
01 <u> </u> H. WORKER EXPOSURE/INJURY	02 <u> </u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u> </u>)	<u>X</u> POTENTIAL	<u> </u> ALLEGED
03 WORKERS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u> </u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
None known. The facility ceased operation in 1981. It is not known whether any worker exposure/injury occurred during its operation.			
01 <u> </u> I. POPULATION EXPOSURE/INJURY	02 <u> </u> OBSERVED (DATE: <u> </u>)	<u> </u> POTENTIAL	<u> </u> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <u> </u>	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		
None known. Population exposure/injury is not likely as the stock materials have been removed, and the landfill is fenced.			

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

I. IDENTIFICATION

EPA

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

01 STATE 02 SITE NUMBER

PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS (CONTINUED)

01 J. DAMAGE TO FLORA 02 OBSERVED (DATE: 02/26/91) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Potential damage to flora in the waste slag/solid waste landfill area. This area is ≈ 2 acres in size.

01 K. DAMAGE TO FAUNA 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Include name(s) of species)

None Known

01 L. CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None Known

01 M. UNSTABLE CONTAINMENT OF WASTES 02 OBSERVED (DATE: 02/26/91) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

(Spills/runoff/standing liquids/leaking drums)

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <50 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Several drums, small paint cans, and lead acid batteries were disposed in the northern areas of the facility. This area also contains a large quantity of waste slag.

01 N. DAMAGE TO OFFSITE PROPERTY 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None Known

01 O. CONTAMINATION OF SEWERS, STORM DRAINS, WWTPs 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None Known

01 P. ILLEGAL/UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING 02 OBSERVED (DATE: _____) POTENTIAL ALLEGED

04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Waste slag material was allegedly disposed in Everett Quarry in the late 1970's. Investigations by MDNR on the slag disposed in the quarry determined that the material posed a minimal threat to the environment.

05 DESCRIPTION OF ANY OTHER KNOWN, POTENTIAL, OR ALLEGED HAZARDS

None Known

III. TOTAL POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: <50

IV. COMMENTS

City of Cameron, Missouri is the legal owner of the property. Rockwool Industries (Susquehanna Corp) leased the property from the City of Cameron. Currently the City of Cameron is in final negotiation to sell the property to McCauley Bros. Moving and Storage, and has contracted an environmental consulting firm and a demolition company to address building & environmental issues. Stock materials have been removed & the city plans on utilizing the waste iron slag in highway maintenance operations. Drums of waste allegedly buried in this area cannot be addressed until the slag & other metallic debris has been removed.

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references. e.g., state files, sample analysis, reports)

Ecology and Environment, Inc., Technical Assistance Team site assessment reports dated February 28, 1990 and September 21, 1990. On site inspection by E & E/TAT February 20, 1991.