



# ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

## MEMORANDUM

Site:	Rockwool which
ID #:	
Break:	15
Other:	9.21.90

TO: Paul Doherty, EPA/DPO

FROM: Lynn Parman, E & E/TATM *LP*

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

DATE: September 21, 1990

SUBJECT: Rockwool Industries, Inc. Site Assessment  
Cameron, Missouri  
TDD #: T07-9001-028C  
PAN #: TMO0852SAA



### INTRODUCTION

The Ecology and Environment, Inc., Technical Assistance Team (TAT) was tasked by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Emergency Planning and Response (EPA/EP&R) Branch to conduct a site assessment at the Rockwool Industries, Inc. site near Cameron, Missouri. These activities were to be conducted in response to an anonymous report received by Meredith Farnan, EPA Office of Region Counsel, concerning the burial of drums containing unspecified hazardous waste northwest of the Rockwool plant. In addition, the informant stated that several truck loads of hazardous material originating from the Rockwool facility were dumped in a quarry west of Cameron. TAT was requested to conduct a geophysical survey of the site in an attempt to locate any such buried drums. Samples of suspicious buried materials and/or affected environmental media would subsequently be collected for analysis to determine the nature of these substances. A limited PRP search would also be performed, as directed by TDD# T07-9001-028C.

### BACKGROUND

The Rockwool Industries, Inc. site is located approximately three miles west of Cameron, Missouri, on County Road A (SW1/4, Sec.21, T.57 N., R.30 W.). The company was incorporated on May 3, 1973, establishing a rock wool thermal insulation manufacturing plant, which operated for 8 years in this rural, flat-lying setting. A background study was conducted through TDD # T07-9001-029, to assemble information of the rock wool manufacturing process and any potentially derived wastes. Although a complete description of this manufacturing process is included in a previous letter report (TDD # T07-9001-029), the potentially derived wastes were concluded to consist of the following substances: phenol and formaldehyde (possibly as phenol-formaldehyde resin),

hexamethylenetetramine, methylene ethers, and ammonia.

A preliminary search for a potentially responsible party (PRP) was also performed through TDD# T07-9001-029, which entailed personal conversations with neighboring residents, and an investigation into corporate affiliations of Rockwool Industries, Inc. As a result of these discussions, along with conversations with Stephen Eder, Fisheries District Supervisor with the Missouri Department of Conservation, TAT concluded that materials dumped in the nearby quarry consisted of cured phenol-formaldehyde resin, a by-product of the insulation manufacturing process. Eder stated that an aquatic study of Grindstone Creek (which flows through the quarry) revealed no discernable fish kill, and the material was considered to pose minimal threat to human health or the environment. Two nearby residents stated that they had observed the burial of materials southwest of the Rockwool plant, but were unaware of the source or nature of these materials. A complete description of these activities are included in the previously mentioned letter report, which was submitted to EPA.

#### **SITE ACTIVITIES**

Lynn Parman and Joe Parish (TAT) accompanied Bob Wiggins (EPA/On Scene Coordinator) to the site at 1040 hours on March 28, 1990, to conduct an initial site reconnaissance which included a preliminary geophysical assessment. Upon visual inspection of the site, no areas were observed which indicated the physical disruption of soil associated with possible drum burial.

A Geonics EM31 ground conductivity meter, and a Geometrics 856 proton magnetometer were utilized in the geophysical survey, which identified a magnetic anomaly  $\approx$  300' southwest of the Rockwool facility. High background readings were detected throughout the site, indicating the possible presence of widespread buried debris.

While these activities were being conducted, a site caretaker arrived, who stated that he was previously a shift manager at the Rockwool plant when it was in operation. He denied knowledge of any burial of hazardous materials on the property, although he stated that several large (up to 8' diameter), metal-containing disks comprised of kiln residues were bulldozed into the soil south of the plant during landscaping activities. A number of these disks were also presently located northeast of the plant (observed by OSC Wiggins), which appeared to be composed of very dense materials (most likely of low leachability). Poor weather conditions forced the termination of further field activities, and TAT departed the site at 1430 hours.

#### **FOLLOWUP**

Correspondence with the Susquehanna Corporation (Rockwool's parent company) is being conducted by EPA to obtain a listing of all chemical products used by Rockwool Industries while in operation. Future site activities are being coordinated with the EPA Office of Regional Counsel, which may include the acquisition of additional geophysical data, and the initiation of exploratory trenching for buried materials. TAT will be

available if additional assistance is requested. This TDD is being closed at this point due to closure of the present TAT contract.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Site Vicinity Map

