

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

10981

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 1999

SUBJECT: Region I Nationally Significant Removal Action
Centredale Manor Site, North Providence, RI

TO: Steve Luftig, Director, OSWER/OERR

FROM: Patricia L. Meaney, Director *Patricia Meaney*
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration, EPA- New EnglandSuperfund Records Center
SITE: Centredale Manor
BREAK: 2.1
OTHER: 18418

ISSUE - Region I is requesting concurrence on a nationally significant removal action at the Centredale Manor Site in North Providence, RI. This action is considered nationally significant as it is a Fund-lead removal action at a non-NPL site involving dioxin as a principal contaminant (OSWER directive 9360.0-19).

BACKGROUND - A group called Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) submitted two petitions to EPA (one to OSWER and one to Ombudsman Bob Martin) and one to ATSDR requesting HQ initiate action to respond to dioxin contamination in the Woonasquatucket River. The petitions generated a story in the New York Times, and continuing coverage in the Providence media. The Centredale Manor Site encompasses the Centredale Manor Apartment property, the Brook Village Apartment property, and the flood plain of the Woonasquatucket River from Route 44 south to the Allendale Dam in North Providence, RI. The Site is the location of a former chemical manufacturing facility and a drum reclamation operation. A major fire in 1972 destroyed most of the structures at the Site and the property has been redeveloped into two multi-story apartment buildings for elderly residents. EPA has conducted numerous investigations at the Site culminating in an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) in September of 1998. Forty-five sediment and surface soil samples collected and analyzed for the ESI. Dioxin was found in surface soils and exposed swale sediments at Centredale Manor at elevated levels up to 15.8 parts per billion (ppb). In response to the findings Region I temporarily fenced-off the areas greatest concern and implemented an aggressive public outreach effort. The data has been evaluated by ATSDR. In a Draft Health Consultation and a Record of Activity, ATSDR recommended (among other things) restricting public access to surface soils exceeding .1 part per billion (ppb) of dioxin.

PROPOSED ACTION - Region I will continue to characterize the extent of contamination at the site. Action options to limit direct contact with contaminated materials include installation of permanent fencing; capping contaminated surface soil under geotextile fabric, gravel and clean topsoil; and/or excavation of contaminated soil from high use areas.

CONSISTENCY WITH REMEDIAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN - The Site is not currently listed on the National Priority List (NPL), but a Hazardous Ranking System rating is in progress for the Site. Region I removal, remedial, and site assessment personnel have been coordinating closely on the project. As such, the implementation of the proposed actions will contribute to and be consistent with any remedial action that may be undertaken.

ENFORCEMENT - EPA is conducting a Fund-lead removal action at the Site, but has sent 104(e) Information requests to past owners and operators as well as current property owners. The

Enforcement strategy is outlined in the confidential enforcement addendum attached to the Action Memorandum.

Redelegation of Authority R-14-1-A gives you the authority to concur on nationally significant or precedent-setting removal actions at non-NPL sites. The OSC has discussed this proposed removal action with your staff in the HQ Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR). The Action Memorandum is attached for your review.

Concur:

Elaine Davis for S. L. K. F. T. G.

Director, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

5/5/99

Date

According to the Redelegation, authority to non-concur on such actions remains with the Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). If you choose not to concur on this action, please forward this memo to the Assistant Administrator.

Concur:

Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste
and Emergency Response

Date

Non-Concur:

Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste
and Emergency Response

Date