



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

National Headquarters
1727 KING STREET, SUITE 400
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2753
(703) 836-9660

November 1, 2023

Board Memo 142-2023: Mercury Spill at the St. Louis NDC Update

Executive Board,

Below is an update from the Michael Swigart, the Executive Director of Continuity and Preparedness, regarding the mercury spill that occurred October 26th at the St. Louis NDC location.

Situation: Assessment and remediation continues in the St. Louis NDC.

Final clearance sampling was completed for the De Soto office. Results from the lab are expected early afternoon 11/1.

The activities and progress described below are current as of 2000 (eastern).

October 31, 2023 – Occupational Safety & Health Evening Update

St. Louis NDC – 5800 Phantom Drive, Hazelwood, MO

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED: Dayshift 10/31/23

- The contractor received a request from USPS IH to locate packages containing Veteran's medication.
 - These packages will be prioritized when/if found.
 - An estimated 20 packages have been located that the contractor suspects have medicine in them. Those packages will be screened and released back into the system.
- The majority of mail being removed from PSM 3 and 4 has elevated readings of mercury. The contractor will double decontamination activities to expedite the process.
- The contractor has requested 2 empty trailers to facilitate decontamination efforts.
- Trailers 102, 103 and 66 are full of cleared mail and are ready for release.
- Additional contractors from the DeSoto site moved to the NDC to help with remediation.
- Mail was cleared off of PSM 3 and 4.
- The contractor collected asbestos samples of floor tile located on the platform between PSM 3 and 4. Samples were sent for lab analysis. Potential asbestos abatement may be required. The contractor does not believe this will impact the mercury remediation process.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

23 packages of suspected medicine have been located. 5 of those bags are believed to be the VA medicine – the contractor is working with local management on identifying packages.

Air Quality:

Air quality is back to be favorable levels in the breathing zone. Cleanup efforts are working properly and maintaining mercury vaporization at required levels.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES Nightshift (10/31 -11/1/23):

- Contractor will continue to remove mail from PSM 3 and 4 and assess the mail to determine if it can be loaded into gaylords for release, or bagged for decon.

- Contractor will remove the bags, boxes, debris, etc. from in and around the floor of PSM 3 and 4.
 - Accumulated items have slowed down remediation efforts as they are hindering assessment and cleaning activities.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

None

DeSoto MPO – 950 Boyd St, De Soto, MO

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED:

- Contractor completed their clearance sampling at 1300 CST.
 - Sample will be hand-delivered to a laboratory in Syracuse, NY for analysis.
 - Results are expected late afternoon 11/1/2023.
- Mail decontamination ongoing.
- 13 additional bags of mail have been cleared and staged for pickup.
- Contractors that are not needed to complete mail decontamination have mobilized to STL NDC.

Additional Notes:

Contractor Project Manager will be on site at Hillsboro HUB for re-entry discussion in anticipation of clearance at DeSoto. The discussion is set to begin at 0830 CST.

Air Quality:

Air quality is at favorable levels in the breathing zone.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES Nightshift (10/31 – 11/1/23)

- Contractor will perform a final heat and vent cycle of contaminated mail before making a final determination if mail can be decontaminated or must be destroyed.
 - Contractor will document any mail that must be destroyed.

Peoria IL PDF

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- Contractor got approval to move contaminated mail to NDC.
- Contractor will be on site tomorrow to pick up drums with contaminated mail – mail will be moved to NDC.
- Some additional drums of potentially contaminated waste (not mail) may remain onsite (in drums). Contractor will work with on-site personnel to store the remaining drums in a secure location.

General

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- Contractor will continue to work on certificates of clearance.
- Certificate of Clearance will be prepared for DeSoto reentry.

Please share this information with your membership.

Thank you, and be safe.

NAPS Headquarters