

Lead Removal Operations Report

Weekly audit findings are prepared by the independent auditor and reported to Magellan Metals, Esperance Port Authority, Department of Conservation and Environment and Department of Mines and Petroleum.

In addition, the weekly report will include reviews of the Occupational Health and Safety personnel involved in the lead removal plan, dust monitoring, ventilation and operations.

Week Two: 9 February to 15 February, 2009

Operations

During the first full week of operations a number of setback and delays were experienced and remediable upgrades and maintenance work carried out. This was expected, and all parties are working together to correct any shortcomings to the operations, and deal with issues in a safe and efficient manner.

Delays this week were caused by operator errors, discrepancies in the recorded weight of bagged lead, damage to equipment and the time taken to source and locate specialists to Esperance to correct issues.

Operating setbacks delayed the bagging of lead carbonate from 9 February to 11 February. Bagging operations were first stopped on the morning of 9 February when an operational incident damaged the inner roller door, which was repaired according to procedures outlined in the Lead Removal Plan.

When bagging resumed on 11 February the power supply to the bagging machine was cut overnight which led to further delays. Operations only resumed once the power had been restored on 12 February.

Corrective action was necessary when checks on bags weighed by the bagging machine did not correlate with the weigh bridge figures. Following testing by specialist staff, the first container of bags was unloaded, reweighed and reloaded to ensure the correct stowage of bags. A bag damaged during this work was returned to the WMC shed to be bagged again. No lead was spilled.

Following a pallet scale being installed on site to confirm bag weights, repairs were carried out and the equipment calibrated before bagging operations resumed on Saturday, 14 February.

On 15 February operational delays were experienced when the bagging machine conveyor became clogged with product and had to be cleaned and stockpile and scale issues had to be dealt with. However, 15 February has been the most productive to date with 46 two-tonne bags filled and four containers transported to the hard stand area for storage. To 15 February, 83 bags had been filled and six containers stored.

Monitoring

During the week a spike in the Osiris monitor recorded TSP spikes, although the laboratory results of HiVol monitoring did not detect any lead. The spikes in the Osiris have been attributed to either a misreading or other particulates in the air but not lead.

Dust Track

Monitoring has been undertaken daily since 12 February. Early in the week dust track monitoring was not conducted in the new shed because there was no activity being undertaken. As such no dust escape was possible.

Dust track monitoring will continue to be done daily for the first 14 days of bagging operations, and then will be undertaken at least once a week thereafter subject to monitoring results.

Equipment Upgrade

One of the two Manitou zoom booms used in the WMC shed failed and had to be replaced with a more manoeuvrable forklift, which is a much smaller piece of equipment. This has improved safety in the tight constraints of the shed.