

# General Environmental Incident Summary

**Incident:** 5413

**Notice:** 5/25/2017

**Occurred:** 5/18/2017 1000

**DEM Incident No:**

**No Further Action:**

**Responsible Party:** Earth Recycling

**County:** Ward

**Twp Rng Sec Qtr:** 155 83 21 NE NE

**Lat Long + Method:** 48.23930 -101.34000 Interpolation from map

**Location Description:** Earth Recycling, 3005 4th Avenue NW. Minot, ND 58701

**Submitted By Info:** Kathleen Kangas  
NDDoH  
918 E Divide Ave  
3rd Floor  
Bismarck ND 58501-1947

**Received By Info:**

**Contact Info:**

3005 4th Ave NW  
Minot ND 58701

**Affected Medium:** 07 - Air, Water, and Soil

**Near. Occupied Bldg:** 215 Feet

**Type of Incident:** Fire at recycling facility

**Release Contained:** No

**Reported to NRC:** Unknown

**Contaminant:** Unknown at this time. Many materials onsite burned. Assessment still ongoing.

**Volume of Release:**

**Duration of Release:** 48 hours

**Agriculture Related:** No

**EPA Extremely**

**Hazardous Substance:** Unknown

**Number of Fatalities:** 0

**Number of Injuries:** 0

**Cause of Incident:**

Investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing. The fire started near the baler building and spread towards the south yard area. While the initial large blaze was subdued by fire fighting activity after the first 24 hours, the area smoldered in several areas for some days afterwards.

**Risk Evaluation:**

At the time of the fire, air quality was affected due to the amount of materials that burned onsite.

**Potential Env. Impacts:**

Investigation into potential water or soil impacts is ongoing.

**Action Taken/Planned:**

The facility owner will be submitting a written clean up plan to the Department.

**Wastes Disposal Location:**

To a permitted facility.

**Other Agencies Involved:**

State Fire Marshal, Local Fire Department

## **Updates**

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**Date:** 5/18/2017      **Status:** Comment

**Author:** Harries, Alison

**Notes:**

General Incident #5407 (Xcel Energy Transformer non-PCB- Oil release due to fire at the facility) is being combined with this incident as it is the same issue and site.

**Updated Volume:** None at the time of this update

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**Date:** 5/18/2017      **Status:** Inspection

**Author:** Washek, Sandi

**Notes:**

Thursday May 18, 2017: Earth Recycling facility was on fire. The weather was 58 degrees F, mostly sunny, wind NNE 14mph

The NDDoH Department inspectors arrived onsite at 4:00pm after receiving a call for assistance from the local Fire Department. At the time of inspection many fire and police personnel were onsite. Several of these individuals were consulted during the course of the inspection. Among them included:

- Fire Dept. Personnel:  
Minot Rural Fire Dept., City of Minot Fire Dept., Deputy State Fire Marshall,  
City of Burlington/ Des Lacs Fire Dept., Minot Air Force Base Fire Dept.,
- Ward County Emergency Managers
- First District Health - Environmental Health

The Fire Department was alerted by page to the fire at 11:00am.

The fire became quite large and engulfed most of the property.

Initial reports coming from Fire Department personnel include these statements:

- The business owner stated some recycled mirrors brought in Wednesday night were in the sun near some cardboard which may have ignited the cardboard.
- The apparent owner of the business is Arden Jsz.
- Car batteries and aerosol cans onsite became flying projectiles and were exploding during the fire. One car battery flew off the site onto the eastern edge of the site and started a grass fire.
- A large propane tank was venting in the south side of the lot.

As the Department inspectors drove up to the site, it was noted there was a strong smell of smoke. There was a large smoke plume still onsite, which was blowing southwest at the time of inspection. Several fires were still ongoing and fire crews were applying water to several areas. Air monitoring was being performed by the City of Minot Fire Department in the Terracita Vallejo housing area using their PID and 4 gas meters. This is the location in line with the smoke plume. Department inspectors were informed nothing was registering on their meters.

Earth Recycling is located directly north of a working gravel pit owned by Gravel Products. The Earth Recycling site is partially asphalted and the rest is bare ground. The main lot has a fence along the west side and east side. The south side and north side are open.

The main building, which included the baler, appears mostly destroyed. Large amounts of unsegregated materials and the lack of fire lanes into the south storage area has hindered fire department personnel from entering other than around the perimeter of the site. Several telephone/electrical poles are onsite and various utility personnel are working on rerouting electric/services. The impacted utility companies are Central Power, MDU, Xcel Energy & Vendrey Electric. There is an apparent lack of segregated material so that the full amount and types of materials onsite is unknown. Materials seen onsite include: propane-type tanks of various sizes, chopped wood, baled cardboard, plastics, gasoline-type cans, vast amounts of all types of metal, large chemical totes, one large oil field tank etc. More inspection of apparent waste onsite will be done 05.19.2017.

Upon inspection of the ditch that runs to the East of Earth Recycling and West of the Highway 83 bypass, a culvert was discovered and found to have an underground pipe leading straight to the river. This culvert is located at 48.237944, -101.338896. Active water drainage from the site had impacted as far south as approximately 15 feet north of this culvert. The culvert was dry at approximately 5:37pm. Fire Department personnel were notified and a dirt berm was placed in front of the culvert before water run-off was able to drain to the river. The fire department will monitor the site throughout the night to ensure no water enters the culvert.

In addition, two soil berms had been built. The first one was placed along the south side of Earth Recycling lot from the entrance road to Gravel Products pit to the highway 83 bypass about 200 feet south of the Earth Recycling lot. Another berm was placed perpendicularly (north to south) across

the southwest corner of the Earth Recycling lot to the berm that was constructed that ran east to west to the highway. After the smoke cleared, it was noted that Earth Recycling has a small berm located along the south side of their lot also. The Fire Department called in a pay-loader from Gravel Products to make a fire lane through the collected material debris along the outside of the west side fence. This was done so the ladder truck could enter the area to suppress flare up along the west end of the area. At 8:00pm, the Fire Departments coordinated in order to keep approximately 10 firefighters onsite throughout the night to monitor the fire.

There are questions about the ownership of the business, land, etc.

Additional follow-up will be needed for this site.

**Updated Volume:** None at the time of this update

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**Date:** 5/19/2017      **Status:** Inspection

**Author:** Washek, Sandi

**Notes:**

Earth Recycling address location is 3005 4th Ave. NW Minot, ND  
Weather is 42 degrees F, partly cloudy, hazy, wind East 2mph

The Department inspectors arrived onsite at approximately 8:25am. A conference call was held with staff in Bismarck which included Mylynn Tufte, State Health Officer, Dave Glatt, EHS Section Chief, Maggie Olson, Assistant Attorney General, Scott Radig, Division Director for Waste Management, Terry O'Clair, Division Director for Air Quality, Karl Rockeman, Division Director for Water Quality, Tim Wiedrich, Division Director of Emergency Management, Steve Tillotson, Assistant Director and Program Manager for Solid Waste Division, Kirk Johnson, Environmental Scientist, Solid Waste program. A sampling plan was discussed along with information regarding the site and priority items. Air Quality Division has monitoring equipment in Ryder, approximately 25 miles away, which showed measurable particulates but it did not exceed the 24 hour standard.

Department Inspectors collected 10 samples of water and soil of the facility and the surrounding area. NDDoH - Water Quality Division provided a map showing private and monitoring wells in the area. The Department inspectors updated First District Health Unit personal on the ongoing sampling plan. In conversation with Rural Fire Department Chief, he estimated roughly 200,000 gallons of water and some foam were used on the site.

Water and soil samples collected from the following areas.

Sample Number(s)/Location:

- 1)SKW220170519-001 Water sample of storm water creek located north of 4th Ave NW across the street from Earth Recycling Lot. (Group 190 analytical)
- 2)SKW20170519-002 Water sample of surface water running off Earth Recycling lot on the south side of 4th Ave NW into a storm water drain.( DRO and Grp-190 analytical)
- 3)SKW201705019-003 Water sample by bermed culvert in ditch on the west side of the Highway 83 bypass, east of the Earth Recycling lot in the highway ditch. (Grp-190 and DRO analytical)
- 4)SKW20170519-004 Background Soil Samples collected North on 30th Street W . This site is located North of Earth Recycling lot and North of 4th Ave NW along a frontage road of Hwy 83 bypass ( DRO, SemiVOCs and Grp-190)
- 5)SKW20170519-005 Private HousWell (Grp -190)
- 6)SKW20170519-006 Water sample from a surface puddle located on the south side of earth recycling outside the 1st set of berms surrounding Earth recycling lot. (Grp-190 and 2 DRO bottles)
- 7)SKW20170919-007 Soil Sample south side of Earth Recycling lot inside the berms next to burned out rubber tire tubes and other burnt material. (Grp-190 analytical, DRO and SemiVOCs)
- 8)SKW20190519-008 Soil Sample located inside Earth Recycling lot along the west fence. (Grp-190 analytical, DRO and SemiVOCs)
- 9)SKW20190519-009 Water Sample seasonal creek that is located north on 30th Street NW. This site is located North of Earth Recycling lot and North of 4th Ave NW along a frontage road of Hwy 83 bypass. The creek runs south to 4th Ave North across from Earth recycling. (Grp-190)
- 10)SKW20170519-010 Soil Sample located inside the main entrance of earth recycling on the NE side of the site. Very gravelly sample. (Grp-190, DRO and SemiVOCs)

Water and soil samples were delivered to the NDDoH State lab on Friday May 19, 2017 and dropped off at 7:15pm by Sandi Washek for analyses.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- Air Monitoring was still ongoing by Minot City Fire Department de to the low winds out of the east at 2 miles/hr and cold temps, which caused some smoke to move into the city and the down valley area to the west.
- Most of the firefighting work occurring on Fridawas along the west side of Earth Recycling and the adjacent lot outside the fenced area of Earth Recycling.
- At 3:53pm Mr Jesz drove past Earth Recycling in the compactor truck used for pick-up of recycling materials around Minot. Around this same time, 2 small pick-up type trailers were seen parked on the adjacent property, apparently owned by Gravel Products, containing scrap metal.

The inspection done today allowed for closer examination of materials onsite. Many photos were taken. Materials that were identified, of which many were burned, include: Many small engine items (such as lawn mowers, etc), several vehicles, vast amounts of various metals, piles of inner tubes, concrete block (site used to be an concrete block plant), computers and various electronics, thread protectors for pipe, propane tanks, welders' tanks, large oil tank on its side (it did not burn), heat pump units, open used oil container, many drums ( some with ends warped due to being under pressure), appliances, tires, aerosol cans, many burned electric line parts, such as insulators, etc. In addition, staining on dirt access to east of site was noted. Due to the site still smoldering, a large area of the site could not be inspected. The site will need to be inspected again, once the fire is completely out.

Additional follow-up needed for this site.

**Updated Volume:** None at the time of this update

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**Date:** 5/26/2017      **Status:** Reviewed - Follow-up Required

**Author:** O'Gorman, Brian

**Notes:**

According to the report, a fire was reported at a recycling center. Note that this incident report was filed about a week after the fire had occurred and two inspections had already taken place.

**Updated Volume:** None at the time of this update

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**Date:** 6/26/2017      **Status:** Correspondence

**Author:** Washek, Sandi

**Notes:**

NDDoH received a proposed cleanup plan for the Earth Recycling site fire from the property owners. Will need to be reviewed. Additional follow-up needed on the site.

**Updated Volume:** None at the time of this update

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**Date:** 6/26/2017      **Status:** Inspection

**Author:** Washek, Sandi

**Notes:**

Additional follow-up needed for site.

**Updated Volume:** None at the time of this update

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**Date:** 11/15/2018      **Status:** Reviewed - Assigned to NDDEQ Division

**Author:** Striebel, Ivana

**Notes:**

3/14/2018 - Power Co. responded regarding to transformers located and burned at this site. These transformers were non-PCB, and the burnt carcasses were sent for disposal. No further action needed from PCB Program. Other Programs may have additional follow-up.

**Updated Volume:** None at the time of this update

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