

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

INDIANAPOLIS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 29, 1987

TO: USS Lead Refinery, Inc. RCRA File  
IND 047030226, East Chicago, Lake CountyTHRU: Dave Berrey *JB*FROM: Ted F. Warner *TFW*  
Compliance Monitoring SectionSUBJECT: Trip Report for the Scheduled Inspection of  
October 6, 1987

On the date of this inspection USS Lead Refinery, Inc., was represented by Mr. Richard Liscum, Company Bookkeeper. Mr. Liscum is the only employee remaining at the site. Mr. Liscum informed me that all utility services have been stopped at the facility, due to non-payment of bills. Mr. Liscum further informed me that there have been several break-ins at the plant. Evidently, robbers are trying to steal not only equipment, but recyclable metals.

My pre-inspection file audit and my past inspections at USS Lead Refinery, Inc., indicated that the plant would not be operating. Our office has an outstanding amended complaint against USS Lead Refinery, Cause No. N-296. While I was at the site, I specifically asked Mr. Liscum if any changes or corrections of past violations had taken place at the facility and he replied "no".

In light of the facts that USS Lead Refinery's parent company Sharon Steel has declared bankruptcy and the obvious financial difficulties at USS Lead, I recommend that we proceed with our administrative complaint as quickly as possible. The company's almost total noncompliance with IC 13-7 and 320 IAC 4.1, as well as very high levels of lead contamination at the site continue to make this site a threat to human health and the environment. I will forward this memorandum and an enforcement referral to the Enforcement Section to assist them in a pursuit of relief under Cause No N-296.

TFW/mfw

cc: Mr. Michael Sickels

10/21/87

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Spoke w Robert Steinwurtzel (202-662-2700) who's the attorney representing USS Lead. He indicated that through an agreement to IDEN and funds (loan) from Sharon Steel that a remedial investigation is assessing the extent of contamination will be performed. If this would also be pursued through CERCLA/NPL they would not go through their agreement on the RI/FS. EPA RCRA is also interested still in corrective action. Due to this CERCLA action will not be pursued.