



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

**Subject: Situation Report #11
Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
Graniteville, SC**

**To: Don Rigger, Chief
Emergency Operations Section, ERRB**

**From: Art Smith, OSC
Incident Commander**

Date: January 15, 2005

Operational Period: January 14, 2005 07:00 - January 15, 2005 07:00

The following tasks have been completed during the last operational period:

January 14, 2005 07:00 - 19:00:

- EPA Incident Command was transferred from Kevin Misenheimer to Art Smith.
- EPA continued operation and maintenance of the Area-RAE chlorine air monitoring network. EPA contractors continued to adjust the air monitoring network as the evacuations were lifted. Monitors were placed back in service after having been removed during night shift operations the previous night due to inclement weather (which adversely affects monitor operations).
- EPA completed monitoring of seven buildings in Graniteville. Monitoring consisted of chlorine gas monitoring throughout the buildings (except for confined space areas) and pH sampling of surfaces. The following Avondale facilities were completed: Gregg Building, Purchasing, Plant Services, Gregg Filter Plant, Granite Building, Administration, Engineering. In addition, the Friedman School (all buildings) was completed. The EPA entry teams reported no elevated detections of chlorine and no unusual pH readings. All EPA monitoring to date has indicated that there are no problems with residual chlorine gas or with residual acidic conditions, including some buildings in close proximity to the accident site.
- Norfolk Southern sampling teams monitored the Avondale Mills buildings within the immediate plume impact area. Several of these buildings (Hickman, Woodhead, IT) had evidence of surface corrosion and low pH levels, but no residual chlorine levels.

- The Reentry Committee approved an additional area of Graniteville to be opened for reoccupation today. This area is from the southern edge of the 500 yard evacuation zone to Route 1, and extends west beyond Canal Street and east to the one mile radius. An estimated 4,200 residents have now been allowed to return. Additional sections of Route 1 will be opened for public travel.
- Residential reoccupation continued in approved zones:
 - Zone 1: neighborhoods around Laurel and Trolley Line Roads (north of Gregg Plant)
 - Zone 2: Wareville area, south of Highway 1
 - Zone 3: subdivisions west of Ertle

SC DHEC, CTEH, and EPA coordinated with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office to assist residents with reoccupation. Reentry/decontamination fact sheets describing the precautions residents should take upon reentering their homes/businesses were again distributed to residents upon reentry. The fact sheets were also posted in visible areas throughout the community (i.e., gas stations). Index cards were also provided to residents to post on their front doors to request reoccupation sampling.

- EPA personnel teamed with CTEH personnel to complete reoccupation sampling. Sampling teams collected air monitor readings for chlorine and hydrochloric acid from the lower level of homes. Wipe samples were also collected from non-porous horizontal areas for pH testing. All sample results were recorded on provided data sheets and returned to CTEH for data management. Each residence that was sampled received a statement from EPA, SC DHEC, CTEH, ATSDR, and Norfolk Southern clearing the building for reoccupation. Approximately 300 homes/businesses were sampled during this operational period. No elevated air monitoring or pH results were reported throughout the entire residential reoccupation phase of the incident.
- EPA ERT veterinarian completed the coordination and assistance with local animal control officials on handling of animal related issues.
- The EPA Safety Officer and Norfolk Southern developed an amendment to the site specific health and safety guidelines for on-site personnel to be implemented today. These amendments address access control and emergency egress procedures within the 500 yard evacuation zone.
- Norfolk Southern contractors continued to remove chlorine from the remaining chlorine tank car. The process rate is currently less than ½ ton per day. 14 loads of contaminated soil were loaded for offsite shipment. Approximately 9,000 gallons of bleach (produced from the chlorine offloading operation) were loaded and prepared for transport offsite by truck. Preparations were made for removing the three locomotives from the site.
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control provided approximately 30 representatives to assist residents during reoccupation.

January 14, 2005 19:00 – January 15, 2005 07:00:

- EPA completed an entry to investigate an area of Canal Street support Law Enforcement follow-up on an incident. The area turned out to be outside the restricted area.
- EPA/GST continued oversight of the chlorine removal operations. 100% coverage of the operation was provided.
- EPA/GST escorted a gas company hazmat team to an area near the accident site to test/decontaminate a small pipeline valve shutoff station.
- EPA contractors continued maintenance and operation on the Area-RAEs.

Next Steps

- Continue to provide oversight of NS response activities and continue air monitoring.
- Combined EPA / CTEH teams will continue home re-occupancy clearance sampling in homes that are being repopulated.
- Begin implementing the demobilization plan.
- Limited night operations.
- Reorganization of the incident management team to support revised incident objectives.

Resources On-Scene

OSCs	10
EPA PIO	2
EPA Planner	1
EPA SESD	23
ERT	3
START	14
USCG	11
REAC	3
ATSDR	2