



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

Subject: Situation Report #12
Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
Graniteville, SC

To: Don Rigger, Chief
Emergency Operations Section, ERRB

From: James Webster, OSC
Deputy Incident Commander

Date: January 16, 2005

Operational Period: January 15, 2005 07:00 - January 16, 2005 07:00

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

January 15, 2005 07:00 - 19:00:

- EPA continued operation and maintenance of the Area-RAE chlorine air monitoring network until 12:00 hours. At that time, after consultation with CTEH and review of their monitoring network, the EPA Area-RAE network was decommissioned. EPA will perform oversight and data review of the eleven CTEH Area-RAE monitoring network that is in place in and around the 500 yard evacuation zone.
- EPA completed monitoring of three 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: Woodhead, Hickman Hall, Hickman plant, and Whitehall. 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.
- The Reentry Committee approved an additional area of Graniteville to be opened for reoccupation today. This area is a small four block area to the southwest of the evacuation zone on either side of the railroad tracks. This area was previously kept in the evacuation zone primarily due to safety concerns with the train operations related to the accident, which have diminished. An estimated 4,200 residents have now been allowed to return. All of Route 1 was 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 Ergle

Zone 4: areas south and east of the evacuation zone along Route 1

SC DHEC, CTEH, and EPA coordinated with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office to assist residents with reoccupation. Reentry/decontamination information describing the precautions residents should take upon reentering their homes/businesses were again distributed to residents upon reentry and 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 conduct 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 75 homes/businesses were sampled during this operational period. No elevated air monitoring results or pH results out of normal range were reported throughout the entire residential reoccupation phase of the incident.
- Norfolk Southern contractors continued to remove chlorine from the remaining chlorine tank car. The process rate is currently less than ½ ton per day. 16 loads of diesel contaminated soil have been loaded for offsite shipment. The three locomotives were removed from the site.
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control provided approximately 20 representatives to assist residents during reoccupation.
- All REAC and ATSDR resources demobed at end of day shift.

January 15, 2005 19:00 – January 16, 2005 07:00:

- EPA/GST continued oversight of the chlorine removal operations. 100% coverage of the operation was provided.
- NS removed the jacket and insulation from one end of the chlorine car, allowing EPA/START to use a thermal imaging camera to estimate chlorine quantities remaining in the car. The amount of time necessary to transfer and treat the remaining chlorine is uncertain at this time. Unconfirmed estimates run on the order of two weeks.
- EPA ERT data management completed uploading of all backlogged monitoring data.

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 through 1/16/05. DHEC personnel will take over these activities beginning 1/17/05. EPA will evaluate resource needs relative to this operation as conditions warrant.
- Continue implementing the demobilization plan.
- Limited night operations, primarily chlorine removal oversight and response readiness.
- Reorganization of the incident management team to support revised incident objectives.

Resources On-Scene

OSCs	12
EPA PIO	0
EPA Planner	1
EPA SESD	23
ERT	3
START	11
USCG	9
REAC	3
ATSDR	2