



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

**Subject:        Situation Report #13**  
**Norfolk Southern Train Derailment**  
**Graniteville, SC**

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

**From:            James Webster, OSC**  
**Deputy Incident Commander**

**Date:             January 17, 2005**

**Operational Period: January 16, 2005 07:00 - January 17, 2005 07:00**

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

January 16, 2005 07:00 - 19:00:

- The Unified Command met and agreed to a new organizational structure based on functional groups within the Unified Command.
- EPA conducted oversight and data review of the eleven station CTEH Area-RAE monitoring network that is in place in and around the 500 yard evacuation zone.
- EPA completed monitoring of additional 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 First Baptist Church, parsonage, and the Williams building were completed, along with the bank, hardware store, and Magistrate's office in the Masonic Shopping Center. 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 on day 12 (today). This area includes the blocks east of Gregg Street that had not been previously opened. An approximately 7 block area remains closed, and 4,500 residents have been returned to their homes (approximately 900 remain evacuated).

- 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

Zone 5: area east of Gregg Street to Aiken Street and Bethlehem Circle

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 30 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. EPA personnel on this effort demobed at the end of the day.
- Norfolk Southern contractors continued to remove chlorine from the remaining chlorine tank car. The process rate has varied from less than ½ ton per day to in excess of 2 tons per day. The amount of time necessary to transfer and treat the remaining chlorine is uncertain at this time. Unconfirmed estimates run on the order of one to two weeks.
- Crews continued to repair the damaged areas around the accident site and clear away debris and wreckage.
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control provided 4 representatives to assist residents during reoccupation.

January 16, 2005 19:00 – January 17, 2005 07:00:

- EPA/GST continued oversight of the chlorine removal operations. 100% coverage of the operation was provided.
- EPA ERT data management continued uploading of all monitoring data.

Next Steps

- Continue to provide oversight of NS response activities and continue air monitoring.
- DHEC personnel will take over home re-occupancy clearance sampling in homes that are being repopulated 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	9
EPA Planner	1
EPA SESD	6
ERT	2
START	8
USCG	9