



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

Subject: Situation Report #16 AND FINAL
Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
Graniteville, SC

To: Don Rigger, Chief
Emergency Operations Section, ERRB

From: Art Smith, OSC
Incident Commander

Date: January 20, 2005

This situation report makes the completion of EPA reporting response activities for this incident.

Operational Period: January 19, 2005 0700 - January 19, 2005 1900

- As of 1500 hours on 19 January 2005, the chlorine purging process was complete. Air monitoring readings of 0.0 ppm were detected at the intake and outtake of the railcar. A hole was cut in the tank to allow Norfolk Southern contractors to pressure wash the railcar. The railcar will be loaded onto a flatcar and transported to Augusta, GA prior to departure to Altoona, PA where it will be impounded, subject to further investigation by NTSB. Prior to the completion of the chlorine transfer, EPA provided oversight to Norfolk Southern contractors during all off-loading operations.
- EPA facilitated the final meeting of the Unified Command at 1500 hours on 19 January 2005 to discuss the reoccupation of the exclusion zone. Approximately 40-50 homes and businesses have not completed the required building inspection prior to reentry; of those, approximately 15 are vacant. The Aiken County Building Inspector will complete the inspections by 1800 hours on 20 January 2005. At that time, the Aiken County Sheriff's Office will lift all road blocks and curfews.
- During the duration of the emergency response activities, EPA maintained an air monitoring comprised of approximately 17 of Area RAEs. EPA also conducted oversight and data review of the eleven station CTEH Area-RAE monitoring network. EPA ERT provided data management.
- EPA completed monitoring of several local businesses including several divisions of Avondale Mills' Gregg Plant, the Family Medical Center, a barber shop, a bank, the Graniteville Post Office, Studio 7 Hair Salon. Monitoring consisted of chlorine gas

monitoring throughout the building and pH sampling of surfaces. Only two detections of chlorine were reported (0.1 ppm), both from businesses using Clorox for cleaning purposes. The detections were ruled non-incident related. No unusual pH readings were detected. The entry teams did report signs of corrosion on some of metal objects. EPA monitoring to date indicates that there are no problems with residual chlorine gas or with residual acidic conditions.

- EPA assisted SC DHEC, CTEH, and the Aiken County Sheriff's Office to assist residents with reoccupation. Residents were allowed to reoccupy their homes and business once their dwelling had been deemed safe (based on air monitoring results and recommendation of the EPA Health and Safety Officer and other officials). Approximately 800 homes and businesses have been assessed and cleared for re-occupation. Fact-sheets and sampling request cards were distributed as residents as they passed through check points.
- All other EPA, GST and START resources have been demobilized from the site.

Next Steps

- No further response actions planned on behalf of EPA. SC DHEC will take responsibility for any further environmental protection issues related to this incident.
- EPA ERT and START personnel to remain on-site to continue data management on 20 January 2005.

Resources On-site

EPA ERT 1
START 1