

POLREP 69
NanoChemonics Site
4 Magnox Drive
Pulaski, Pulaski County, Virginia 24301

Lat: N 37.04718
Long: W 80.79146

ATTN: RRC
VADEM -Tolbert
VADEQ - Lohman
EPA - G. Heston

I. SITUATION (December 9, 2014 to July 24, 2015)
EVENT: Site Cleanup Operations

- A. Refer to previous Polreps for site background information.
- B. STNP, the owner of the NanoChemonics property, is conducting a response action and cleanup of the Site under an EPA order. The Administrative Settlement and Order was signed on April 8, 2011, and response actions continue. In brief, the response action involves the removal of hazardous substances from the Site and includes the removal of such substances found in the debris created during demolition of the buildings at the Site. The action also includes the management of wash waters and storm waters at the Site that migrate toward lagoons and then into nearby Peak Creek.
- C. The response actions related to the lagoons and drying bed began on September 25, 2013. Sludge was removed from the four lagoons and placed into the drying bed for dewatering and drying. The closure of the four lagoons was deemed to be complete by EPA during an inspection conducted on March 13, 2014.
- D. STNP contractors mobilized to the Site on October 29, 2014 to commence closure of the drying bed in accordance with the EPA-approved work plan. A significant amount of wet clay/sludge (C/S) was encountered in the southwestern quadrant and in the northern portion of the drying bed. ARG mobilized an excavator to the Site to excavate the wet C/S and place it into wind rows to dry. Shale material from the facility hill side was mixed with the C/S in an attempt to dry it sufficiently to allow placement in lifts to meet compaction requirements. However, it was determined that much of the C/S was too wet to enable placement to meet compaction requirements, even with the addition of the shale. The STNP contractors made a determination that the C/S needed to be allowed to dry in the wind rows before the drying bed closure could be completed. The STNP contractors demobilized, along with all the equipment, on November 6, 2014. Final closure of the drying bed was planned for 2015.

II. ACTIONS

- A. STNP contractors re-mobilized to the Site on July 20, 2015 to continue the completion of the drying bed activities required by the Order (evaluate if conditions which would allow final placement and cover were present). STNP contractor ARG used an excavator to work the turn the sludge that had previously been placed in wind rows in the drying bed. The STNP contractors determined that although significant reduction in the moisture content had occurred, much of the sludge was still too wet to enable placement to meet compaction requirements. The OSC and START contractor agreed. The sludge was turned and worked with the excavator to break up large chunks to further facilitate drying. ARG demobilized on July 22, 2015 but returned on July 24 to turn the sludge again and place in wind rows for further drying. ARG demobilized, along with the equipment, on July 24, 2015.
- B. EPA has established a public repository of site documents at the local library in Pulaski. EPA will also provide public information updates for the site on the EPA site website at: www.epaossc.org/nanochemonics.

III. FUTURE ACTIONS

- A. STNP contractors plan to remobilize to the Site in September 2015 to commence final closure activities, which will include final placement of sludge in the drying bed, installment of a soil cover, Site restoration of the lagoon/drying bed area, and removal of the silt fence.
- B. Additional storm water sampling will be conducted by STNP to evaluate the effectiveness of additional cleanup activities and caulk removal on the MO pad.
- C. EPA will continue providing on-site oversight of remediation activities conducted by STNP.

Michael Towle
On-Scene Coordinator
EPA Region III
Philadelphia, PA