

## OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

### **Ogden Swift Building, Ogden, Utah: Emergency Response is being initiated**

Key Message: The Emergency Response Unit is initiating cleanup at a facility in Ogden, Utah where more than 40,000 containers of chemicals have been abandoned. The City of Ogden currently owns the facility and signed EPA's access agreement for the cleanup on March 19, 2019. The chemicals include flammables, poisons, water reactives, mercury, benzene, potential explosives and more. EPA's cleanup contractors are mobilizing equipment to the site and EPA will conduct a kickoff meeting on Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, with the local Fire Chief and other Public Safety officials as well as city and state officials. The facility was formerly a meat packing plant and was sold to a private business which used it for storage of military surplus items (including chemicals). The business owner (now deceased) also leased a portion of the facility to a chemical manufacturer which went bankrupt, leaving its inventory behind. In 2018, an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment conducted on behalf of the City documented the hazards at the site and it was referred to the EPA Emergency Response Unit.

The EPA removal action is anticipated to be completed in four to six months. Cleanup costs are currently anticipated to be approximately \$1.9 million; however, the total number of chemical containers is not currently known and costs may increase. EPA will document labels on the abandoned containers for potential cost recovery purposes; some containers have been observed to have markings from nearby Hill Air Force Base.

The City plans a major redevelopment in the area including this site and will demolish the buildings after the cleanup and establish recreational zones along the Weber River next to the site.

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