

Polrep #2  
Cosmechem Site  
215 (a/k/a 201) North Warwick Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21223  
Latitude 39.29076 Degrees North  
Longitude 76.65576 Degrees West

**Attention:** Dennis Carney  
Charles Kleeman  
Regional Response Center

**Event:** CERCLA Removal Action

**I. Situation (As of 1730 on 3 May 2004)**

- A. A CERCLA Removal Action is being conducted at the site consistent with the National Contingency Plan (NCP). The location is the former Cosmechem Company that has been abandoned. According to available information, Cosmechem Company was a wholesale distributor of industrial cleaning strength products. At the request for technical assistance from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the OSC initiated a removal assessment after applying and receiving an civil warrant from a Federal judge in Baltimore. The OSC determined that the site met the criteria for a removal action after completing the removal assessment. Listed and characteristic hazardous substances were observed on the site and were determined to be a threat to public health and the environment. The OSC subsequently applied and received a civil warrant from a Federal judge to remove hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants from the site. Prior to receiving the warrants, efforts were made to reach the responsible party, as indicated through a title search, for the site by the EPA civil investigator. The responsible party was not able to be located.

**II. Activities To-Date**

- A. After the completing the removal assessment, the OSC arranged for offsite security through Delegation of Authority 14-2 to ensure that no unauthorized access to the site would take place. Concurrently, the OSC began the warrant application to remove hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants from the site. The OSC received a civil warrant from a Federal judge on April 27, 2004 to remove hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants from the site.
- B. The OSC, START and ERRS (1 Response Manager, 1 Chemist) mobilized to the site on April 28, 2004. The OSC posted the signed entry warrant in the front office window where it is visible to the public. The OSC met with START and ERRS to plan startup activities for the week. ERRS was directed to mobilize an office trailer, portable bathrooms, and coordinate power, phone, and water service.

The OSC also directed ERRS to procure a two-panel locking swing gate to restrict access to the site, and provide a security guard during non-work hours, seven days a week. The OSC, START and ERRS agreed to begin site work on Friday, April 30, 2004 at 0700 hours. Site work schedule will be conducted from 0700 to 1730 hours, six days a week, or as determined by the OSC.

- C. The OSC, START (1 person) and ERRS (4 personnel) arrived onsite at 0700 hours on Friday, April 30 2004. The following ERRS personnel were onsite: ERRS (Response Manager, Field Control Technician, 1 laborer and 1 foreman). ERRS opened the entrance doors to the buildings to allow for more ventilation and began clearing vegetation from the site. Two roll-off boxes (1 trash, 1 scrap metal) arrived onsite and ERRS began segregating debris. Non-contaminated items with tangible value, as determined by the OSC, were placed in building area 3 (garage). Trash (waste paper, cardboard, broken pallets, waste plastic) and vegetation was placed into the trash rolloff box. Scrap metal was placed into the scrap metal roll-off box. Contaminated items were segregated pending a determination on whether they can be decontaminated. The OSC met with two personnel from MDE and briefed them on site activities. ERRS cleared debris from building area 3 and prepared it to be used as a container staging area, and began moving small containers from building area 3 to building area 2. No material was spilled during container relocation. Site security arrived onsite at 1655 hours.
- D. On May 1, 2004 ERRS informed the OSC that the office trailer, generator and portable restrooms would be delivered to the site on May 3, 2004. ERRS put down plastic sheeting and began removing materials from building area 4 (chemical storage). START informed ERRS that site security was not present onsite at the beginning of the work day. ERRS spread absorbent material on the floor of building area 2 and scraped up materials that had previously leaked from containers inside the building prior to EPA arrival. Once the floor inside the entrance door was scraped, ERRS began removing trash and containers from around the entrance area and the northern wall of building area 2.

- E. *Estimated Project Costs:*

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Costs to Date</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>
ERRS	\$13,211	\$200,000
START	\$ 4,534	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 17,745	\$250,000

### **III. Future Actions**

- A. ERRS anticipates delivery of the office trailer, generator and portable restrooms on May 3, 2004. ERRS will complete setup of the chemical compatibility testing and staging areas on May 3, 2004, and also will continue removing debris, trash

and containers from building area 4. A backhoe will be delivered to the site on May 4, 2004 to aid in the moving of drums and to facilitate the removal of scrap metal from the site. START will survey building area 1 and the upstairs portion of building area 2 for additional containers so that ERRS can move the containers to the chemical staging area.

- B. The ERRS chemist to continue compiling an inventory for the site to determine known hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants from unknown. The inventory will facilitate determination of reuse, recycling and/or disposal option for onsite substances.
- C. A fact will be distributed to the nearby residents and businesses to provide information regarding the EPA removal action at the site.
- D. The OSC anticipates transmitting three polreps each week, or as appropriate to document site activities.

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Michael Taurino, OSC  
Removal Response Section  
USEPA Region III