

Polrep #3  
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 5 May 2004)**

- A. CERCLA removal activities continue 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 strength cleaning products. A responsible party has not been identified at the site. As a result, a fund-lead removal action is being conducted based on the OSC's determination of threat to public health and the environment.

**II. Activities To-Date**

- A. On May 3, 2004, ERRS prepared a hazard compatibility staging/testing area in building area 2. This area will be used for the categorization and segregation of unknown chemicals based on hazard category (HazCat) test results. A large power generator for the command post office trailer arrived onsite. START performed air monitoring inside building area 4 (original chemical storage) prior to ERRS personnel starting work. Total vapor readings averaged 0.5 parts per million (ppm) and peaked at 1.7 ppm at the east end of the building where there is no ventilation. START surveyed building area 1 (front office and found 10 chemical containers and two additional file folders containing chemical information). START delivered the containers and file folders to the ERRS chemist. MDE visited the site and delivered a copy of the State search warrant. MDE's warrant was placed next to the OSC's warrant and is visible from outside the site. ERRS began removing containers from building area 4 under the supervision of the ERRS chemist in Level C. The command post office trailer arrived onsite.
- B. Mr. Chris Ulrich and two associates arrived onsite. The OSC spoke to Mr. Ulrich about the CERCLA removal action and anticipated activities at the site. Mr. Ulrich identified himself as potentially having a financial interest in the property and informed the OSC that he was looking for the property owner. Mr. Ulrich and his associates left the site immediately after ending the conversation.

- C. On May 4, 2004, ERRS continued removing containers from building area 4. Containers with legible labels were segregated according to chemical information. Unknown chemicals were placed in building area 2 to await testing. The OSC contacted Larry Richardson (EPA Civil Investigator) regarding Mr. Ulrich's visit on May 3. A double swing gate was installed at the direction of the OSC and new locks provided to improve site security. Mr. Shaun Williams visited the site and said he was interested in purchasing the property. The OSC took his name and phone number. A backhoe arrived onsite. ERRS removed trash from the interior of building area 4 and used the backhoe to compact the trash inside the 30 yard roll-off box. The retrieval and placement of debris in the roll-off box continues by ERRS.
- D. Special Agents Brendt Johnson and Sheila Martus (EPA Criminal Investigation Division, Baltimore Office) arrived onsite. The OSC briefed them on site activities and Mr. Ulrich's visit. Special Agents Johnson and Martus interviewed site personnel.
- E. On May 5, 2004, the command post office trailer was operational. ERRS began identifying, containerizing and removing solid chemicals from building area 4. The ERRS chemist began organizing a bulking plan to containerize chemicals with similar properties. 7-85 gallon overpack drums and 20-17H open top drums arrived onsite.
- F. From project start to date, ERRS overpacked 15 drums containing 54 bags of solids including but not limited to, barium chloride, sodium sulfate, sodium phosphate, monopotassium phosphate, potassium nitrate, phthalic anhydride, and stearic acid. The original packaging for these bags were in poor condition. ERRS also segregated 21- 55 gallon drums of liquids including but not limited to, xylene isopropanol, sodium hydroxide, trichloroacetic acid, sulfuric acid, muriatic acid, and phosphoric acid. To date, approximately 100 containers of unknown material await HazCat testing.
- G. Site security is provided to ensure no unauthorized access to the site. Security is in place at the site during non-work hours on a daily basis.
- H. *Estimated Project Costs:*

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Costs to Date</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>
ERRS	\$19,064	\$200,000
START	<u>\$ 5,516</u>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total	\$ 24,580	<b>\$250,000*</b>

\* - Funds made immediately available through OSC delegated authority 14-2.

### **III. Future Actions**

- A. ERRS anticipates completion of the inventory of known chemicals on May 7, 2004. Telephone service is anticipated to be operational no later than May 10. ERRS anticipates starting HazCat testing beginning the week of May 10. ERRS will continue clearing vegetation from around the abandoned tanker trailer by May 6, 2004, and also will continue removing vegetation, debris, trash and containers from the area outside building area 4. ERRS will contact local vendors for pricing to facilitate the removal of scrap metal from the site.
- B. The ERRS chemist will 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 options for onsite substances.
- C. A fact sheet will be distributed to the nearby residents and businesses to provide information regarding the EPA removal action at the site.
- D. The OSC anticipates arrival of Eugene Dennis (Enforcement OSC) and James Wright (Site Administrative Officer).

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Michael Taurino, OSC  
Removal Response Section  
USEPA Region III