

Polrep #4  
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 7 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 6, 2004, ERRS removed containers outside of building area 4 and continued clearing vegetation around this area to facilitate the retrieval of more containers within heavy brush. START conducted area monitoring and detected an average of 0.17 reading and 0.20 reading inside the building in areas 3 and 4 respectively.
- B. On May 6, 2004, Special Agent Sheila Martus was onsite to gather information. James Wright, Site Administrative Officer (SAO), was onsite to review 1900-55s generated to date by the ERRS. The OSC advised the SAO to begin necessary steps to compile an administrative record for the site. Eugene Dennis, Enforcement OSC, was onsite as the request of OSC Taurino to review documentation at the site. The purpose of the documentation review is to determine whether the site has any enforcement potential in addition to the owner of the property. The Enforcement OSC will advise OSC Taurino regarding the findings.
- C. On May 6, 2004, ERRS continued overpacking substances, particularly damaged bags, in coordination with the ERRS chemist.

- D. On May 6, 2004, ERRS continued to remove vegetation outside building areas 4 to provide a path were approximately 71 metal drums marked lactulose solution are stored. These drums will be evaluated to determine content. Empty drums will be identified and sent off as scrap metal.
- E. On May 7, 2004, the OSC directed ERRS to formalize a wet decontamination line. To accomplish this, roofing debris obstructing the decontamination line was placed in the non-hazardous 30 yard roll-off box.
- F. On May 7, 2004, ERRS continued moving drummed material from building area 4 (original main storage) to building area 3 (material segregation room).
- G. On May 7, 2004, Special Agent Sheila Martus onsite to interview onsite personnel.
- H. On May 7, 2004, ERRS informs OSC that three scrap metal recyclers were contacted regarding the metal drums staged along the fence line marked lactulose solution in accordance with the recycling strategy for the site. These drums contain a plastic drum liner. ERRS informed the OSC that the metal recyclers were not interested in the drums. Consequently, these drums will be deheaded to remove the liners. The liners will be characterized and disposed accordingly. The metal drums will be crushed and placed in a 30 yard roll-off box and sent for disposal.
- I. Site security continues and 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.
- J. *Estimated Project Costs:*

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Costs to Date</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>
ERRS	\$24,696	\$200,000
START	<u>\$ 7,076</u>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total	\$ 31,772	<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 8, 2004. Telephone service is anticipated to be operational no later than May 10. ERRS anticipates starting sampling/HazCat testing beginning the week of May 10. ERRS will continue removing debris as necessary to facilitate removal activities.

- 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. ERRS will begin lab packing known substances and begin preparing a transportation and disposal Request for Bid (RfB) package and evaluate recycling and/or reuse options. ERRS to prepare a RfB package for analytical services for the unknown substances at the site.
- D. A fact sheet will be distributed to the nearby residents and businesses to provide information regarding the EPA removal action at the site.
- E. EPA CID to gain access to the site and conduct sampling for their investigation.
- F. The OSC has determined to reduce frequency of polreps to twice a week.

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Michael Taurino, OSC  
Removal Response Section  
USEPA Region III