

Polrep #5  
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 11 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 and manufacturer of industrial strength cleaning products. A responsible party has not been located. 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 8, 2004, ERRS constructed upgrades to the decontamination line in anticipation of sampling and hazcat of unknown substances. ERRS removed the tops from 39 drums and removed the liners. Liners that contained material were staged and covered. The metal shells were crushed and placed in the scrap metal roll-off box. Three (3) unlined metal drums that exhibited high organic vapor readings were covered and staged for sampling.
- B. ERRS provided a comprehensive inventory of known chemicals to the OSC on May 8, 2004.
- C. On May 8, 2004 the OSC visited adjacent businesses and residences and distributed a fact sheet that explained site activities.
- D. On May 10, 2004, ERRS removed the tops from 32 drums and removed the liners. Liners that contained material were staged and covered. The metal shells were crushed and placed in the scrap metal roll-off box. A total of 71 drums were addressed in this manner.
- E. On May 10, 2004 Doug Frantz (MDE) visited the site to photograph site activities and pick up a copy of the fact sheet.

- F. OSC participated in a conference call with EPA Office of Regional Counsel (ORC) and the Removal Program (Andy Gold, Bill Early, Heather Gray-Torres, Gail Wilson), OSC Bob Kelly, and CID (Mike Fisher and Susan Helbert). The OSC was advised by ORC that support can be provided to CID provided the criminal warrant was documented sufficiently. U.S. District Attorney sent an email to EPA Office of Regional Counsel stating that OSC's support of CID investigation is not problematic. The OSC concluded to provide support to CID by ensuring their operations were completed in a manner consistent with the site Safety Plan.
- G. On May 11, 2004, EPA CID onsite to perform reconnaissance and sampling as part of an investigation into possible violations.
- H. START provided information on the material in the 71 drums along the east fence (lactulose solution). MSDS information indicated that the material does not contain sulfides or cyanides, is not air or water reactive, and is non-flammable. Also, the MSDS sheet indicated no known environmental hazards. The plastic liners that do not have residual lactulose solution will be placed into the non-hazardous roll-off box. Liners with residual solution will be disposed according to the guidelines on the MSDS sheet.
- 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	\$33,554	\$200,000
START	\$ 9,576	\$ 50,000
Total	\$43,030	<b>\$250,000*</b>

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

### **III. Future Actions**

- A. ERRS will continue removing debris from the site to facilitate removal activities.
- B. ERRS will continue stabilizing bags, drums and other containers holding hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants.
- C. ERRS will begin hazcat/sampling unknown containers. ERRS to prepare a Request for Bid (RfB) package for analytical services for the unknown substances at the site.

- D. ERRS will begin lab packing known substances and begin preparing a transportation and disposal RfB package and evaluate recycling and/or reuse options.
- E. ERRS to begin lab packing of known substances.
- F. START will continue providing support to the OSC as directed.
- G. The OSC will continue to issue Polreps twice a week.

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Michael Taurino, OSC  
Removal Response Section  
USEPA Region III