

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Friday, March 13, 2009
From: Paul L. Kahn, Michael Hoppe

To:	Paul Kahn, ERRD-RPB	Tim Grier, USEPA Headquarters 5202G
	Patricia Carr, USEPA-PAD	Mary Mears, USEPA, Region 2, PAD
	Ellen Banner, USEPA	John LaPadula, USEPA
	Carole Petersen, USEPA	Jim Daloia, USEPA
	Eric Mosher, USEPA	John Higgins, USEPA
	Gregory Deangelis, USEPA Region 2	Andrew Raddant, Department of Interior
	Deborah Schwenk, USEPA	Lisa Levy, OSHA
	Michael Hoppe, USEPA	Kevin McCarthy, Clifton Fire Department
	William Molnar, Sandy Alexander	Albert Greco, City of Clifton
	Tara Donn, USEPA Region 02 CID	Leah Escobar, ATSDR
	Denise Zeno, USEPA	Angela Carpenter, USEPA
	Melissa Dimas, USEPA	

Subject: SPECIAL #12: All Intermodal Shipping Containers are Empty
Abrachem Chemical
2 Peekay Drive, Clifton, NJ
Latitude: 40.8306000
Longitude: -74.1231000

POLREP No.:	27	Site #:	A212
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	072
Start Date:	1/2/2009	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	12/30/2008	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	NJR000031831	Contract #	EP-W-04-055
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

At 1615 hours on 10/29/08 EPA received a notification from the NRC that a chemical release was occurring at Abrachem Chemical, a bulk chemical packaging facility that leased a building in Clifton, Passaic County, NJ. The NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection was on-scene and requested EPAs presence.

At 1730 hours OSC Ellen Banner and OSC Paul Kahn responded to the scene. The company was found to be storing drums and bulk containers of known and unknown chemicals in 17 56-foot long intermodal shipping carriers (ISCs), stacked 3 tiers high (approx. 35 feet). Only 5 of the ISCs could be opened, and inside those it was observed that drums and bulk containers were staged behind tiers of empty poly drums, giving the impression that the ISCs were used for new drum storage. EPA observed that in the one ISC where the release originated at least one drum was leaking its contents onto a wooden pallet; strong chemical odors emanated from the open door of the ISC and were also pervasive in the general area.

The Operator of Abrachem retained the services of a remediation company, and contractor personnel were advised to lay poly sheeting and begin removing and overpacking the leaking and unknown drums that were readily accessible. Work commenced almost immediately, but at 2100 hours was halted due to lack of adequate lighting and inability to physically access the majority of the drums through the narrow doorway.

The Operator of Abrachem and the Owner of the property was issued a Field Expedient Notice, and in response the Operator stated he would initiate a removal action. When his efforts to respond to the release, and threats of a release, proved to be inadequate EPA sought voluntary access to initiate a response action. This access was denied on two occasions. On 12/4/2008 EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) for access. The Operator refused to comply with the UAO and EPA

referred the matter to the Department of Justice for a legal remedy. On 1/8/2009 a federal Magistrate issued an access warrant to EPA to initiate a response action at the Site.

Current Activities

The last drum, Number 1,394, was removed from the last intermodal shipping container (ISC) on 3/13/2009. A total of 1,394 drums were removed from the 14 ISCs left on the Site. In addition, there are 160 drums Clean Venture moved into the building in December 2008, 100 drums that Abrachem left inside the premises, and the contents of the sole remaining box trailer which will be removed for T & D next week. The total number of containers left at the Site when Abrachem vacated the premises will likely exceed 1,700.

Three chemical companies sent reps to the Site to assist in preparing their chemical containers for shipping for disposal and/or reuse at no cost to the government.

As of this date over 900 samples have been haz-cated in the on-site lab.

Planned Removal Actions

ERRS will empty the sole remaining box trailer next week in preparation for the owner of the waste chemicals to ship the drums for T & D.

ERRS will now concentrate on overpacking deteriorated drums, additional sampling, and general housekeeping. The first batch of lab samples (flammables) for bulking and disposal is being prepared. Bids for lab services will be issued within 10 days.

On 3/17/2009 Univar will be on-site to retrieve 17 drums of their acids and formaldehyde, and 6 drums of flaked paraformaldehyde. Univar intends to either reuse the chemicals or dispose of them as hazardous waste.

Specialty Chemical Products Inc. will be at the Site on 3/18/2009 to retrieve two tons of lab packs and drums to ship them for disposal at no cost to the government.

Next Steps

See above.

Key Issues

See above.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$400,000.00	\$368,000.00	\$32,000.00	8.00%
RST/START	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	(\$15,000.00)	0.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$400,000.00	\$383,000.00	\$17,000.00	4.25%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.