

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Region II**  
**POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2009  
**From:** Paul L. Kahn, Michael Hoppe

**To:** Andrew Raddant, Department of Interior      Lisa Levy, OSHA  
William Molnar, Sandy Alexander      Albert Greco, City of Clifton  
Denise Zeno, USEPA      Angela Carpenter, USEPA

**Subject:** Resumption of Removal Activities  
Abrachem Chemical  
2 Peekay Drive, Clifton, NJ  
Latitude: 40.8306000  
Longitude: -74.1231000

|                          |              |                            |                |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>POLREP No.:</b>       | 32           | <b>Site #:</b>             | A212           |
| <b>Reporting Period:</b> |              | <b>D.O. #:</b>             | 072            |
| <b>Start Date:</b>       | 1/2/2009     | <b>Response Authority:</b> | CERCLA         |
| <b>Mob Date:</b>         | 12/30/2008   | <b>Response Type:</b>      | Time-Critical  |
| <b>Demob Date:</b>       |              | <b>NPL Status:</b>         | Non NPL        |
| <b>Completion Date:</b>  |              | <b>Incident Category:</b>  | Removal Action |
| <b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>     | NJR000031831 | <b>Contract #</b>          | EP-W-04-055    |
| <b>RCRIS ID #:</b>       |              |                            |                |

**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**

Removal activities resumed on 4/20/2009. Haz-cating is winding down and should be completed by 5/8/2009. ERRS has started overpacking approx. 1,500 small containers (5 gal and less) of Decor Inc.

paint and paint-related chemicals into Gaylord boxes. Tech Rep for Decor was on-site on 4/24 to oversee packing and to discuss disposal [chemical] profiles with OSC. Tentative shipping for incineration of what may be as many as 30 cubic yards of this waste (at no cost to the government) is tentatively set for the week of May 4th. Other companies whose chemicals were discovered at the Site are actively making arrangements for disposal or retrieval of their chemicals.

**Planned Removal Actions**

Continue overpacking Decor Inc waste paint and chemicals. Continue coordinating with chemical suppliers to retrieve their chemicals.

**Next Steps**

See above.

**Key Issues**

See above.

[response.epa.gov/abrachemchemical](https://response.epa.gov/abrachemchemical)