

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

Date: Friday, May 8, 2009
From: Paul L. Kahn, Michael Hoppe

To: Paul Kahn, ERRD-RPB Patricia Carr, USEPA-PAD Ellen Banner, USEPA Carole Petersen, USEPA Eric Mosher, USEPA Gregory Deangelis, USEPA Region 2 Deborah Schwenk, USEPA Michael Hoppe, USEPA William Molnar, Sandy Alexander Tara Donn, USEPA Region 02 CID Denise Zeno, USEPA Melissa Dimas, USEPA	Tim Grier, USEPA Headquarters 5202G Mary Mears, USEPA, Region 2, PAD John LaPadula, USEPA Jim Daloia, USEPA John Higgins, USEPA Andrew Raddant, Department of Interior Lisa Levy, OSHA Kevin McCarthy, Clifton Fire Department Albert Greco, City of Clifton Leah Escobar, ATSDR Angela Carpenter, USEPA
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Subject: Additional Drums Shipped for Disposal
Abrachem Chemical
2 Peekay Drive, Clifton, NJ
Latitude: 40.8306000
Longitude: -74.1231000

POLREP No.: 35	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 EPA's 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 continue. Haz-cating is complete and ERRS has tested and identified 1,602 containers.

On 5/5 GE/Sabic Plastics shipped 39 drums of waste chemicals for T & D at no cost to the government.

On 5/5 a rep from Monsanto visited the Site to document 133 drums of chemical wastes. Disposal profiles will be compiled and arrangements for T & D are pending.

On 5/7 two drums of dry nitrocellulose were rehydrated and prepared for T & D. See POLREP #34 for details.

On 5/8 Aceto Corp. shipped 15 drums and 36 bags of waste chemicals for T & D at no cost to the government.

ERRS completed overpacking Decor Inc. paint and paint-related chemicals into 42 cubic yard boxes. Disposal profiles for this waste were completed by the consultant for Decor, and T & D is scheduled for 5/12.

Other companies whose chemicals were discovered at the Site continue to make arrangements for disposal or retrieval of their chemicals.

On 5/8 ERRS acquired water and sediment samples from two sumps at the Site. ERRS also collected soil samples from an area contaminated by an unknown liquid that spilled from one of the ISC that was on an upper tier last winter. All samples will be sent out for lab analysis.

Planned Removal Actions

Continue working with chemical suppliers to retrieve or dispose of their chemicals.

Next Steps

Finalize arrangements for T & D of: 2 drums of wetted nitrocellulose, 52 BASF drums, 133 Monsanto drums, 18 Brown Chemical drums, and Decor Inc.'s 42 cubic yards + 2 drums.

Additional drums will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$970,000.00	\$725,000.00	\$245,000.00	25.26%
RST/START	\$0.00	\$26,000.00	(\$26,000.00)	0.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$970,000.00	\$751,000.00	\$219,000.00	22.58%

* 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.

Disposition of Wastes

Waste Stream	Quantity	Manifest #	Disposal Facility
GE/Sabik Plastics waste solid and liquid cresols, tri- & tetra-chloroethylene, crysilic acid, MIBK	39 55-gallon drums	004731892 JJK	Veolia Technical Solutions Middlesex, NJ 08846
Aceto Corp. isocyanate compounds, proprionic acid, nitroaniline, methyl salicillate, betachloroethyl phosphate, non-haz solids.	17 drums + 1 pallet	005194268 JJK	Chemtron Corp. Avon, Ohio 44010

response.epa.gov/abrachemchemical

POLREP #35 Last Updated 5/8/2009