

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

Date: Friday, June 19, 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: Abrachem Chemical
2 Peekay Drive, Clifton, NJ
Latitude: 40.8306000
Longitude: -74.1231000

POLREP No.:	42	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. OSC continues to work with chemical suppliers to retrieve their chemicals for reuse or disposal. An additional drum of Exxon-Mobil chemicals has been located, bringing the total to 13.

ERRS has begun bulking compatible chemicals for which no original supplier can be identified. They will be disposed of by ERRS as part of the removal action. Empty poly and steel drums are being processed and bulked for recycling.

The Action Memo documenting the need for additional funds to complete the removal action has been drafted and circulated for comments.

On 6/16 ERRS shipped 11 drums of Bayer polymers and benzene compounds for T & D at no cost to the government.

On 6/19 a rep for Givaudan visited the Site to view their drums and to take samples for disposal profiling.

ERRS received the analytical results of the last round of samples from the sumps, soil and composite drums. A copy of the data was e-mailed to the consultant for the property owner. ERRS T & D Coordinator is now preparing the T & D bid package.

The owner of 11 drums of sodium permanganate solution has been identified. Shaw E & I bought the drums from CBW-Chemie (Germany) in 2002 and the drums were to have been bulked and shipped to an EPA Superfund site in MA. Some drums had been shipped, but 11 of them remained at the Site. Shaw has been contacted and indicated they will be willing to retrieve the material because it has a commercial value in excess of \$10,000.

Planned Removal Actions

Continue bulking compatible chemicals for T & D, and continue working with chemical companies to retrieve their chemicals.

Next Steps

See above.

Key Issues

See above.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$1,270,000.00	\$980,000.00	\$290,000.00	22.83%
RST/START	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	(\$90,000.00)	0.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$1,270,000.00	\$1,070,000.00	\$200,000.00	15.75%

* 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
alkene polymer and para-toluidene	9 55-gallon drums of polymer and 2 55-gallon drums of toluidene	002693954 FLE	Clean Harbors El Dorado, El Dorado AR ARD 069748192

response.epa.gov/abrachemchemical

POLREP #42 Last Updated 6/19/2009