

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2009

From: Gary Moore

Subject: Norphlet Chemical Inc.

600 MacMillian Road, Norphlet, AR

Latitude: 33.3093000

Longitude: -92.6560000

POLREP No.:	14	Site #:	A6N8
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:	4/16/2009	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	4/16/2009	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

Norphlet Chemical Inc. (NCI) is located outside El Dorado, AR at the location of the former Macmillan Oil Refinery (a previous Non-NPL Removal Action). NCI is a chemical manufacturing facility in the business of producing a refrigerant (HFC-134A) used in automobiles. The primary raw materials used for producing this product is Anhydrous Hydrogen Fluoride, Trichloroethylene, and a catalyst. The company attempted to produce the intended product but was unable to do so. In September 2008, the company laid off all of its employees.

EPA became aware of this facility in March 2009 and immediately informed the ADEQ. EPA offered its assistance if deemed necessary by the ADEQ. On April 15, 2009, DHS conducted an Infrastructure Protection Inspection of the facility and was alarmed with its condition and the fact that it was abandoned. On April 15, 2009, DHS contacted EPA about their concerns with the site. The major concern was that the abandoned site had containers of Anhydrous Hydrogen Fluoride (AHF) and mixtures of AHF, TCE, and intermediate refrigerants. In addition, the condition of these containers were questionable. EPA and DHS contacted State authorities and participated in a call concerning the site. On April 16, EPA received a request from ADEQ to address the situation at the site.

EPA dispatched their START Contractors to begin air monitoring. EPA OSC Jones arrived on-site on Friday, April 17, 2009 and met with Federal, State, County, and City officials and evaluated the site. OSC Jones determined that an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment existed as a result of the abandonment of the facility, the conditions of the tankage, and the close proximity of the school and surrounding residents to the facility. On April 16, 2009, Union County Judge Bobby Edmonds declared an emergency. Because of the emergency order and the close proximity of the site to the school, the school was closed on Friday, April 17.

EPA mobilized their ERRS Contractor and began transferring the AHF mixtures from the onsite tanks into tanker trailers which would be shipped offsite for disposal.

Current Activities

One roll-off box containing tote tanks of spent carbon and alumina was transported off site for disposal to Phillips Services Company in Avalon, Texas on July 10, 2009. 11 55-gallons drums containing TCE contaminated liquid from the NCI Plant Chiller Units were also shipped off site for disposal to Phillips Services Company in Avalon, Texas on July 17, 2009.

EPA and contractors remobilized to the site on July 20, 2009 to transfer the contents of Dana Tanker No. 1190 into a different tanker trailer. Transfer operations were required due to a faulty pressure relief valve on tanker 1190. A new Dana Tanker (No. 1303) was delivered to the site on July 20 and transfer operations were completed on July 21.

Next Steps

Tanker trailers (Dana and Kelly trailers) containing HF contaminated liquid wastes are scheduled to begin being shipped off site to Veolia Technical Solutions on July 27th.

The tankers will return to Norphlet after unloading in Port Arthur to be decontaminated. The decon process will take approximately 2 days per trailer.

response.epa.gov/Norphlet_tChemical_Inc