

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

**Date:** Friday, August 21, 2009  
**From:** Paul L. Kahn, Michael Hoppe, On-Scene Coordinators

<b>To:</b> Paul Kahn, ERRD-RPB	Tim Grier, USEPA Headquarters 5202G
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**Subject:** Abrachem Chemical  
2 Peekay Drive, Clifton, NJ  
Latitude: 40.8306000  
Longitude: -74.1231000

<b>POLREP No.:</b> 51	<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 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 action continues. ERRS used this week to finish preparing the drums for shipping next week and overpacking the few remaining damaged drums. ERRS also returned hundreds of lab samples of wastes to their respective drums.

Also during this time period ERRS discharged 8 55-gallon drums of dilute sodium permanganate solution to the local sanitary sewer, completing the discharge of all 15 drums of this waste stream.

**Planned Removal Actions**

Labeling drums for shipping will begin on 8/24. Shipping of drums will commence on 8/25 with at least 2 trucks per day being loaded.

Final arrangements for disposal of remaining contaminated wood pallets and used PPE underway.

ERRS will rent a floor washer/vacuum to clean the floors of all areas used to store waste drums in preparation for final demobilization of the Site on or about 9/9.

**Next Steps**

See above.

**Key Issues**

See above.

**Estimated Costs \***

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$1,872,000.00	\$1,400,000.00	\$472,000.00	25.21%
RST/START	\$0.00	\$114,000.00	(\$114,000.00)	0.00%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	\$1,872,000.00	\$1,514,000.00	\$358,000.00	19.12%

\* 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**

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Manifest #</b>	<b>Disposal Facility</b>
Water solution of less than one percent (1%) sodium permanganate, drum # 720	55 gallons on 8/17 at 10 AM	n/a	Discharged to sewer [local POTW] in accordance with prearranged agreement between USEPA and POTW
Water solution of less than one percent (1%) sodium permanganate, drum # 740	55 gallons on 8/17 at 2 PM	n/a	Discharged to sewer [local POTW] in accordance with prearranged agreement between USEPA and POTW
Water solution of less than one percent (1%) sodium permanganate, drum # 725	55 gallons on 8/18 at 10 AM	n/a	Discharged to sewer [local POTW] in accordance with prearranged agreement between USEPA and POTW
Water solution of less than one	55 gallons	n/a	Discharged to sewer [local POTW] in

percent (1%) sodium permanganate, drum # 743	on 8/18 at 2 PM		accordance with prearranged agreement between USEPA and POTW
Water solution of less than one percent (1%) sodium permanganate, drum # 723	55 gallons on 8/19 at 10 AM	n/a	Discharged to sewer [local POTW] in accordance with prearranged agreement between USEPA and POTW
Water solution of less than one percent (1%) sodium permanganate, drum # 724	55 gallons on 8/19 at 10 AM	n/a	Discharged to sewer [local POTW] in accordance with prearranged agreement between USEPA and POTW
Water solution of less than one percent (1%) sodium permanganate, drum # 1072	55 gallons on 8/20 at 10 AM	n/a	Discharged to sewer [local POTW] in accordance with prearranged agreement between USEPA and POTW
Water solution of less than one percent (1%) sodium permanganate, drum # 1469	55 gallons on 8/20 at 2 PM	n/a	Discharged to sewer [local POTW] in accordance with prearranged agreement between USEPA and POTW

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

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