

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Friday, September 11, 2009

From: Paul L. Kahn, Michael Hoppe, On-Scene Coordinators

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: SPECIAL #17: FINAL - Completion of On-Site Removal Activities

Abrachem Chemical
2 Peekay Drive, Clifton, NJ
Latitude: 40.8306000
Longitude: -74.1231000

POLREP No.:	54	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:	9/11/2009	NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:	9/11/2009	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

ERRS shipped 30 cubic yards of crushed drums, 30 cubic yards of used PPE, and 60 cubic yards of contaminated wood pallets. The 1-cubic yard box of contaminated soil from the side area was bulked

with the crushed pallets for disposal.

A representative with the Passaic County Health Department visited the Site for a tour.

At the request of the owner's representative, ERRS left two empty 350 gallon stainless steel chemical totes inside the premises. They have been marked "EMPTY" to avoid any subsequent concern.

All equipment has been demobed, the floors inside the Site have been mechanically washed and decontaminated, all debris and trash has been removed. All exterior doors have been secured and 3 extra keys to the front door were given to the owner's representative. Lights were left on in the office and warehouse areas for security purposes.

NOTE: Elevator inspectors had visited the Site and informed the OSC that there are exposed, LIVE electrical wires in the mechanical room above the small office adjacent to the freight elevator. The door to this room has been marked accordingly and the elevator has been strung with "caution" tape.

Local authorities have been informed that the building is no longer occupied, and a close-out letter has been sent to the Mayor of Clifton.

There are no chemical containers remaining at the Site. All on-Site removal activities, as specified in the scope-of-work in the original Action Memo, have been completed.

Planned Removal Actions

None

Next Steps

None.

Key Issues

None.

Disposition of Wastes

Waste Stream	Quantity	Manifest #	Disposal Facility
crushed empty metal drums	30 cu. yards on 9/8/2009	n/a	Freehold Cartage Inc. recycling.
crushed contaminated wood pallets	30 cu. yards on 9/8/2009	0004216324JJK	CWM Chemical Services, Model City, NY.
crushed contaminated wood pallets	30. cu. yards on 9/9/2009	0004216322JJK	CWM Chemical Services, Model City, NY.
used Personal Protective Equipment and poly sheeting	30 cu. yards on 9/9/2009	n/a	Freehold Cartage Inc. recycling.
metals-contaminated soil	1 cu. yard on 9/9/2009	0004216322JJK	CWM Chemical Services, Model City, NY.

response.epa.gov/abrachemchemical