

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

Date: Monday, May 3, 2004

From: Dan Wainberg

Subject: Putney Paper Chlorine Gas Release

Main Street, Putney, VT

Latitude: 42.9753000

Longitude: -72.5214000

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	828
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:	4/30/2004	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:	4/30/2004	Incident Category:	
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

At approximately 1100hrs on April 30, 2004, the Putney Paper Co., located at 316 Main Street, Putney, VT, had a release of chlorine gas. The release occurred when a strong acid was mistakenly transferred from a delivery truck into a 9000 gallon capacity tank containing 3000 gallons of sodium hypochlorite. The facility was immediately evacuated and local response organizations were notified. At 1500hrs, the EPA Duty Officer received notification of the incident.

On arrival, the Putney Fire Department verified that all occupants had vacated the facility. Fire and Police personnel evacuated nearby residents located within a half-mile radius and downwind from the facility. Additional resources were brought to the incident from nearby communities including: the Keene Hazardous Materials(HAZMAT)Team, decontamination trailers, and medical support personnel.

Eight persons (7 employees and 1 citizen) complained of dizziness and/or throat irritation. All eight were treated on-site and released.

At approximately 1400hrs, the Keene HAZMAT Team performed an entry into the facility to monitor for chlorine gas. Results of the air monitoring indicated that the chlorine gas had dissipated and the facility was safe to enter.

After consulting with the chemical manufacturers and a Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation representative, the Putney Fire Department added water to the 9000 gal. tank to cool down its contents.

By 1730hrs, the Putney Fire Department had released the facility back to the owner and all response assets were demobilized from the incident location.

At 1900hrs, the EPA OSC and START contractor personnel arrived at the incident location. The situation was stable and the mill was back in operation. The mill's Environmental Manager and the Fire Chief briefed the OSC and START personnel and provided a tour of the facility.

At 2030hrs, EPA and START demobilized from the incident location.

Current Activities

N/A

Planned Removal Actions

None

Next Steps

None

Key Issues

None

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* 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.

response.epa.gov/putneypaper_release

POLREP #1 Last Updated 5/10/2004