

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Karolina Polymers - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #2
Clean Up Completed - Awaiting Disposal
Karolina Polymers
Hickory, NC
Latitude: 35.7088260 Longitude: -81.3396530

To:
From: Perry Gaughan, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 2/8/2010
Reporting Period: Jan 27th through Jan 30th

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 1/16/2010	Start Date: 1/16/2010
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

CERCLA - Emergency Assessment and Removal

1.1.2 Site Description

Karolina Polymer is an abandoned polymer manufacturer located in a mixed residential/commercial area of Hickory, North Carolina along an unnamed tributary of the Henry Fork River, a public water supply. The facility is a large two-story building which contains at least three main process and polymer production lines each containing large cooling sumps with various amounts of oil and polymer debris and waste.

1.1.2.1 Location

Karolina Polymer is located at 1508 South Center Street, Hickory, Catawba County NC.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

US EPA while responding to a oil spill in Hickory NC was requested by the Hickory Fire Dept to conduct an assessment at the Karolina Polymer facility. EPA obtained access and conducted a site visit on 1/15/2010. EPA observed several drums with various labels (flammable, caustic, etc.), a potential radioactive source, concrete pits containing oil and various chemicals. The Fire Dept informed EPA that they had responded to the facility when a fire sprinkler system froze and ruptured, flooding the building. The creek in the back of the facility has evidence of previous spills (a oil stain above the waterline). It is believed that the flooding could have caused the pits to overflow and reach a drain leading to the creek as there is oil and chemicals on the floors of the facility. EPA requested START support to collect samples on 1/16/2010. START arrived and collected 8 samples for analysis. EPA observed approximately 1 pound of mercury in various mercury switches. The facility is not secure, gate is not locked, several areas in the fence that have been cut, and there is evidence of trespassing with the presence of graffiti on the walls. There is the possibility that a homeless family may be living in the front office as there is a area that appeared to be a sleeping area, EPA also observed several pairs of a child's shoes and toys.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA notified NC DENR Radiation Protection, Radiation Protection responded due to the suspected radiological source. They determined that the source is Krypton-85, a radiological gas. The gas is still present in the instrument. EPA and START contractor collected samples for analysis on 1/16/2010. These results are expected to be available on Wednesday 1/20/2010. EPA also observed approximately 1 lb of mercury in various mercury switches throughout the facility. START screened some drums with pH paper and observed pH as high as 13.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On Wednesday, Jan 27th, OSC Perry Gaughan switched out with OSC Rhame. Over the next three days, Environmental Restoration completed "haz-catting" and staging of 110 drums of contaminated soil, mixed waste, polymer waste, oil and corrosives within the facility including five drums collected near a stream in back of the facility. Emergency response contractors (Errs) also removed polymer and waste oil from three large sumps located along production lines and staged this debris on the bottom floor for future disposal. Nineteen mercury switches were collected and drummed. A metal box containing krypton 85 in a thickness gauge was previously removed by NC DENR's Radiation Specialist Clifton Harris and returned to its manufacturer, Qualex Inc, Powell, Ohio. On Jan 30th, Errs demobed awaiting disposal profiling and arrangements.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA is awaiting disposal analytical. Disposal is anticipated for mid February, 2010.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Disposal profiling of wastes.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

To be determined.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

Hickory Fire Department
Catawba County Emergency Management
NC DENR - Radiation Protection
START
US EPA

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.