

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
EPA Response to Haiti Earthquake - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #6
EPA Response to Haiti Earthquake

Port-au-Prince, HT
Latitude: 18.5394190 Longitude: -72.3367230

To:
From: Planning Section Chief, Haiti Disaster Response, Region II REOC
Date: 2/23/2010
Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority:	Response Type:
Response Lead:	Incident Category:
NPL Status:	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date:	Start Date:
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Earthquake disaster

1.1.2 Site Description

Site conditions remain as previously reported.

1.1.2.1 Location

Republic of Haiti, all areas.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Threats are being assessed for possible future assignments.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On February 1, 2010, EPA received a request for assistance from the Department of Defense Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). SOUTHCOM requested EPA assistance in the Haiti recovery efforts. They specifically wanted the agency to participate in a Joint Task Force (JTF) to develop an assessment of environmental needs for Haiti, for both the short and long term. The EDIFY will be comprised of other federal partners. SOUTHCOM has contacted the DOE, DOT/CG, US-AID and USEPA. EPA Region 2 initially has deployed two individuals for a 30 day tour to support this effort. The overall effort will focus on providing environmental aspects of base camp assessment, debris staging locations, and initial environmental planning.

The JTF will be used to assess critical needs and make recommendations to administer immediate assistance to help prevent further loss of life and the deterioration of human health. Although the assistance requested is vague and broad in scope, because of the enormity and scale of the conditions EPA personnel will try to identify potential areas that may be immediate or part of a longer term recovery effort. EPA will conduct environmental assessments as requested and will make recommendations to the JTF and the Haitian government.

EPA personnel for the next deployment are scheduled and are being readied to depart on or about March, 10, 2009.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Initial team arrived in Haiti on February 16, 2010 and is scheduled to return to Region II on or about March 11, 2010.

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

None at this time.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

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

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

EPA responders will provide initial environmental assessment; develop environmental strategies and planning; work with interagency Joint Task Force to provide short and long term environmental recommendations.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Working with the other Task Force members, EPA is scope potential mission areas and identify issues where assistance may be provided. EPA will coordinate actions with the Task Force agencies, and the Haitian government as necessary.

As of February 23, 2010, EPA reps have been assessing locations for debris placement/disposal, the potential location of debris waste sites with DOD and the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE).

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA Region II and EPA HQ will continue to plan and implement support of the response effort for Haiti.

2.2.2 Issues

Funding source(s) will be required to support Regional participation in the response past the initial 30 day deployment period..

2.3 Logistics Section

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Southern Command will continue to provide logistical support (security, food, sanitation) for EPA staff.

During

the initial mobilization phase it is expected that all responders, including those from back-up EPA Regions (if needed) will depart from Edison, NJ to Miami, FL. Connecting flights to Haiti for the EPA responders will be coordinated/provided by DOD for the foreseeable future.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

A pre-deployment Health and Safety briefing package has been developed. A written medical clearance procedure has been drafted. A Health & Safety Plan has been developed based upon anticipated mission activities. The HASP will be revised as the mission and areas of operation are developed. CISM briefing was initiated by the Region II CISM team and responders were provided pre-deployment materials regarding stress and health maintenance.

All documents are posted on epaosc.org website.

2.6 Liaison Officer

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

All information concerning potential deployment to Haiti are being handled through the Region II REOC and informational updates by DHS are being posted on epaosc.org Haiti earthquake response website.

EPA public affairs contact information was provided to SOUTHCOM so that external communications can be coordinated.

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

None at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

n/a

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA will provide assistance to other federal agencies (DOD, ACOE, FEMA, USCG, etc.) as requested.

4. Personnel On Site

EPA personnel are OSC Michael Solecki and ERT staff member Alan Humphrey. They arrived in Haiti on February 16, 2010. They were instructed to communicate with the Region II REOC everyday at 10 AM and 4 PM, but due to time constraints and extremely poor communications, maintaining a strict coms plan proved to be almost impossible. Communication between the REOC and ground personnel is sporadic at best.

5. Definition of Terms

n/a

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

http://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=5732

6.2 Reporting Schedule

POLREPs/SITREPs will be prepared every Tuesday and Friday unless the response situation dictates otherwise.

7. Situational Reference Materials

Situational updates provided by DHS are posted on this website.