

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Coral Bay Air Sampling II - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #3
Final
Coral Bay Air Sampling II

St. John, VI
Latitude: 18.3328000 Longitude: -64.7926000

To: Brad Benggio, NOAA

From: Margaret Chong, OSC

Date: 9/17/2010

Reporting Period: September 15-17, 2010

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: 9/9/2010	Start Date: 9/9/2010
Demob Date:	Completion Date: 9/17/2010
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification: 09-08-2010
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Air sampling event to identify contaminants in a smoke plume.

1.1.2 Site Description

The source of the smoke plume is the landfill (dump) burning on the nearby island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

1.1.2.1 Location

See 1.1.2 above. The impact of the plume is local residential properties on the east and south east side of St. John, in the Coral Bay vicinity.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Inasmuch as EPA has no definitive information on what is deposited in the Tortola landfill, and thus what could be involved in the fire and being emitted, sampling was conducted for a wide range of organic and inorganic contaminants.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

1) On September 15, 2010, EPA and SERAS arrived on St. Thomas and retrieved the sampling equipment staged at the EPA office. EPA met with Jim Casey who mentioned that he received another email from another resident, complaining about the smoke. EPA returned to St. John and observed the plume at the overlook at Coral Bay. The plume did not appear to be more any larger in volume than the week before. It was also blowing in the direction of Totola, not St. John.

2) EPA contacted the residents who had agreed to allow EPA to sample at their houses. From the conversations with the President of the Coral Bay Council, the wind was expected to shift overnight in the direction of the houses on the East End.

EPA placed two air samples and datagrams at two of the houses. Another pump was placed at the overlook where the plume can be observed in Tortola

3) At approximately 1030 hrs, EPA received another call that another resident located at almost the dead end of Coral Bay, had smoke at her residence. EPA and SERAS responded and took a SUMMA canister sample near this location. Around 0030 hrs, EPA and ERAS checked on the pumps at all the locations (to make sure that the pumps did not fail) and an additional SUMMA canister sample was taken at the residence located on the east end. EPA did detect a faint smoke odor at this residence.

4) On September 16, 2010, EPA and SERAS returned to all the locations and retrieved the sampling equipment. EPA observed the plume at 0900 hrs and later at approximately 1030 hours. The plume was very faint earlier in the morning and was larger later in the morning (almost as though the fire was being fed when the employees arrived and started working). EPA left the island at 1200 hrs. SERAS stayed behind to ship the samples and equipment back to the States.

5) On September 17, 2010, SERAS completed all sampling activities and were demobilized. The OSC concluded that the British Virgin Islands government was acting responsibly in addressing the source of this release.

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

n/a

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

Data collected by EPA will be provided to all interested parties.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

No further activity is currently planned.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

No further action by EPA is anticipated at this time. Monitoring equipment may be staged on St. Thomas to facilitate rapid response to future odor incidents.

2.2.2 Issues

None identified.

2.3 Logistics Section

n/a

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The OSC served as the Safety Officer.

2.6 Liaison Officer

EPA's Jim Casey, based in Charlotte Amalie, served as liaison between EPA and outside entities such as DPNR, CEPD, and the press.

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

n/a

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

n/a

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

n/a

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

n/a

4. Personnel On Site

All EPA and contractor personnel have been demobilized

5. Definition of Terms

n/a

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

See Documents section for historical ERT trip report documenting air sampling activities on St. John in 2008.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

n/a

7. Situational Reference Materials

n/a