U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Holcomb Creosote - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Initial POLREP
Holcomb Creosote
B4E6
Yadkinville, NC
Latitude: 36.1622924 Longitude: -80.6771124

To:
From: Karen Buerki, OSC
Date: 1/23/2011
Reporting Period: January 20-23, 2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B4E6	**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	1/20/2011	**Start Date:**	1/21/2011
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:	NCD024900987	**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	1/20/2011
FPN#:		**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response.

1.1.2 Site Description

Holcomb Creosote Company is a creosote wood treating company. It began operations in the 1950s and went out of business in February 2009. Tanks and an open concrete pit containing waste creosote (F034) remain on-site along with 4000 gallons of virgin creosote, numerous drums, and heavily stained soil. The facility consists of a warehouse, office, and boiler room in one building, one pressure vessel, and a 50'x80' metal building that covers the drip pad. The facility is not secured in any way.

A Removal Site Evaluation was conducted on January 20, 2011, at the request of the NCDENR. During the evaluation, visible sheen was observed being released from the sediment of a tributary to Deep Creek adjacent to the facility. An emergency response was initiated to mitigate the ongoing release of hazardous substances to the environment.

1.1.2.1 Location

Holcomb Creosote Company is located just north of Yadkinville on Hwy 601. It is situated between the highway and a tributary of Deep Creek. This tributary feeds into Dobbins Mill Pond at the southern boundary of the facility.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Creosote contains carcinogenic polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Heavily stained soil is visible throughout the process area. Waste creosote and process sludge are a RCRA F034 listed waste. Waste creosote and process sludge are contained in an open pit and in an unsecured tank that is beginning to leak.

Friable asbestos insulation is crumbling off of the boiler onto the floor.

An unsealed manometer containing approximately 2 ounces of elemental mercury was found in the boiler room. Mercury beads were visible on the outside of it and on the ground below it.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Holcomb Creosote has been working with their consultant, Northwest GeoScience, to characterize the site. Creosote contamination was discovered adjacent to and underneath the concrete pit. There is also a RCRA impoundment that was closed under NCDENR's direction and a land farm that was used to treat the contents of the impoundment. NCDENR also performed some sediment sampling in June 2009, which revealed sediment contamination.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

ERRS contractor Environmental Restoration, LLC, and START contractor Tetra Tech, were notified to respond late on January 20, 2011, mobilized to the site on January 21, 2011, and began removal activities on
January 22, 2011.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

ERRS repaired a water leak inside the building and began mitigation of the friable asbestos around the boiler and pressure vessel. Tree limbs left by the logging company during recent logging activities were removed from the western bank of the tributary to provide access and sorbent boom was strung across the tributary. A staging area was constructed to store contaminated debris and stabilized sludge. Debris is being segregated into clean and creosote contaminated piles. Three 55-gallon drums of hydraulic oil were moved to a machine shop for use as a product.

Friable asbestos was HEPA vacuumed off of the floor of the boiler room and a sealant will be applied.

ERRS consolidated all of the drums and pails. Creosote debris and drip pad liner were staged in the containment area. Process piping was disconected from the concrete pit and the tank of creosote sludge was emptied into the pit in preparation for stabilization.

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

The PRP is Holcomb Creosote Company.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*
F034					
Asbestos/ACM					
Oil					
Contaminated Debris					
Creosote					
Lab Pack					
PPE/Debris					

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Remove and stabilize the sludge in the concrete pit.

Seal the friable asbestos insulation.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

An auction is scheduled for February 19, 2011, to sell adjacent land and the metal building.

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

No information available at this time.

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.