

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Kerr-McGee Chemical (Columbus) aka Tronox - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #2
Initiation of Emergency Response
Kerr-McGee Chemical (Columbus) aka Tronox
B491
Columbus, MS
Latitude: 33.5107301 Longitude: -88.4079336

To:
From: Steve Spurlin, OSC
Date: 2/16/2011
Reporting Period: February 14, 2011 to February 16, 2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B491	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:	2/16/2011	Start Date:	2/17/2011
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	MSD990866329	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:	967564	State Notification:	02/15/2011
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

On February 14, 2011, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Response and Removal Branch mobilized to the Kerr McGee Chemical (Columbus) Site, Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi. EPA had returned to the Site to conduct additional sampling as follow-up to the initial Removal Site Evaluation sampling conducted by EPA in October 2010. Upon arriving at the initial property to be sampled, OSC Spurlin was approached by a representative of the property owner. The representative pointed out a pile of soil mixed with waste creosote materials. The material was generated when the property owner scrapped and sold a large culvert which had been removed from a creosote contaminated ditch approximately 12 years earlier. The creosote contaminated soil is located on the property at 716 Waterworks Road, Columbus, Mississippi. The soil pile is uncovered and the area is accessible by neighborhood children.

The property at 716 Waterworks Road is a property suspected to have been impacted by the operations of the former creosote wood treating facility where creosote related hazardous substances were released from the Site into the drainage pathways. The drainage pathways flow through residential and commercial areas, including the 716 Waterworks Road property.

1.1.2 Site Description

The impacted property is a Church. The property is surrounded by residential properties, apartments, and a day-care facility. The property is accessible and past investigations indicate it was impacted by releases from the Kerr-McGee Chemical Site. The Kerr-McGee Chemical (Columbus) Site is comprised of approximately 90 acres, and is located at 2300 North 14th Avenue in Columbus, Mississippi. The facility was operational from approximately 1928 to 2003. While operational, Kerr-McGee manufactured pressure-treated railroad products such as wooden cross ties, switch ties, and timbers. The production processes at the site utilized creosote and creosote coal tar solutions to produce pressure-treated wood products.

1.1.2.1 Location

The location of the emergency action is 716 Waterworks Road, Columbus, Mississippi, but is associated with creosote contamination originating from the Kerr-McGee Chemical Site located at 2300 North 14th Avenue, Columbus, Mississippi.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Hazardous substances associated with the former wood treatment operation has been detected in sediments in the drainage ditches leading from the Site. The waste material to be addressed by the emergency action originated from the ditch, and creosote material is visible in the pile indicating a likelihood of a high level of hazardous substances. The area is not secured and children could come in contact with the material as they pass or play in the area. The waste material is not covered and rain and wind erosion could spread the material increasing the area of potential exposure to anyone nearby.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Based on the presence of high levels of hazardous substances at the surface they may migrate or pose a direct contact threat to nearby residents, the On-Scene Coordinator initiated an emergency response under the OSC warrant authority. An EPA Emergency Response and Remediation Services (ERRS) contract has been tasked to mobilize with appropriate equipment and personnel to address the threats posed by the waste creosote pile.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

ERRS contractor, WRSSCompass, mobilized personnel on February 16, 2011. Equipment will arrive the morning of February 17th. The waste material will be loaded into roll-offs, and transported to the Kerr-McGee facility. The material will remain secured at the facility until disposal arrangements are finalized.

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

No information available at this time.

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.