

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
DIVEX Corporation Explosives Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #2  
On-going Action  
DIVEX Corporation Explosives Site  
04D0  
Columbia, SC  
Latitude: 34.1535980 Longitude: -81.1033090

**To:**  
**From:** Terry Stilman, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 2/23/2011  
**Reporting Period:** 12/22/2010 - 2/23/2011

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	04D0	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>		<b>Start Date:</b>	12/21/2010
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

On December 21, 2010, EPA OSC Stilman mobilized to the Site based on a report of abandoned cylinders and other waste from the defunct explosives manufacturing facility. The Richland County Fire Department requested EPA assistance after discovery of several cylinders and a waste pile from the former facility. The Site was originally referred to EPA in October of 1993 and was the subject of EPA response actions through 1996. The original action involved five properties throughout Richland County, including this property located along Montgomery Road. The Divex Corporation manufactured explosives, including shock sensitives.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located along Montgomery Road, adjacent to one of the former facility buildings in a rural residential area.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The Montgomery Road facility at one point contained over 40,000 pounds of high explosives, including "RDX", "Comp-B", "Octol", "HDX", "Dynamite", "TNT" and ordinances. The facility also contained, gas cylinders, drums, and unknown laboratory chemicals.

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On December 21, 2010, EPA OSC Stilman mobilized to the Site based on a report of abandoned cylinders and other waste from the defunct explosives manufacturing facility. During OSC Stilman's assessment, additional cylinders, a waste pile which included evidence of drum disposal and liquid waste disposal piping not addressed during the previous EPA actions were found. According to the Richland Fire Department, the material is similar in nature to what was found during the 1993 – 1996 action.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

Based on the presence of material, similar in nature to the hazardous substances found on-site in the past

(shock sensitives, explosive compounds, pyrophoric liquids and gases, flammable liquids, air reactives, pyrophoric liquids and gases, oxidizers, poisons A and B, radioactive substances, carcinogens, corrosives, etc.), and the potential for area residents coming in contact with the hazardous substances at this unsecured Site, OSC Stilman determined that a response action is necessary and activated EPA's ERRS contractors to assist.

Between 12/21/10 and 2/21/11 the Richland County Fire Department secured the Site and notified area residents to restrict access. EPA contractor ERS procured a cylinder subcontractor to identify and treat any unknown cylinders.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On 2/21/11, EPA and ERRS arrived on-site to begin excavation of the waste piles under Level B (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus). ERRS also cleared an area around the drain line to allow for easier access. By the afternoon of 2/22/11 the majority of the waste piles were excavated. Crushed drums and other material were removed from the piles and staged for disposal.

On 2/23/11, Richland County Fire Department arrived on-scene to to remotely open the drain line. Given the Site history, there exists the potential for waste water with explosive compounds to have been disposed of in the drain line. Detonating cord was used to successfully open the drain line and treat any residual explosive compounds. ERRS removed the remaining drain line and staged for disposal.

Also on 2/23/11, the ERRS cylinder subcontractor arrived on-scene to address the cylinder found during the initial assessment. The cylinder was discovered to be empty and removed.

During the action EPA conducted air monitoring with the TVA - 1000, MultiRae and Ludlum 19.

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

N/A

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

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

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The remaining waste piles will be investigated. All waste will be staged for disposal.

## 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

EPA - 2  
Richland County Fire Department - 1  
2/23/11 - Richland County (Fire Department, HAZMAT, Bomb Squad) - 53  
ERRS - 4

## 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.

