

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Jasper Municipal Utilities Coal Fire - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial PolRep
Jasper Municipal Utilities Coal Fire
Jasper, IN
Latitude: 38.4004480 Longitude: -86.9149630

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Date: 8/17/2011

Reporting Period: August 16, 2011, 1930 to August 17, 2011, 1500

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead: PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date: 8/16/2011	Start Date:	8/16/2011
Demob Date:	Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:	State Notification:	
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency response - power plant

1.1.2 Site Description

1.1.2.1 Location

The Jasper Municipal Utilities Power Plant is located at 1163 East 15th Street in Jasper, Dubois County, Indiana. Site coordinates are latitude 38.4004480 north and longitude 86.9149630 west. The site is located in a mixed use area, including industrial, residential, and agricultural areas. To the north are industrial factories. To the east is a public riverwalk and agricultural areas. A residence bounds the site to the south. Industrial facilities and residences are located to the west.

The site is a municipally-owned coal-fired power plant. The facility only operates intermittantly.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Coal stored at the Jasper Municipal Utilities Power Plant spontaneously combusted on August 16, 2011. Approximately 200 to 300 tons of coal are stored in a bin inside the plant. The coal cannot be removed and firefighting efforts have not been effective at extinguishing the fire. Current plans are to extinguish the fire by consuming the coal to generate electricity. Facility operators estimate that the coal will be consumed by August 18th.

A plume of smoke is discharging from the facility into the neighborhoring areas. Combustion by-products of

coal include nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

At the request of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting air monitoring. EPA and the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor have deployed AreaRAEs and the Rapid Assessment Tool (RAT). EPA is collecting monitoring data for volatile organic compounds (VOC), sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulates.

EPA has conducted a cursory review of monitoring data and compared the results to action levels provided by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Maximum results were 5.0 parts per million (ppm) for VOC, 0.3 ppm for SO2, 2.8 ppm for NO2, 800 ppm for CO, and 213 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) for particulates. These concentrations do not appear to have been sustained for more than a few minutes. However, EPA is conducting more extensive analysis of the data and comparing the time-weighted averages (TWA) to the action levels.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On August 16, 2011, EPA responded to a fire at the Jasper Municipal Utilities Power Plant at the request of IDEM. EPA is conducting air monitoring and sampling to determine if there is a threat to public health from the uncontrolled combustion of coal.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

For the period from August 16 to 1500 hours on August 17, 2011, EPA conducted the following activities:

- Mobilized two On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) and four START contractors;
- Conducted air monitoring using AreaRAEs and RAT. AreaRAEs were placed in residential and industrial areas. RAT monitoring was conducted downwind and in residential and industrial areas;
- Collected one air sample for laboratory analysis;
- Consulted with ATSDR, Dubois County Health Department, and IDEM regarding action levels and public health;
- Worked with IDEM on obtaining information on other potential sources of air pollution and ambient air quality data;
- Met with city and county officials; and
- Conducted a press conference.

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

Information on the PRP is in the site file.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Not applicable (NA)

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA will continue air monitoring until the coal fire is out.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA will collect additional samples for laboratory analysis.

2.2.2 Issues

None.

2.3 Logistics Section

NA

2.4 Finance Section

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	100.00%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	100.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The OSCs are the overall safety officers for the response. START has prepared a Health and Safety Plan (HASP).

2.6 Liaison Officer

NA

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

OSC Lam and representatives from IDEM and the City of Jasper conducted a press conference at 1400 hours at August 17th. Channel 18 News, WITZ 990 AM, The Herald, Dubois County Free Press, and Ferdinand News attended the press conference and are expected to issue news releases notifying the community of response actions.

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

NA

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

NA

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA is receiving assistance from the following agencies:

IDEM
ATSDR
Dubois County Health Department
City of Jasper

4. Personnel On Site

Personnel are working 12-hour shifts. The following represents a count of the EPA and contract personnel involved in the response.

2 EPA OSC
4 START contractors

5. Definition of Terms

ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CO	Carbon monoxide
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
HASP	Health and Safety Plan
IDEM	Indiana Department of Environmental Management
NA	Not applicable
NO2	Nitrogen dioxide
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PolRep	Pollution Report
ppm	parts per million
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
RAT	Rapid Assessment Tool
SO2	Sulfur dioxide
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
TWA	Time-weighted average
ug/m3	micrograms per cubic meter
VOC	Volatile organic compounds

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

Additional information is located at www.epaosc.org/jmucoalfire.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

The next PolRep will be submitted on August 18th.

7. Situational Reference Materials

NA

POLREP #1 Last Updated 8/17/2011