

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #7
R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response
Edison, NJ
Latitude: 40.5159553 Longitude: -74.3550459

To: Lisa Plevin, US EPA
Judith Enck, US EPA

From: Eric Mosher, Regional Incident Coordinator

Date: 9/1/2011

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority:	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category:
NPL Status:	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date:	Start Date: 8/26/2011
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

INCIDENT CATEGORY

EPA Region 2 is currently responding to threats and actual spills/releases of oil and hazardous substances caused by the impacts of Hurricane Irene which moved through the NJ and NY area on Sunday, August 28, 2011. EPA Region 2 was also activated as part of the Stafford Act Response and is coordinating Emergency Support Function 10 (ESF-10). EPA is responding under its authorities provided by CERCLA and OPA as well as authorized Mission Assignments under the Stafford Act.

INCIDENT LOCATIONS

With the passing of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene, high winds and significant rainfalls have caused widespread infrastructure damage throughout the NJ and NY areas. EPA is currently coordinating and collecting data on the hardest hit impact areas with respect to environmental threats. Tropical storm force winds extended outward up to 320 miles from the storm center and record rainfalls have and are expected to cause significant flooding throughout the Region 2 area.

DESCRIPTION OF THREAT

Environmental threats include possible point-source oil/chemical spills/releases from flooding events and failed infrastructure (power, transportation, etc.). Threats also include possible impacts to drinking water systems due to biological and/or oil/chemical hazards from flood waters.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

EPA Region 2 is currently manning the following coordination centers;

- FEMA R2 RRCC (NYC) – (1) OSC coordinating Mission Assignments and assisting with the Planning efforts in the overall Stafford Act Response.
- NY State EOC (Albany, NY) – (1) OSC coordinating and assisting with State “Requests for Assistance” (RFAs) and updating State elements on EPA Planning and Response Actions.
- NJ State EOC (Trenton, NJ) – (1) OSC coordinating and assisting with State “Requests for Assistance” (RFAs) and updating State elements on EPA Planning and Response Actions.
- EPA Region 2 REOC (Edison, NJ)
 - Coordinating efforts related to operations, planning, resources, and logistics from the REOC.

The REOC is staging and coordinating the deployment of operational resources including EPA ERRS and RST contractor support.

- The REOC is manning the Regional Hotline phone and addressing follow-up and response actions to incidents both related and unrelated to the impacts of Hurricane Irene.
- The REOC is tracking situational information related to RFAs and changing conditions on the ground.

EPA Site Assessment Activities

- NPL sites continue to be evaluated and assessed for any significant impacts related to Hurricane Irene. Region 2 Remedial Program is in the process of coordinating with all RPMs on assessment(s) of NPL sites.
- REOC continues coordinating with OSCs and active sites are being assessed for any significant impacts related to Hurricane Irene.
- RMP Facilities continue to be assessed for any significant impacts related to Hurricane Irene.
- FRP Facilities continue to be assessed for any significant impacts related to Hurricane Irene.

Response Actions and Incident Assessments

NEW JERSEY

Denville Oil Spill, Denville, NJ (Lucarino) - (Ongoing Response, Requested on August 30, 2011)

OSC Lucarino deployed to the site on 8-30-2011. ERRS crews arrived on-site on 08-31-2011. Personnel are recovering product and collecting oil debris from residential properties impacted by flood waters. Work continued on 09-01-2011 with soil scraping on residential properties. Six residential properties contain oil. No pumping of basements and no restoration of lands. Approximately 40yd³ of material collected. Work completed at 1900 hours. Site activities may be completed by September 2, 2011.

Lake Hiawatha Oil Spill, Lake Hiawatha, NJ (Rosoff/ Lucarino) - (Ongoing Response, Requested on August 31, 2011)

NJDEP notified EPA later in the day on 8/31/2011 regarding a possible oil spill in the Lake Hiawatha, NJ Area. The report indicated that flood waters beginning to recede showed significant amounts of oil impacting the area. NJDEP is deploying a contractor to stabilize the area but has requested assistance from EPA. OSC Rosoff responds to the incident on 09-01-2011 with an ERRS strike team. Most homes have outdoor home heating tanks impacted by wind and water. Recovery of free product from surface materials and recovery of product from home heating oil tanks commenced. OSC Lucarino coordinating with local and state officials, NJDEP, DOH, and OEM. Assessments continue of the amount of properties to be addressed in removal action. Approximately 400 homes impacted. Efforts coordinated through NJDEP Command Post.

Mahwah River Oil Spill, Mahwah, NJ (J. Bechtel) – (Ongoing Response, Requested on August 30, 2011)

Oil coated houses. 8 homes and 1 abandoned garage structure that was acquired by the city under tax foreclosure. Homes and garage have been impacted by flood waters containing oil. Oil staining is evident both, inside and outside the 9 structures. Staining noted in driveways and yards. On September 1, 2011 OSCs Chong and Bechtel investigated the area and found debris with oil staining. ERRS crews are on-scene.

West Paterson Oil / McBride Street West Paterson, NJ (Daly, Banner, Maimone) – (Response Needed, Requested on August 31, 2011)

Listed as a high priority case by NJDEP. Sheening found on the water along Passaic River. Impact to numerous homes. OSC Daly investigates the area on 09/01/2011. The area remains under water where homes and an oil facility are located. Will need to conduct tank pump-outs and surface scaping.

Paterson Oil Paterson, NJ (Daly) – (Response Needed, Request on September 1, 2011)

On 09/1/2011 OSC Daly met with NJDEP Anthony Carl to discuss future operations in Paterson, NJ. Along Union Avenue, there are residential properties and a gas station under water. A priority has been placed on this area by NJDEP due to the waters starting to recede.

Totowa Oil Totowa, NJ (Daly) – (Response Needed, Requested on September 1, 2011)

On 09/1/2011 OSC Daly meet with officials from Totowa and NJDEP to investigate a flooded area.

Blackwell Street Oil Dover, NJ (NJDEP) – (Response Needed, Requested on September 1, 2011)

NJDEP responded to an oil spill along Blackwell and Salem Streets in Dover, NJ. A tributary of the Rockaway River was found to have oil in it. Booms and sorbents were placed to contain the ~30 gallons of product, however, resources to recover the material are currently not available. NJDEP requesting EPA to remove the remaining material. Warning: This is a potentially dangerous neighborhood as a homicide occurred the week of September 19.

Saddle River Oil Spill, South Hackensack, NJ (N. Norrell) - (Needs Response, Requested on August 29, 2011)

OSC investigated and determined spill was an unknown type of oil released into the Saddle River. The Saddle River connects directly to the Passaic River west of Garfield. Spill impacted a roadway bridge that passes over the Saddle River where River Road intersects with South Main Street and small tributary to Saddle River. The oil appeared to have been released to the river and impacted the roadway when flood waters crested over the bridge. Local PD have closed the road due to slippery conditions created by the oil. NJDEP contractor conducted cleanup of the roadway and deployed boom along the stream. NJDEP has verbally requested EPA assistance to address visible product on the river banks up-stream and down-stream of the bridge. OSC Norrell revisited the site on 8/30/11 and 8/31/11 to further assess the need and scope for a response.

59 Cedar Water Trail Southampton, NJ (Chong) – (Needs Response, Requested on August 31, 2011)

Site also known as Southampton Marsh Oil Spill. Assessment conducted by OSC Chong on 08/31/2011. NJDEP requested EPA assistance to investigate and remediate a marsh area associated with the Rancocas Creek. Home heating oil has been deposited throughout the marsh. Area is approximately 1000 feet of oil material in standing water, requiring only sorbents.

769 Columbus Rd. Residential Pump-Out/

Rt. 130 Residential Pump-Out (Chong) – (Needs Response, Requested on August 31, 2011)

NJDEP requested OSC assistance to investigate a hardship case where water may need to be pumped out of a basement. OSC Chong investigated on 08-31-2011. Oil/water mixture in basement and oil remaining in tank need to be removed.

Morris County Household Hazardous Waste – (Needs Response, Unknown Request)

There is a potential that EPA will be requested to establish and manage a HHW staging area in Morris County.

NEW YORK

Tuxedo Oil Spill, Tuxedo Park, NY (Needs Assessment, Requested on August 29, 2011)

SOS fuel oil spill – Needs to be assessed by EPA. NYSDEC has contractors on site. Oil is being removed from containment and from trucks. Contractor is also addressing issues downstream. A 1,500-gallon fuel additive truck was washed by flood waters ¼ mile into wooded area. That is being pumped out by contractors. The community adjacent to the spill across the Mahwah River are complaining of odors. NYSDEC walked through the community and noted odors, but did not observe any sheening or staining.

Late 8-30-2011, NYSDEC was able to stick the 250K tank. Findings indicate approximately 20K gallons of product with 8 inches of water underneath. Inventory states a little over 35K gallons, so NYSDEC is confirming a minimum loss of 15K gallons of heating oil in initial flood prior to the dispenser valve shut off. Inspections show the tank shifted and rotated approximately 6 feet. On 8-31-2011, NYSDEC contractors will draw down the remaining 20K gallons of product since the integrity of the tank is unknown.

Harbor House Restaurant Piermont, NY – (Needs Assessment, Requested on 08-29-2011)

Over 800 gallons of cooking grease has spilled and impacted various residential properties, along with the restaurant. The property owner has refused to perform a cleanup.

CLOSED AND ADDRESSED INVESTIGATIONS AND RESPONSES

Pompton Lakes Ramapo River Oil/

Pompton Lakes Property Owner Odor Complaint Pompton Lakes, NJ

(Staiger/Bechtel/Chong) – (Completed, Requested on August 30, 2011 and completed on September 1, 2011)

Property owner (Ms. Martens) called the REOC and stated that there was an oil spill on the lake near the house. OSC Staiger called the property owner on 8-30-2011 and left several messages. On 08-31-2011, OSC Staiger spoke with Ms. Martens where the following was learned : a strong, overwhelming odor was coming from the Falls at Pompton Lakes. Ms. Martens stated she noticed the odor on Monday August 29, 2011, as she was crossing the bridge by the Falls. She believes the bridge is Hamburg Turnpike (cross street Terhune Drive). Ms. Martens also stated that the Ramapo River feeds into Pompton Lake, indicating that the source may be from somewhere up the River. OSC Chong responds to Pompton Lakes on 09-01-2011 with an ERRS crew, containing a vacuum truck and

various personnel. After surveying the Lake and various sections of town near the Lake, no oil or odors were noticed by the OSC or contractors. Contact with Ms. Martens was attempted, but only a message was left. CIC Seppi is going to the area to distribute fact sheets generated on EPA's efforts for Hurricane Irene Response.

Stage 1 Auto Spill, Pompton Lakes, NJ (Bechtel / Chong) – (Completed, Requested on August 30, 2011 and closed on September 1, 2011)

NJDEP requested EPA assistance. Spill at 422 State Rte 23, Stage 1 Auto. OSC Bechtel met NJDEP on site August 30, 2011. The OSC observed a diesel fuel spill into the Lake. Sorbent pads have been placed by NJDEP. Oiled vegetation and spill into lake need to be addressed. OSCs Chong responded with ERRS crew on 09-01-2011. Upon further investigation, it was determined that EPA assistance was no longer warranted.

254 Central West Caldwell West Caldwell, NJ (Norrell) – (Completed, Requested on August 31, 2011 and closed on September 1, 2011)

Leaking oil tank appears to be impacting several residential properties and into the river. OSC Norrell responds on 09-01-2011. OSC found an oil tank at a multi-home property. The material is actually iron-fixing bacteria. A discussion with the tenants dictate that the tank has been empty for years. Pads located near a storm drain that were placed by the fire department on 08/31/2011 did not show signs of oil. An investigation of nearby streams indicated no oil present.

626 Cedar Avenue Franklinville, NJ (Glenn) - (Completed, Requested on September 1, 2011 and completed on September 1, 2011)

NRC called regarding a private citizen complaint of a contractor pumping oily water out of vacant basement. On September 1, 2011 OSC Glenn contacted the property owner and obtained information regarding the vacant home and contractor caring for it. The home is owned by Bank of America and Shook Contracting takes care of the property. The fire department told the contractor to pump out the water from the bottom and monitor what is coming out. The fire department monitored the air for entry. The local police were called by the caller and contractor was told to cease operations under local HazMat can give an answer.

Parsippany Odor Complaint (Glenn) - (Completed, Requested on August 30, 2011 and closed on September 1, 2011)

Call into NRC regarding an oil odor complaint at residential property. On August 31, 2011 OSC Glenn contacted the property owner and left a message. On September 1, 2011 the OSC spoke with the caller and the odor is gone. Caller stated that he is concerned about the quality of the water and soil wondering if materials have migrated or been absorbed. He was directed to contact local authorities for additional information.

Below are two summary tables (NY and NJ) of Incident Reports as of 1400 on 9/1/2011. The table includes their status and materials involved;

New Jersey Incidents	Incident Status				
Material Type	Assessed	Closed	Managed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	2	3	1	7	13
Other				1	1
Grand Total	2	3	1	8	14

New York Incidents	Incident Status		
Material Type	Closed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	2	2	4
Grand Total	2	2	4

Water and Waste Water Facility Assessment

EPA has received a Mission Assignment, for \$300,000, to conduct assessments of WWTP facilities in the State of New York. A signed mission assignment was received on 9/1/2011.

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) Cleanup

Discussions are occurring between EPA and the NYDEC regarding EPA assistance with the set up and possible collection and disposal of HHW. At this point in time these discussion include the following counties in New York; Delaware, Green, and Schoharie.

The NJ DEP has requested EPA assistance in establishing and operating collection areas for HHW in the Morris County, NJ area. This activity will be done under Mission Assignment 3332EM-NJ-EPA-02.

2.2 Planning Section

- REOC is currently working on resource plans to include EPA personnel and contractor resources.
- REOC is coordinating / contacting additional Region 2 Programs for support related assessment of other program facilities (drinking water, waste water, RCRA TSDs, etc.)
- REOC is drafting SOWs and TDDs for ERRS and RST Contractor Support
- REOC implementing cost tracking measures for incident response actions.
- REOC working on a data management planning in anticipation of large data collection needs arising later in the week.

2.3 Logistics Section

Major impacts to property and infrastructure throughout the region may cause impacts to response actions and or response personnel availability.

EPA ERRS crews have been deployed to priority field operations. The REOC continues to plan and order ERRS resources as the funding is available and the need arises.

The REOC in Edison, NJ is fully operational and at this point in time, no forward command posts have been established.

FEMA has not yet established a Joint Field Operations (JFO) Office in NJ and/or NY

2.4 Finance Section

EPA continues to work on the establishment of Mission Assignments and securing the appropriate funding level to conduct and maintain response efforts requested by state partners.

Current Mission Assignments

Region, State	Agreement #	Agreement Date	Agreement Amount	Purpose
Region 2, New York	3328EM-NY-EPA-01	8/28/2011	\$35,000	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NY
Region 2 New York	4020DR-NY-EPA-01	9/1/2011	\$300,000	Conduct Assessments of WWTPs
Region 2, New Jersey	3332EM-NJ-EPA-01	8/29/2011	\$10,000	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NJ
Region 2 New Jersey	3332EM-NJ-EPA-02	8/30/2011	\$508,000	Conduct oil and hazmat field operations, response to orphan containers and HHW in NJ
TOTAL			\$853,000	

Current Mission Assignments and Cost Burn

Agreement #	Agreement Amount	Expenditures to Date	Estimated Daily Cost Burn	Purpose
3328EM-NY-EPA-01	\$35,000	\$7,800	\$1,560	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NY
4020DR-NY-EPA-01	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	Conduct Assessments of WWTPs
3332EM-NJ-EPA-01	\$10,000	\$7,800	\$1,560	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NJ
3332EM-NJ-EPA-02	\$508,000	\$90,500	\$45,450	Conduct oil and hazmat field operations, response to orphan containers and HHW in NJ

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

An Incident Safety Officer has been assigned. A draft Health and Safety Plan has been developed and pending review and signature of the IC.

2.6 Liaison Officer

A Liaison Officer has not yet been assigned however coordination activities are being done at several locations and with multiple Federal and State Agencies.

2.7 Information Officer

Response operations and planning information are being provided to the EPA Public Affairs Division. Patricia (Pat) Seppi has been identified as the Incident Information Officer. Pat Seppi can be reached at **646-369-0068**. The Information Officer has been working on the following items and issues;

- Responding to press requests from information concerning impacts to NPL sites, removal sites and other facilities
- Assisted in developing spread sheet of NPL sites and other facilities to track site conditions
- Developing and distributing flyers for oil spill info, HHW collection and others as needed
- Attending daily strategy and planning meetings

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA currently coordinating with FEMA, NYS DEC, NYC DEP, NJ DEP, NYSEMO, NJOEM

4. Personnel On Site

Region/State	Current EPA Personnel In Field (All Venues other than EPA Offices)	Current EPA Contractor Personnel In Field	EPA Personnel in REOC	Contractor Personnel in REOC	Total

Region 2			18	5	23
New York	4	0			4
New Jersey	7	9			16
Total	11	9	18	5	43

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

WEBSITE: <http://www.epaosc.org/R2HurricaneIreneResponse>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EPAOSC.NET:

If you do not have a password or have never used the EPAOSC.net website before, you will need to click the login button on the top right of the web page. Once on the login page, you will need to click on REGISTER HERE, provide the information requested and submit. This submits your request to ERT, and they will generate a user ID and password for you to enter the private side of the Website. In less than 10 minutes after registering, you should receive an e-mail from ERT SUPPORT providing the information (login and password). At this point you can then enter the website: www.epaosc.net, click on log in, then enter your information. Once logged in, click on websites, then click on Region 2. The Hurricane Irene website should be one of the first ten websites that pop up, if not, you can scroll down to find the site. Click on R2 Hurricane Irene. Once on the site, you can navigate to the documents that will be stored there.

If you find that you are having trouble viewing the website, please give the EPA duty officer a call at (732) 906-6850

EPA Edison REOC:	732-906-6850
Afterhours Notifications, National Response Center (NRC):	800-424-8802
Regional Incident Commander (RIC), James Daloia	908-420-4505
NYC EOC (Albany), Michael Solecki, OSC	908-420-4501
NJ EOC (Trenton), Carl Pellegrino, OSC	908- 420-4491
FEMA District 1 RRCC (NYC), Steve Touw, OSC	908-420-4458
NYC EOC - EPA not requested at this time	

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Situation Reports are planned for release at 1630 on a daily basis.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.

POLREP #7 Last Updated 9/3/2011