

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 #15
EPA Operations Continue in Response to hurricane Irene
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: 9/9/2011

Reporting Period: 09/09/2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Operations in NJ continued with field activities in Bergen, Passaic, and Morris Counties as a result of Hurricane Irene. Much focus was placed on the collection of HHW from municipality operated staging areas and transport to the Dover HHW processing area. Management of booming strategies throughout Mahwah and South Hackensack continued. Reconnaissance of Passaic and Morris Counties continued in efforts to locate an additional HHW and orphan container processing area. In Riverdale, EPA continued to host a bulk liquids and contaminated solids drop location for field crews.

Following a suspension of activities yesterday due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, operations in New York recommenced. Curb-side collection of HHW occurred in towns located in Schoharie County, one of the worst hit areas of New York State. EPA continued to work with local authorities on manning numerous HHW staging sites in Delaware, Greene, and Schoharie Counties.

As a result of former Tropical Storm Lee, many rivers throughout New Jersey and New York are swollen with rising waters that have yet to crest. Lands situated along the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers in NY and along the Delaware and Passaic Rivers in NJ were the hardest hit. Assessments and reconnaissance missions in these areas have been requested by State partners, however field actions are limited due to accessibility and safety concerns. Mission Assignments through FEMA for operations in New York are expected to be received within the next few operational periods, as an Emergency Declaration has been announced. EPA coordinated with the National Pollution Funds Center to issue a Federal Pollution Number which will provide funding for responding to TS Lee issues in New Jersey.

With the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks in New York, EPA is remaining vigilant on activities throughout the area. The REOC maintains contact with federal and local partners for receiving and disseminating situational awareness information. Contingency Plans for dealing with any type of terrorist activity or area disturbances have been generated by the REOC. Communication with the Headquarters EOC in Washington, DC will continue over the next following days.

Tropical Storm Maria is expected to impact parts of the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico throughout the weekend. The center of the storm is currently modeled to travel between St. Croix and St. John on Saturday evening and move along the northeast coast of Puerto Rico. Tropical Storm Warnings have been issued for the USVI and Tropical Storm Watches have been issued for Puerto Rico. The REOC has developed a Contingency Plan for dealing with any

aftermath of the storm. Three OSCs with limited capabilities are scheduled to be in the USVI during the storm. Two OSCs are scheduled to be in Puerto Rico during the storm.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

OPERATIONS

Emergency Response Task Force

- The Task Force was not activated.

NEW JERSEY RESPONSE ACTIONS

Most rivers impacted by the remnants of TS Lee, including the Delaware River, have started to recede. The exception is the Passaic River, which has yet to crest in Little Falls and Pine Brook.

Passaic County

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- EPA continued to manage sorbent boom and pads near the Presidential Boulevard area of West Paterson.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- EPA continues reconnaissance for a HHW staging area in Passaic County.
- Clifton – The municipality is operating a HHW staging area. EPA is transporting materials from the township to the Dover HHW staging and processing facility.
- Pompton Lakes – The municipality is operating a HHW collection point from curbside pickup. EPA is transporting materials to the Dover HW facility.

Bergen County

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- EPA continued to manage booming strategies in Mahwah, near Jersey Avenue.
- EPA continued to manage booming strategies in South Hackensack along the Saddle River.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- No HHW staging areas have been established by EPA in Bergen County.

Morris County

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- Response and recovery activities were not requested in Morris County.

Household Hazardous Waste / Bulk Liquid Collection and Disposal

- Dover - The HHW staging and processing facility continued to receive materials from the tri-county area. Preparations continued for personnel to characterize the hazardous materials being brought in. Bulking of materials commenced.
- Riverdale - The bulk storage collection area continued to receive materials.
- Whippany – The liquid bulk collection area is no longer receiving materials and is awaiting removal.
- Lake Hiawatha – The municipality is collecting and staging HHW. EPA collected materials and transported them to the Dover HHW staging area.
- Denville - The municipality is collecting and staging HHW. EPA collected materials and transported them to the Dover HHW staging area.

Below is a summary table for NJ Incident Reports as of 1420 on 9/9/2011. The table includes their status and materials involved.

New Jersey Incidents	Incident Status			
	Closed	Managed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	30	5	4	39
Other				
Haz		2		2
Grand Total	30	7	4	41

NEW YORK RESPONSE ACTIONS

Emergency Response Task Force

- NRC Report # 988943 was received regarding a 1500 pound propane tank released in the Hudson River. A crew is expected to assess the tank on September 10, 2011. The tank has rested in Catskills, NY.

NYSDEC Region 4 Area

NYSDEC Region 4 area includes the following counties; Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Albany, Schenectady, Otsego, Montgomery, Rensselaer, and Columbia Counties. EPA's primary work areas have been in the counties of Greene, Schoharie, and Delaware, however EPA continues to coordinate with other counties in this DEC Region.

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- Conducted curbside pickup of HHW in Schoharie, Middleburgh, Central Bridge, Livingstonville, and Preston Hollow (all located in Schoharie County). Materials were transported to the Howes Cave HHW facility.
- Orphan containers and HHW continued to be recovered from Prattsville.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Greene County
 - Hunter, NY – Facility was operational.
 - Windham, NY – Facility was operational.
 - Catskill, NY – Facility was operational.
 - Prattsville, NY – Facility was operational.
- Delaware County
 - Fleishmanns – Facility was operational.
 - Arkville – Facility was operational.
- Schoharie County
 - Howes Cave - HHW staging area is operational and receiving materials from ERRS crews.
 - Schoharie Debris Pile – Crews continued to segregate and containerize HHW received into the yard and located throughout the pile. Materials were then transported to the Howes Cave HHW.

NYSDEC Region 5 Area

NYSDEC Region 5 area includes the following counties; Essex, Clinton, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren, Saratoga, Washington, and Fulton. EPA is conducting its initial assessment and coordinating with state and county officials in Region 5.

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- EPA continues to collect orphan containers and HHW in towns throughout Essex County.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Au Sable Forks, NY – The facility was operational.
- Elizabethtown, NY – The facility continues to be established and is not yet operational.

NYSDEC Region 7 Area

EPA is awaiting receipt of Mission Assignments for response to the aftermath of the remnants of TS Lee. This information will be conveyed in Situation Reports/Pollution Reports relating to such.

Below is a summary table for NY Incident Reports as of 1420 on 9/9/2011. The table includes their status and materials involved.

New York Incidents	Incident Status			
	Closed	Managed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	5		5	10
Other	1			1
Haz	10	1	1	12
Grand Total	16	1	6	23

CUMULATIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE SUMMERY TABLE

Below is a summery table indicating the amount of containers collected through HHW and orphan

container recovery efforts. This data was collected at 1200 on 09/09/2011 and does not reflect containers collected 09/09/2011 (see footnote).

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary				Operational Period: 09/07/2011 - 09/08/2011			
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative
New York	0	2	3	1	230	236	8442
New Jersey	0	6	0	1	1116	1123	6590
Op-Period Totals	0	8	3	2	1346	1359	15032
Cumulative Totals	0	8	3	2	1346	1359	15032
Grand Total	1359						
Grand Cumulative	15032						

Note: Numbers listed in the table are accurate at the time of delivery of this report. Field crews sometimes transfer numbers following the reporting period and delivery of the Situation Report/Pollution Report. As a result, daily totals may change in future reports to capture all containers collected for that operational period.

EPA REGION 2 COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

EPA Region 2 is currently manning the following coordination centers;

- **FEMA R2 RRCC (NYC)** – (0) The RRCC has been closed for Hurricane Irene issues, but has been activated for TS Maria in the Caribbean. EPA is not manning the RRCC, but is in close communication.
- **FEMA IMAT (Albany, NY)** – (1) OSC coordinating and assisting with State “Requests for Assistance” (RFAs) and updating State elements on EPA Planning and Response Actions.
- **NY Joint Field Office (Albany, NY)** – (1) OSC is posted in the JFO to coordinate activities in NY relating to Hurricane Irene activities.
- **NJ Joint Field Office (Neptune, NJ)** – (1) OSC is posted in the JFO to coordinate activities with government partners relating to Hurricane Irene activities.
- **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.

2.2 Planning Section

EPA continued to staff the Region 2 Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC). An Incident Management Team (IMT) continues to work with ERRS Managers, ERRS Field Cost Accountants, and RST support. All coordination at the regional level, including drinking water, wastewater, RCRA, TSDs, and other issues, are facilitated through the REOC. All cost tracking is being conducted at the REOC. The REOC will staff the incident through December 2011 to ensure the coverage of operational activities and maintain appropriate rest periods for all responding personnel.

2.3 Logistics Section

Activities continued for the establishment of HHW sites in NJ. ERRS received (4) 18’ john boats while RST ordered (6) GPS units, (9) MutliRaes & (9) Ludlums for staff use in the field. All pending equipment requests have been procured or are in the final stages of procurement.

2.4 Finance Section

EPA continues to track costs and monitor funding levels against FEMA Mission Assignments. Current Mission Assignments and Estimated Expenditures and Daily Cost Burn as of 09/09/2011 @ 1200;

Region, State	Agreement #	Agreement Date	Current Ceiling	Costs Incurred To Date	Estimated Burn Rate (\$/day)	Purpose
Region 2, New York	3328EM-NY-EPA-01	8/28/2011	\$35,000	\$35,000	NA	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NY
Region 2,	4020DR-	9/2/2011	\$250,000	\$163,262	\$18,979	ESF-10 EOC

New York	NY-EPA-03					deployment and assessment assistance in NY
Region 2, New Jersey	3332EM-NJ-EPA-01	8/29/2011	\$10,000	\$10,000	NA	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NJ
Region 2, New Jersey	4021DR-NJ-EPA-01	9/2/2011	\$250,000	\$9,000	\$1,050	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NJ
Region 2 New Jersey	3332EM-NJ-EPA-02	8/30/2011	\$2,000,000	\$478,740	\$31,989	Conduct oil and hazmat field operations, response to orphan containers and HHW in NJ
Region 2 New York	4020DR-NY-EPA-02	9/2/2011	\$1,000,000	\$349,976	\$42,375	Conduct oil and hazmat field operations, response to orphan containers and HHW in NY
Region 2 New York	4020DR-NY-EPA-01	9/1/2011	\$300,000	\$8,650	\$1,580	Conduct assessments of WWTPs
			\$3,845,000			

 Mission Assignment Funds Depleted

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The daily safety message is posted on the regional incident website:

<http://www.epaosc.org/R2HurricaneIreneResponse>. The site specific HASP for the Passaic County operations is being prepared and will be under review by the close of business today and finalized by tomorrow. Site specific HASPs will continue to be developed as new locations and/or operations are identified. Coordination is ongoing with the different power companies to develop procedures to pull meters on an emergency basis if required.

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

Pat Seppi is the Public Information Officer and can be reached at 646-369-0068. David Kluesner (908-420-7261) was acting. No CICs were deployed into the field during the reporting period. The PIO worked on the following:

- Larisa Romanowski 515-703-0101, CIC for NYSDEC Region 4 has been delayed until 09/13/2011

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Unified Command is currently not activated at this level.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA is currently coordinating with FEMA, NYS DEC, NYS DOH, 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			13	30	43
New York	4	51			55
New Jersey	7	31			38
Total	13	82	13	30	136

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 the 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 contact the EPA duty officer at (732) 906-6850

EPA Edison REOC	732-906-6850
Afterhours Notifications, National Response Center (NRC)	800-424-8802
Regional Incident Commander (RIC) for NY, James Daloia	908-420-4505
Regional Incident Commander (RIC) for NJ, Christopher Jimenez	908-420-4484
FEMA IMAT (Albany), Dwayne Harrington, OSC	908-420-4492
NJ EOC (Trenton), Ellen Banner	908- 420-4462
FEMA District 1 RRCC (NYC), Steve Touw, OSC	908-420-4458

6.2 Reporting Schedule

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

7. Situational Reference Materials

News reports are indicating threats in New York due to the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Region 2 REOC has generated Contingency Plans for responding to hazards associated with any type of incidents.

Tropical Storm Maria is in the Leeward Islands and expected to impact Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands on Saturday September 10, 2011. EPA Region 2 REOC has developed Contingency Plans for dealing with environmental impacts associated with TS Maria. The airport in St. Croix is expected to close on Saturday September 10, 2011 at 1100 hours. The Governor has issued a curfew for Saturday night into Sunday morning.

General Weather:

- Rain is not predicted in the general work areas of New York and New Jersey. Temperatures will vary from the high 50s in NY to the low 80s in NJ.