

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 #23  
Progress Continues  
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:** 9/18/2011

**Reporting Period:** 09/17/2011 through 09/18/2011

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b> Stafford Act	<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> 8/26/2011
<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>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Jersey operations continued on a steady path with managing events at the HHW staging and processing facilities in Dover and Paterson. The NJ Strike Team was activated on September 17, 2011 to respond to a mercury release at an elementary school in Woodland Park, NJ. The incident occurred when a locally run cleanup operation, to address impacts as a result of Hurricane Irene, resulted in the damage of mercury containing thermometers. Cleanup operations at the school continued on September 18, 2011.

Activities in New York relating to Hurricane Irene operations also continued on a steady path. Efforts in recovery of HHW increased in Sidney, located in Delaware County. On September 17, 2011 volunteers in the county assisted residents with property cleanups. EPA increased its crew sizes in anticipation of high volumes of HHW being brought into the county collection areas.

EPA continued assessments and recovery operations in the Broome and Tioga County areas as a result of Tropical Storm Lee. NYSDEC recently distributed a fact sheet discussing the segregation of wastes, including HHW and electronic waste. Although EPA is providing a staging area for E-Goods, NYSDEC has taken the role of collecting, recycling, and disposing of these materials as EPA does not have a Mission Assignment for such activity. EPA's current position and Mission Assignment is to recovery, manage, and dispose of HHW only. The fact sheet references the EPA Region 2 Ombudsman phone number as point of contact to schedule a curbside pickup if residents are unable to drop off at one of the EPA established collection areas. A number of calls continued to be received from residents within the two counties for HHW collection.

The REOC investigated concerns of potential releases from Superior Well Service, a facility specializing in well fracking, sealing, and closing located in Owego, NY. Although the facility was inundated with flood waters, results of the September 17<sup>th</sup> investigation indicated no environmental impacts to immediate or surrounding properties.

EPA continued with utilizing a Community Relations plan throughout New York and New Jersey. Many flyers detailing EPA activities, HHW collection points, informational bulletins, and contact mechanisms have been distributed. Community Involvement Coordinators have been to hundreds of residential homes as well as community centers, emergency management centers, and businesses. Radio announcements and television public service announcements have been generated and distributed. EPA OSCs and CICs continued coordination of public meetings and outreach activities.

#### **CURRENT ISSUES**

- The EPA financial system will be in transition during the month of October. The response is currently working the paperwork necessary to sustain the response into November.
- EPA is pursuing a DOT waiver for transport of hazardous materials during recovery efforts in the TS Lee impacted areas.
- On 9-18-11 the REOC received notice that EPA was issued a drinking water assessment Mission Assignment for TS Lee for \$300K. The MA is dated 9/12/11. FEMA or ESF #3 had not notified us of this MA. We will begin the process of mobilizing a drinking water assessment team and pursue with FEMA and ESF #3 the deployment of a joint assessment team to the impact area.

#### **LONG TERM ISSUES**

- Determine the administrative process to address unexpected incidents or emergency responses should they arise during the financial system transition. The processing of TAs, contractor paperwork, procurement requests, etc. will not be possible during October. A process is needed to address those tasks for the unexpected incidents that may happen and cannot be currently anticipated.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **HURRICANE IRENE OPERATIONS (NJ/NY)**

#### **NEW JERSEY RESPONSE ACTIONS**

##### Emergency Response Task Force

- The Task Force was activated on September 17<sup>th</sup> to address a mercury spill at Memorial School, an elementary school located at 15 Memorial Drive, Woodland Park, NJ. The physical location of the school is at the corner of McBride Avenue and Memorial Drive. A school cleanup technician dropped a box of rechargeable batteries onto a box of beaker type thermometers. Approximately 12 thermometers were in the damaged box and approximately 3-4 thermometers were broken. The impacted boxes (thermometers and batteries) were contained and recovered by EPA crews working in Passaic County and the NJ Strike Team responded to conduct air monitoring via a Lumex mercury vapor analyzer. The initial response and air monitoring event indicated slightly elevated levels of mercury within the room in which the release occurred. On September 18<sup>th</sup> the Task Force commenced the cleaning of the classroom with mercury vacuums and utilizing a mercury chelating agent cleaning solution. The room was secured and operations will continue into the next operational period. Activities will be performed in the evening after school operating hours.

##### Passaic County

##### Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- HHW was collected from the municipalities of Paterson and Wayne. Materials were sent to the Paterson HHW staging and processing area.
- EPA continued to coordinate with Totawa officials for the recovery of HHW.

##### Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Paterson – Facility was operational and received material from surrounding communities. Daily perimeter air monitoring continued with results indicating nothing above background.

##### Morris County

##### Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- No response or recovery actions taken.

#### Household Hazardous Waste / Bulk Liquid Collection and Disposal

- Dover – Working with county officials, the HHW staging and processing facility received materials from municipalities throughout Morris County. Segregation and categorization of materials continued as materials were bulked and hazcatted. This facility has received on 21,000 gallon frac tank from the Riverdale facility and is prepared to accept bulk waste oils from response operations. Disposal of wastes are scheduled to commence on 09/19/2011.
- Whippany – No activities occurred at this bulk waste storage area.

Below is a summary table for NJ Incident Reports associated with Irene as of 1335 on 9/18/2011. The table includes their status and materials involved.

New Jersey Incidents	Incident Status			
	Closed	Managed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	45	2	0	47
Haz	1	2	0	3
Grand Total	46	4	0	50

#### NEW YORK RESPONSE ACTIONS

##### NYSDEC Region 4 Area

##### Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- Curbside pick-up of HHW continued in Gallupville, Schoharie, and Middleburgh.
- Continued with HHW assistance in the Village of Unadilla in Otsego County, recovery of HHW that was dropped-off in their village location. Many volunteers were on site to assist the local residents in recovery. EPA increased its crew size in preparation of the volunteer assistance.
- EPA Special Ops Team conducted assessment and recovery operations of impacted orphan oil tanks. Areas covered included Esperance, Middleburgh, Fort Hunter, Pittstown, and Oak Hill.
- EPA conducted curbside collection of HHW in several residential communities including Pattersonville, Rotterdam Junction, Niskayuna, Scotia, Glenville, and Schenectady.
- Operations in Sidney increased due to a community volunteer program for organizing residential debris.

##### Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Greene County
  - Hunter – Facility was operational and is scheduled for closure on 09/24/2011.
  - Windham – Facility was operational and is scheduled for closure on 09/24/2011.
  - Catskill – Facility was operational and is scheduled for closure on 09/24/2011. The facility was not accepting material on 09/18/2011.
  - Prattsville – Facility was operational. The facility was not accepting material on 09/18/2011.
- Delaware County
  - Arkville – The last day for public use at the facility was 09/18/2011. The facility will no longer be accepting material.
  - Sidney – Facility was operational and is scheduled to commence transport and disposal within the next operational period.
- Schoharie County
  - Howes Cave – This central HHW staging area for the NYSDEC Region 4 area was operational and receiving materials. Preparations have commenced for the transport and disposal of bulk material.
  - Schoharie Debris Pile – This is the central staging area for all debris in the Village of Schoharie. Crews continued to segregate and containerize HHW that was received.

##### NYSDEC Region 5 Area

##### Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- EPA continued HHW collection in the town of Jay, NY.
- EPA continued with orphan container reconnaissance and recovery in the area of Au Sable Chasm.
- Operations were temporarily suspended on 09/18/2011.

##### Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Lewis – Facility was operational.

Below is a summary table for NY Incident Reports associated with Irene as of 1335 on 9/18/2011. The table includes their status and materials involved.

New York Incidents Material Type	Incident Status			
	Closed	Managed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	7	5	0	12
Haz	12	3	0	15
Grand Total	19	8	0	27

**CUMULATIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE SUMMERY TABLE – HURRICANE IRENE**

Below is a summery table indicating the amount of containers collected through HHW and orphan container recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Irene. This data was collected at 1335 on 09/18/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary						Operational Period: 09/17/2011	
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative
New York	4	6	0	2	1551	1563	26587
New Jersey	0	8	0	3	435	446	20360
Op-Period Totals	4	14	0	5	1986		
Cumulative Totals	139	569	114	180	45945		
Grand Total	<b>2009</b>						
Grand Cumulative	<b>46947</b>						

Note: Numbers listed in the table are accurate at the time of delivery of this report. Field crews sometimes transfer numbers following the end of the reporting period due to communication issues. As a result, daily totals may change in future reports to capture all containers collected for that operational period. Because of this, operational period totals do not reflect true count numbers due to late reporting. However, the grand cumulative numbers are accurate at the time this report.

**TROPICAL STORM LEE (New York ONLY)**

EPA was notified that a Mission Assignment had been finalized for assessments of drinking water facilities as a result of TS Lee. The REOC contacted regional resources to obtain assets for deployments on 09/19/2011. The REOC has reached out to the IMAT and Binghamton EOC for determination of priority facilities.

**NYSDEC Region 7 Area**

- EPA continued to coordinate with NYSDEC and other officials in Broome and Tioga Counties to determine locations of HHW and orphan container processing areas.
- The Ombudsman and REOC continued to receive calls from residents requesting HHW curbside assistance. To date, thirty-four calls were received from the Broome/Tioga County Area. All calls were passed to OSCs working in those areas.
- The REOC was asked to look into conditions at the Superior Well Service facility in Owego, NY. Inquiries and field observations indicated the following: Superior Well Service is a well sealing company. This facility experienced minor, scattered oil stains that appeared to have originated from their truck maintenance shop. These small spills have been addressed with no environmental impacts. The facility has an inventory of fracking fluids on site but these fluids are stored in a metal cage inside enclosed plastic containers. These fluids were not impacted by TS Lee flooding. The facility has an inventory of explosive materials as well as the required permits to store and use these materials. EPA was in contact with the ATF and Endicott Bomb Squad representatives and learned that no assistance by EPA was requested or needed.
- NYSDEC provided EPA with results of reconnaissance missions along the Susquehanna River. A 40 mile stretch was surveys from Owego to the PA state border. Out of the subject area, 53 target locations were identified for orphan container recovery.
- EPA performed reconnaissance activities along the Susquehanna River west of

Tioga, and from the PA border north to Doraville, and along the Chenango and tributaries north to Greene and Whitney Point.

- On 09/16/2011 a public meeting was held in Owego, NY and attended by elected officials, government representatives, and the communities of Tioga County. EPA OSCs and CICs attended the meeting. The community had concerns over media attention, scavengers, and the ~1500 homes impacted. EPA was well received and conveyed information to the public.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal**

- Binghamton – The HHW staging area was operational.
- Owego – The HHW staging area was operational.
- Vestal – The HHW staging area was operational.
- Endicott/Endwell – The HHW staging area was operational.

**CUMULATIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE SUMMERY TABLE – TROPICAL STORM LEE**

Below is a summery table indicating the amount of containers collected through HHW and orphan container recovery efforts in response to Tropical Storm Lee. This data was collected at 1335 on 09/18/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary					Operational Period: 09/17/2011		
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative
New York	9	126	0	0	11237	11372	21933
Op-Period Totals	9	126	0	0	11237		
Cumulative Totals	33	223	0	233	21444		
Grand Total	<b>11372</b>						
Grand Cumulative	<b>21933</b>						

Note: Numbers listed in the table are accurate at the time of delivery of this report. Field crews sometimes transfer numbers following the end of the reporting period due to communication issues. As a result, daily totals may change in future reports to capture all containers collected for that operational period. Because of this, operational period totals do not reflect true count numbers due to late reporting. However, the grand cumulative numbers are accurate at the time this report.

**EPA REGION 2 COORDINATION ACTIVITIES**

EPA Region 2 is currently manning the following coordination centers;

- Binghamton EOC (Binghamton, NY) – Coordination with the Binghamton EOC is being done remotely via the REOC and via OSCs currently working in the Broome / Tioga County area.
- FEMA IMAT (Albany, NY) – (1) OSC coordinating with the State and FEMA on increases to existing Mission Assignments and processing of Mission Assignments for TS Lee NY.
- 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**

The Region 2 Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) is finalizing a letter to notify municipalities on the closure of HHW collection areas. The letter identifies the transition plan from an EPA managed HHW collection site back to a local or county run collection site. The letter is in the review process.

REOC continues to work on securing DOT Waivers for the transport of HHW and Orphan containers to collection areas related to the TS Lee response efforts. Requests have been sent.

REOC continues working on long term staffing needs as well as transition plans to state, county, and local entities where appropriate.

### 2.3 Logistics Section

Additional resources have been ordered and deployed to the Binghamton area to assist with initial reconnaissance missions, recovery of oil/hazardous materials, and orphan containers. Additional resources were requested for Schenectady County to assist with a community volunteer debris organization event.

### 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 09/18/2011 @ 1400;

<b>HURRICANE IRENE (NY/NJ)</b>						
<b>Region, State</b>	<b>Agreement #</b>	<b>Agreement Date</b>	<b>Agreement Amount</b>	<b>Costs Incurred To Date</b>	<b>Estimated Burn Rate (\$/day)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Region 2, New York	3328EM-NY-EPA-01 Expires 9/1/11	8/28/2011	\$35,000	\$35,000	NA	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NY
Region 2, New York	4020DR-NY-EPA-03 expires 10/31/11	9/2/2011	\$750,000	\$261,606	\$15,388	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NY
Region 2, New Jersey	3332EM-NJ-EPA-01 Expires 10/27/11	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 Expires 10/31/11	9/2/2011	\$250,000	\$78,569	\$4,910	ESF-10 EOC deployment and assessment assistance in NJ
Region 2 New Jersey	3332EM-NJ-EPA-02 Expires 10/29/11	8/30/2011	\$508,000	\$508,000	NA	Conduct oil and hazmat field operations, response to orphan containers and HHW in NJ
Region 2 New Jersey	4021DR-NJ-EPA-02 Expires 10/29/11	8/31/2011	\$2,000,000	\$442,155	\$55,269	Conduct oil and hazmat field operations, response to orphan containers and HHW in NJ
Region 2 New York	4020DR-NY-EPA-02 Expires 11/1/11	9/2/2011	\$3,070,000	\$884,747	\$55,296	Conduct oil and hazmat field operations, response to orphan containers and HHW in NY
Region 2 New York	4020DR-NY-EPA-01 Expires 10/31/11	9/1/2011	\$300,000	\$8,650	\$577	Conduct assessments of WWTPs
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$6,923,000</b>	<b>\$2,228,727</b>	<b>\$131,440</b>	

<b>Tropical Storm Lee (New York Only)</b>						
<b>Region, State</b>	<b>Agreement #</b>	<b>Agreement Date</b>	<b>Agreement Amount</b>	<b>Costs Incurred To Date</b>	<b>Estimated Burn Rate (\$/day)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Region 2 New York	3341EM-NY-EPA-02 Expires 11/9/11	9/10/2011	\$1,000,000	\$232,250	\$29,031	NY State Tropical Storm Lee
Region 2 New York	3341EM-NY-EPA-01 Expires	09/12/2011	\$300,000			Assessments of drinking water facilities

	10/10/11				
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,300,000</b>	\$232,250	\$29,031

 Mission Assignment funds depleted

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

### 2.5.1 Safety Officer

The 09/17/2011 daily safety message was sent out and is posted on the regional incident website. An ASO has been assigned to the field and is providing safety support to HHW's and orphan container collection activities in the New York area of operation. Bacterial infections among several firefighters have been reported by the New York Department of Health. Handwashing, hygiene, injury prevention and updating Tetanus vaccines are being stressed to all site workers. First aid kits and waterless hand sanitizer are being provided for EPA staff deploying to the field and are also located at the HHW collection areas and staging areas.

The 09/18/2011 daily safety message was sent out and is posted on the regional incident website. The NY ASO has been conducting field safety inspections of the HHW's and noted several areas for improvement with decontamination, chemical handling procedures, MSDS's and use of the "buddy" system. The Safety Orientation has been revised and posted to the website. The Check-in Process Checklist has also been revised to include requirements for incoming field personnel to have a medical clearance and current safety training.

### 2.6 Liaison Officer

Steve Touw has been designated as the Liaison Officer (LNO) for Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee response efforts. The LNO continues to pursue requests for funding increases and performance periods for field operations Mission Assignments in both NJ and NY.

The LNO has informed the FEMA JFO in NJ of residents' concerns about residual oil and staining in yards, and the exclusion of coverage for its removal under both homeowners and FEMA flood insurance policies. Issues associated with methods of removal and remediation, as well as the potential costs, were presented to FEMA, for consideration in the event the state requests assistance from EPA under our a mission assignment.

The LNO continues to monitor FEMA Sitreps from NJ and NY, and other sources, for information which may assist or impact our current missions.

### 2.7 Information Officer

- Pat Seppi, 646-369-0068 Public Information Officer, Edison REOC
- Larisa Romanowski 515-703-0101, CIC for NYSDEC Region 4.
  - In Schenectady County, the CIC went door-to-door distributing outreach materials.
- Natalie Loney, 718-288-7253 CIC for NYSDEC Region 7.
  - In Tioga County, the CIC and OSCs attended a public meeting on 09/16/2011 in the town of Owego. The CIC also visited OEM offices in Tioga and Broom Counties to distribute outreach information. Work was also conducted on newspaper notices scheduled for next week.
- David Kluesner, 908-420-7261 CIC for NJ.

## 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, County officials, and local government agencies.

## 4. Personnel On Site

The following table is a reflection of the most current available resources at the time and day of reporting. It reflects the amount of personnel solely on the day of reporting. Because the Situation Report details over several days, the following table may not be a representation of every work day.

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			9	23	32

New York	11	80			91
New Jersey	5	33			38
<b>Total</b>	16	83	9	23	161

**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.epaossc.org/R2HurricaneIreneResponse>

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
Liaison Officer, Steve Touw	908-420-4458
Information Officer, Patricia (Pat) Seppi	646-369-0068

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

The next Situation Report will be distributed on Wednesday September 21, 2011.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

General Weather for the next Operational Period:

- In NJ operational areas, weather should be sunny to partly sunny. Temperatures from High 40s to Low 70s.
- In NY operational areas, weather should be sunny to partly sunny with temperatures from High 30s to High 60s
- 30-50 % chance of precipitation with possible thunderstorms is expected starting Tuesday (9/20) thru Friday (9/23)