

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 #25**  
**Operations suspended in NJ; Progress continues in NY**  
**R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response**

**Edison, NJ**  
**Latitude: 40.5159553 Longitude: -74.3550459**

**To:**  
**From:** Eric Mosher, Regional Incident Coordinator  
**Date:** 9/25/2011  
**Reporting Period:** 09/22/2011 through 09/25/2011

## 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 relating to Hurricane Irene have been permanently suspended. This includes the collection of household hazardous waste and orphan containers as well as any response efforts for oil and hazardous material spills. It was learned on September 22, 2011 that additional funding, required for EPA to complete activities outlined in Mission Assignments, was not going to be available. EPA commenced the demobilization of all HHW and orphan container collection resources promptly. All containers, debris, and waste were removed from the Paterson HHW facility and transported to the Dover HHW processing facility, where materials are currently being bulked, packaged, and disposed of, as this concluded all field collection operations. The Dover HHW facility is scheduled to continue processing materials for disposal until all materials have been shipped or funding expires.

Activities in New York responding to Hurricane Irene are on a slow decline. All HHW collection and staging areas in Greene County have closed, with the exception of Prattsville. Other operational areas will see the closure of HHW staging pads by the end of September and beginning of October. Although there has been an increase in the amount of orphan containers found and collected, the amount of HHW received has decreased.

Operations in NY responding to the effects of Tropical Storm Lee have increased since the last reporting period, but are now on a steady path. EPA continued to operate 4 HHW staging areas in Broome/Tioga Counties. Additional assessments were conducted in Chemung and Chenango Counties and EPA is waiting for results to indicate if HHW needs exist. Water operations commenced to conduct orphan container assessments on the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers, as well as contributing tributaries and streams. On September 22, 2011 it was learned that additional funding required for EPA to complete operations outlined in Mission Assignments may not be available. It is estimated that EPA activities in the Southern Tier of NY may be suspended the beginning of October 2011.

## CURRENT ISSUES

- Response activities in the Broome and Tioga County area remain at a steady state. EPA resources from outside Region 2 are assisting in efforts following the aftermath of TS Lee.

- Owego Heat Treat facility in Apalachin, NY sustained significant impacts from flood waters. A number of pressurized tanks along with drums and cylinders present a potential threat to human health and the environment. EPA OSCs are working with the local government and the facility owner to conduct stabilization operations.
- Additional funding to support operations in NY relating to Lee has been requested.

## **LONG TERM ISSUES**

- No additional long term issues to report.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

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

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

EPA had been requesting an increase in funding to Mission Assignments in support of the collection of HHW and orphan containers as well as response to oil and hazardous materials spills. On September 22, 2011 it was learned that additional funding would not be provided. All efforts to locate, identify, and remove orphan containers and HHW were permanently suspended at close-of-business that day.

EPA has provided to NJDEP and FEMA a list of activities that were not completed by EPA. This includes the following:

- Conduct a full assessment of the Passaic River. EPA was scheduled to begin boat operations in the Paterson area to conduct an assessment of the River for oil/hazmat containers and debris.
- Based on the assessment of the Passaic River, conduct collection and recovery activities of orphan containers identified.
- Conduct a full assessment of Paterson, NJ. The municipality is struggling to conduct recovery efforts as the area continues to flood with passing storms. The town has relied heavily on EPA for the collection and removal of HHW from impacted areas..
- Pick-up of HHW and orphan containers were to be collected from many municipalities including Wayne, Paterson, Woodland Park, Bloomingdale, Little Falls, Totowa, Lake Hiawatha, Pequannock, Rockaway Borough, Denville, and others.
- EPA has been the contact for orphan container and HHW collection and anticipating requests from Clifton, Haledon, Hawthorne, Passaic, and West Millford.
- Lake Hiawatha requested EPA assistance on the removal of orphan containers, including home heating oil tanks that were damaged or displaced as a result of Hurricane Irene. The municipality holds a list of residential properties in need of assistance.
- Lake Hiawatha officials requested EPA to pump-out basements that are filled with oil. Several residential properties are in the process of foreclosure and were impacted by flood waters. Oil remains in the basement of these homes.

#### **Emergency Response Task Force**

- The Task Force was not activated and was dissolved on September 22, 2011.

#### Passaic County

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

- HHW was collected from the municipality of Little Falls on 09/22/2011.
- EPA contacted HHW coordinators and local government officials throughout municipalities in Passaic County to notify of the suspension of EPA activities.
- A letter was submitted to the Passaic County HHW Coordinator stating that EPA activities were suspended by COB September 22, 2011.

##### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal**

- Paterson – Facility was operational and received material from surrounding communities until 09/22/2011 COB. By 09/23/2011 all containers were transported to the Dover HHW processing facility. All support materials will be removed by 09/26/2011.

#### Morris County

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

- EPA coordinated the retrieval of HHW collected from Cedar Knolls, Pequannock, and Dover on 09/22/2011.

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

- Dover – The HHW staging and processing facility received materials from municipalities throughout Morris County. Segregation and categorization of materials continued as materials were bulked and packaged. Disposal of flammable materials continued. Dover is no longer accepting incoming material and is scheduled to close on or around October 15, 2011.
- Whippany – No activities occurred at this bulk waste storage area. A bulk liquid tank remains to be removed.

### NEW YORK RESPONSE ACTIONS

#### NYSDEC Region 4 Area

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

- EPA conducted assessment and recovery operations of orphan containers in Middleburgh, Oak Hill, Fort Hunter, Esperance, Arkville, and Prattsville.
- Additional assessments were conducted in Fleischmanns, Margaretville, and Middletown as new debris fields were found. Town supervisors showed EPA a field approximately one mile long with orphan containers embedding in the debris. The ACE was notified of the debris, who may contact EPA to conduct additional recovery efforts in the areas.

#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Greene County
  - Hunter – The facility stopped collecting material at close-of-business 09/24/2011. Personnel completed the transport of materials to the Prattsville facility.
  - Windham – The facility stopped collecting material at close-of-business 09/24/2011. Personnel completed the transport of materials to the Prattsville facility.
  - Catskill – The facility stopped collecting material at close-of-business 09/24/2011. Personnel completed the transport of materials to the Prattsville facility.
  - Prattsville – Facility was operational. Material was received from local sources as well as staging areas from outside the county. Materials are being bulked and packaged.
- Delaware County
  - Arkville – Although this staging area was closed to the public on 09/18/2011, it will re-open for the week of 09/26/2011. Materials continued to be packaged, secured, and sent to the Prattsville HHW. Operations are scheduled to be completed by 09/30/2011.
  - Sidney – Facility was operational and materials are being packaged, secured, and transported to the Prattsville HHW. Operations are scheduled to be completed by 09/30/2011.
- 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. The facility is no longer collecting material and is in the process of moving all materials to the Howes Cave facility for processing and disposal.

#### NYSDEC Region 5 Area

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

- EPA continued HHW collection and orphan container recovery in Au Sable Chasm, Au Sable Forks, and Jay.
- Assessments for orphan containers located in surface waters are being planned.

#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Lewis – Facility was operational and receiving materials from EPA collection crews and local area residents. Materials are being characterized and bulked.

### 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 1200 on 09/25/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary				Operational Period: 09/21/2011 - 09/24/2011					
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative		
New York	12	16	0	73	2527	2628	38541		
New Jersey	0	0	1	57	2015	2073	26388		
Op-Period Totals	12	16	1	130	4542				
Cumulative Totals	204	907	129	376	63949				
Grand Total	4701								
Grand Cumulative									
64929									

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)

##### NYSDEC Region 7 Area

- EPA continued 24hour operations at the Owego Heat Treat facility, where a number of cylinders and tanks remain under water. Efforts to pump the water out of the facility continued. ERT continued to provide air monitoring support with the VIPER system. Activities have been coordinated with local fire departments, Tioga County Office of Emergency Management, and facility owners.
- Assessments were completed in Elmira and the Village of Chemung. No HHW needs requested or recommended at this time.
- Following assessments in Bainbridge and Wellsburg, requests for the collection and removal of HHW were received on 09/23/2011.
- EPA conducted assessments of Chemung County on 09/23/2011.
- HHW was collected from Wellsburg and Conklin.
- Boat operations commenced on 09/23/2011 and continued on 09/24/2011 with support of the USCG Atlantic Strike Team. Four boat teams conducted reconnaissance missions on the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers, as well as contributing surface water bodies.
- The REOC and the Regional Public Liaison continue to receive calls requesting HHW pickup from residents that have restrictions or are not able to drop materials off.

##### Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Binghamton – The HHW staging area was operational.
- Owego – The HHW staging area was operational and is accepting materials collected from the boat operation crews.
- 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 1200 on 09/25/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary					Operational Period: 09/21/2011 - 09/24/2011		
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative
New York	34	74	0	0	28644	28752	71286

Op-Period Totals	34	74	0	0	28644
Cumulative Totals	95	440	0	2091	68660
Grand Total	28752				
Grand Cumulative	71286				

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;

- **FEMA IMAT (Albany, NY) – (1) OSC** coordinating with the State and FEMA on increases to existing Mission Assignments for Irene and TS Lee NY operations.
- **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 REOC completed long-term staffing needs for field activities in New York and New Jersey. Staffing of the REOC personnel was also completed for support of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Day-Time response operations.

Contingency Plans have been developed for Tropical Storm Ophelia. Although it is no longer anticipated to cause impacts to interests in Puerto Rico or the US Virgin Islands, the potential for land impacts remains questionable.

Letters were generated to Passaic County HHW Coordinators to notify of EPA suspension of activities for Hurricane Irene Operations. Phone notifications were made to municipalities and county officials in Morris County.

### 2.3 Logistics Section

The majority of operations have stabilized in response to Irene events. Resources in New Jersey decreased significantly with the suspension of HHW and orphan container collection efforts. No field operations remain in NJ for Hurricane Irene operations. Only the Dover HHW remains in operation. However, efforts associated with TS Lee in New York have increased the need for additional resources. Approximately 50% of deployed resources are in the Binghamton area working in Broome and Tioga Counties. Region 2 has requested the assistance of Region 6 to provide OSC support. Boat operations in Broome and Tioga Counties have facilitated a request for the USCG Atlantic Strike Team.

### 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

### 2.5 Other Command Staff

#### 2.5.1 Safety Officer

The 09/22/2011 safety message was sent out to the field. Safety SOPs and AHAs that ER had submitted were reviewed and approved for implementation in the field. They will be posted on the website. Safety staffing has now been finalized through the end of October.

The 09/23/2011 safety message included risks and prevention techniques associated with mosquito-borne diseases. This included signs and symptoms for West Niles and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Lyme Disease was also narrated in the daily safety message that was distributed throughout the operational areas in New York and New Jersey. The Assistant Safety Officer relocated to the Binghamton area and met with VP Health and Safety for ERRS to discuss the various plans associated with pending water operations as well as how to better improve the safety associated with all operations in upstate NY. HHW collection site visits followed throughout the rest of the day.

By 09/25/2011 the NY ASO conducted safety visits to the Hunter, Sidney, and Owego HHWs.

Several safety problems with segregation and storage of chemicals resulted in a new HHW collection pad being established at the Owego site to provide more separation between incompatible chemicals and more room for proper storage. Boat operations were observed in NY and some areas for improving boater safety were identified and provided to the OSC. This includes PPE, decontamination, equipment, and communications. Safety assistance is being provided to the Owego Heat and Treat operation.

## 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 communicate with FEMA on the request for a funding increase to EPA's TS Lee field operations Mission Assignment in New York. The LNO has stressed to FEMA the importance of obtaining the MA funding increases before the ERRS contractor needs to shut down operations and begin demobilizing on 9/27/2011.

The LNO continues to assist with interagency issues such as the mission assignment subtasking to USCG AST, the identification of potential assessment activities under the TS Lee drinking water mission assignment, etc.

## 2.7 Information Officer

All Community Involvement Coordinators have returned to normal duty stations in New York and New Jersey. Should additional assistance be required, CICs will re-deploy to the field.

- Pat Seppi, 646-369-0068 Public Information Officer, Edison REOC
- Larisa Romanowski 515-703-0101, CIC for NYSDEC Region 4.
- Natalie Loney, 718-288-7253 CIC for NYSDEC Region 7.
- David Kluesner, 908-420-7261 CIC for New Jersey.

## 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			10	16	26
New York	5	101			106
New Jersey	2	10			12
Total	13	169	10	16	144

## 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**

Situation Reports are generated on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The next Situation Report will be distributed on Wednesday September 28, 2011.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

The REOC continues to monitor Tropical Storm Ophelia and Tropical Storm Philippe. Flood Watches and Warnings remain in effect for operational areas in New Jersey and New York.

General Weather for the next Operational Period:

- Rain is expected in all operational areas with additional flooding as a potential.
- Temperatures in NJ will range from low 50s to low 80s.
- Temperatures in NY will range from low 40s to low 70s.