

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 #26
HHW Collection in NY Lee Limited, Irene OPS continue
R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response

Edison, NJ
Latitude: 40.5159553 Longitude: -74.3550459

To:
From: Eric Mosher, Regional Incident Coordinator
Date: 9/28/2011
Reporting Period: 09/26/2011 through 09/28/2011

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

The Dover household hazardous waste processing facility remains active with characterizing, bulking, and packaging of wastes. Disposal of several waste streams continued as contracts have been generated for the transportation and disposal of wastes remaining.

Activities in New York responding to Hurricane Irene continue to decrease. Orphan container identification and collection continued along with management of HHW in all operational areas. Aerial surveillance activities were conducted of the impact areas in Delaware, Greene, and Schoharie Counties. Closure of additional HHWs in Delaware County should be seen by the end of the week.

On September 26, 2011 EPA learned that funding for the continuation of operations relating to Tropical Storm Lee would not be increased. Two HHW pads remain open to the public for container drop-off and processing orphan containers. Curbside collections of HHW continued for those with urgent needs or are unable to bring materials to an operating HHW pad. Orphan container reconnaissance and collection continued along various rivers and terrestrial areas. EPA, with support of the USCG and NYSDEC Rangers, deployed boats and personnel along the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers.

CURRENT ISSUES

- Response activities in Broome and Tioga Counties have decreased due to funding constraints in the Mission Assignment for TS Lee.
- Cylinders, tanks, and containers located at the Owego Heat Treat facility in Apalachin, NY are in a stable state. EPA continues to provide air monitoring support.

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 is no longer deploying resources for the collection of HHW and orphan containers in New Jersey.

Household Hazardous Waste / Bulk Liquid Collection and Disposal

- Dover – The HHW staging and processing facility continued to characterize, bulk, and package materials. Shipments of waste continued to disposal facilities. Dover is no longer accepting incoming material and is scheduled to close on or around October 15, 2011.
- Whippany – Materials are not being received at this location. A T&D contractor has been awarded and EPA is awaiting the removal of this bulk liquid tank.

NEW YORK RESPONSE ACTIONS

On 09/27/2011 Air Operations commenced to recon the Schoharie Creek, Delaware River and Bush Kill Floodplains located in Delaware County.

NYSDEC Region 4 Area

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- EPA conducted assessment and recovery operations of orphan containers in Prattsville.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Greene County
 - 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 Jay and Upper Jay.
- Reconnaissance and orphan container collection were conducted on the Au Sable River. An island in Upper Jay was found to have many orphan containers and crews were formulating plans on how to forgo the river to collect materials.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Lewis – Located in Elizabethtown, the facility was operational and receiving materials from EPA collection crews and local area residents. Materials are being characterized and bulked.

CUMULATIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE SUMMARY TABLE – HURRICANE IRENE

Below is a summary table indicating the amount of containers collected through HHW and orphan container recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Irene. This data was collected at 1409 on 09/28/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary					Operational Period: 09/25/2011-09/27/2011		
					Small		

Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative		
New York	8	28	0	5	3099	3140	41681		
New Jersey	11	2	0	0	139	152	26540		
Op-Period Totals	19	30	0	5	3238				
Cumulative Totals	223	937	129	381	67783				
Grand Total	3292								
Grand Cumulative	68221								

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 anticipated on receiving additional funds to continue operations relating to Tropical Storm Irene. FEMA was able to transfer obligated funds from Irene to Lee operations, however the amount is small. As a result, collection of HHW has been partially suspended. Personnel are no longer collecting materials at curbside unless the resident has called into the EPA Public Liaison phone number for special assistance. Two HHW pads were also closed to the public.

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. The property owner has hired an environmental contractor to assess the cylinders.
- Personnel continued to assist residents with mobility issues in the removal of HHW from their property. These calls are received through the Regional Public Liaison phone number (1-888-BUDSMAN). To date, 123 calls have been received through this number.
- River operations continued with additional assistance provided by the NYSDEC Rangers. Four boat crews operated and conducted reconnaissance and recovery of orphan containers along approximately 6.5 miles of the Susquehanna River.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- Binghamton – This HHW collection and drop-off location was closed following close-of-business 09/26/2011 and is no longer accepting material.
- Vestal – This HHW collection and drop-off location was closed following close-of-business 09/26/2011 and is no longer accepting material.
- Owego – The HHW staging area was operational and is also accepting materials collected from the boat operation crews. The area is scheduled to close to the public on or around 10/09/2011.
- Endicott/Endwell – The HHW staging area was operational. The area is scheduled to close to the public on or around 10/09/2011.

CUMULATIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE SUMMARY TABLE – TROPICAL STORM LEE

Below is a summary 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 1409 on 09/28/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary Operational Period: 09/25/2011-09/27/2011							
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative
New York	2	64	0	0	8672	8738	80158
Op-Period Totals	2	64	0	0	8672		

Cumulative Totals	97	504	0	2225	77332
Grand Total	8738				
Grand Cumulative	80158				

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 is looking to downsize the support personnel operating in the REOC. Transition of personnel will continue to provide time off for those that have been working without time off.

2.3 Logistics Section

Personnel resources from EPA Region 6 arrived and were deployed to Tropical Storm Lee operations and in Schoharie County for Hurricane Irene operations. The USCG Atlantic Strike Team has deployed personnel resources to assist in boat operations. Mobile resources from EPA Region 1 were deployed to Prattsville.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The 09/26/2011 the Assistant Safety Officer conducted a visit at the Owego Heat Treat facility in Apalachin, NY. A review of operations for pumping out flood waters and containing any oily material was completed. A survey of the hydrogen tank found that safety relief valves were functioning properly. The ASO also visited the Owego and Endicott HHW pads.

On 09/27/2011 the safety message on boat safety was distributed and posted to the Website. Boat inspection checklists are being developed and will be implemented during the next operational period. The NY ASO is conducting safety inspections of the Hurricane Irene HHWs in eastern New York. Safety staffing was finalized through October.

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 has been communicating with the FEMA Comptroller on the requests for funding increases to EPA's Hurricane Irene and TS Lee field operations Mission Assignments in NY. The LNO has provided the comptroller with the projected costs to complete the respective missions, and the comptroller has prepared the requests for immediate processing once FEMA receives its funding for the new fiscal year.

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, is the Public Information Officer designated for the response.

- Obtained information for an editorial in a Catskill, NY newspaper.
- Ended the public service announcement for opening times at Greene County HHW sites.

- Created new fact sheets detailing the closure of the Barlow and Vestal HHW sites. Generated new PSA detailing the continued operating status of Prattsville and Howes Cave HHW sites.

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			16	14	30
New York	4	80			84
New Jersey	1	9			10
Total	5	89	16	14	124

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 will now be generated once a week.

The next Situation Report will be distributed on Thursday October 6, 2011.

SPOT Reports will be distributed upon need.

7. Situational Reference Materials

The REOC continues to monitor Tropical Storm Ophelia and Tropical Storm Philippe

General Weather for the next Operational Period:

- Rain and potential thunderstorms are predicted for all operational areas in NY and NJ
- Dense fog is possible in all areas
- Temperatures will range from low 50s to high 70s.