

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 #27
Boat Operations Dominate for TS Lee
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: 10/6/2011

Reporting Period: 09/29/2011 through 10/06/2011

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

Activities relating to Tropical Storm Lee in New York have focused on reconnaissance and collection of orphan containers located along the Susquehanna River, Chenango River, and associated tributaries. EPA maintains two household hazardous waste drop-off locations in the Binghamton area, which are projected to close on October 9, 2011. Following the closure of HHW pads, operations will continue on the disposal of materials and the collection of orphan containers.

The collection of HHW relating to Hurricane Irene in New York and New Jersey is nearing an end. Two HHW pads remain open to the public in NY; Prattsville and Howes Cave. All other locations are in the process of removing wastes and dismantling the collection pads.

Orphan container collection continues throughout the impacted areas of NY. The most recent aerial reconnaissance indicated additional debris lines in more remote areas. Efforts in NJ are solely with the disposal of wastes from the Dover HHW facility.

CURRENT ISSUES

- Additional funding for the continuation of operations has been requested for TS Lee activities in New York.
- Cylinders and containers located at the Owego Heat Treat facility have been secured and/or removed. Air monitoring support is scheduled to be completed by 10/06/2011.

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 – Materials continued to be removed for disposal or recycling purposes. Remaining materials have been bulked and packaged in preparation for disposal. T&D contracts are in the process of being finalized. The last shipment of materials is scheduled for October 15, 2011.
- Whippany – A T&D contractor has been awarded and EPA is awaiting the removal of this bulk liquid tank.

NEW YORK RESPONSE ACTIONS

On 09/30/2011 Air Operations continued with surveillance of the mid-Hudson Valley for additional debris lines and fields. Focus was placed along the Schoharie Creek, Batavia Creek, and the eastern branch of the Delaware River.

NYSDEC Region 4 Area

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- EPA conducted assessment and recovery operations of orphan containers in Prattsville, Wyndham, Ashville, and Arkville.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

All Delaware County HHW pads operated by EPA were no longer accepting material as of close-of-business on 09/30/2011. EPA activities at the Schoharie Debris Pile were completed on 10/02/2011. All materials from the HHW pads were packaged and moved to either Prattsville or Howes Cave for processing, additional bulking, and prepared for disposal.

- Greene County
 - Prattsville – Facility was operational. Material was received from local sources as well as staging areas located outside the county. Materials are being bulked and packaged. T&D contracts are in the process of being finalized.
- 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.

NYSDEC Region 5 Area

Oil / Hazardous Materials Response and Recovery Actions

- EPA continued orphan container recovery in Jay and Upper Jay.
- Reconnaissance and orphan container collection continued on the Au Sable River.

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. T&D contracts are in the process of being developed.

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 1408 on 10/06/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary				Operational Period: 10/02/2011-10/5/2011			
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative
New York	12	20	0	11	115	158	44310

New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0	26540	
Op-Period Totals	12	20	0	11	115			
Cumulative Totals	334	993	129	410	70216			
Grand Total	158							
Grand Cumulative	70850							

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 operations at the Owego Heat Treat facility, where a number of cylinders and tanks were under water. Dewatering of the facility was completed on 10/05/2011, however water continues to intrude on the facility from ponds that have now formed due to the flooding events. AirGas is in the process of assessing and stabilizing the ammonia tanks that are located at the facility. EPA operations are expected to be completed by COB 10/06/2011. EPA is planning a facility inspection with NYSDEC at a later time.
- 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, 180 calls have been received through this number.
- River operations continued with assistance provided by the USCG AST and NYSDEC Rangers. Four boat crews operated and conducted reconnaissance and recovery of orphan containers along approximately 15 miles of waterways.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal

- 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 10/09/2011.
- Endicott/Endwell – The HHW staging area was operational. The area is scheduled to close to the public on 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 1408 on 10/06/2011. Container counts may include numbers not previously reported from past operational periods.

Cumulative Hazardous Waste Summary						Operational Period: 10/2/11 – 10/5/11		
Location	Drums	Propane Tanks	Cylinders	Other (Large)	Small Containers (<5 gal)	Op-Period Totals	State Cumulative	
New York	18	16	0	0	9817	9851	101888	
Op-Period Totals	18	16	0	0	9817			
Cumulative Totals	190	542	0	2859	98297			
Grand Total	9851							
Grand Cumulative	101888							

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

All personnel have been instructed to move to a more steady state of operational time, lowering the number of working hours. This is being done for safety reasons but also due to monetary constraints. The REOC Planning Section and Operations Section are discussing the need for activities to continue over the Columbus Day holiday. Planning is also working on staffing schedules for day-time response activities.

2.3 Logistics Section

All logistics are being handled through the REOC, where response managers representing each contractor are located. Requests for resources, including personnel, are made through the REOC. Logistical issues are coordinated and provided by EPA Region 2, Region 6, Region 1, the Atlantic Strike Team, RST, and ERRS contractors.

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 10/06/2011 @ 1408;

HURRICANE IRENE (NY/NJ)						
Region, State	Agreement #	Agreement Date	Agreement Amount	Costs Incurred To Date	Estimated Burn Rate (\$/day)	Purpose
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	\$414,219	\$11,835	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	\$199,252	\$5,860	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	\$1,525,126	\$58,659	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	\$2,420,000	\$1,397,812	\$41,112	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	\$247	Conduct assessments of WWTPs
TOTAL			\$6,273,000	\$4,098,059	\$117,713	

Tropical Storm Lee (New York Only)						
Region, State	Agreement #	Agreement Date	Agreement Amount	Costs Incurred To Date	Estimated Burn Rate (\$/day)	Purpose
Region 2 New York	3341EM-NY- EPA-02 Expires 11/9/11	9/10/2011	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$49,195	NY State Tropical Storm Lee Field Operation
Region 2 New York	3341EM-NY- EPA-01 Expires 10/10/11	9/9/2011	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	Assessments of drinking water facilities
Region 2 New York	4031DR-NY- EPA-01 Expires 10/15/11	9/26/2011	\$702,000	\$123,041	\$12,304	NY State Tropical Storm Lee Field Operation
TOTAL			\$2,002,000	\$1,123,041	\$61,499	

Mission Assignment funds depleted

* All MAs are currently in the process of identifying more accurate EPA Personnel Payroll costs

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

All daily safety messages generated by the Command Safety Officer continue to be posted on the website. Focus has been placed on hunting season, boat operations, and wildlife. Notices of EPA activities have been posted in various hunting areas in New York State. Businesses that sell hunting licenses have been given flyers noting field activities.

Assistant Safety Officers continue to visit operational areas throughout NY and NJ to conduct safety audits. Reports are generated from each HHW visit and submitted to Command.

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 the FEMA Comptroller on the requests for funding increases and project end date extensions to Mission Assignments in NY. The LNO has provided the comptroller with updated cost estimates to complete the respective missions, and will maintain communications with the comptroller to ensure that the requests are processed as soon as possible once FEMA receives its funding for the new fiscal year.

For NJ, the LNO continues to keep FEMA informed of the status of EPA's activities to complete transportation and disposal of collected materials. The LNO has also coordinated with NJDEP on the resolution of outstanding issues and requests for assistance received by EPA from municipalities, counties, and individuals.

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.

- Generated a newspaper notice for the closure of additional HHW sites in Binghamton area.
- Responded to congressional inquiries regarding EPA activities in NY relating to storm response.
- Addressed concerns and requests from Paterson, NJ City Council on EPA attendance to a public meeting with FEMA and SBA.

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			14	12	26
New York	8	78			86
New Jersey	1	4			5
Total	9	82	14	12	117

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>

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 once a week.

The next Situation Report will be distributed on Thursday October 13, 2011.

SPOT Reports will be distributed upon need.

7. Situational Reference Materials

The REOC continues to coordinate response actions outside of storm response, including South Jersey and Puerto Rico.

General Weather for the next Operational Period:

- Less likely of storms, with sunny days extending to the weekend.
- Temperatures will range from 30's to 80's depending on operational area.
- Frost warnings in areas of NY may be generated by the National Weather Service for mornings.