

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Radiological Site RV1 - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region II

**Subject:** POLREP #5  
Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Radiological Site RV1  
A282  
Ridgewood, NY  
Latitude: 40.6923130 Longitude: -73.9025100

**To:**  
**From:** Eric M. Daly, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 2/20/2013  
**Reporting Period:** December 21, 2012 thru February 21, 2013

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A282	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S2-10-01
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	0057	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<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>	10/23/2012	<b>Start Date:</b>	9/27/2012
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	NYC200400810	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Short Term Time Critical Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The original building was subdivided and currently, the site contains several buildings that have been divided into several businesses. The total land area covers 0.75 acres bound by Irving Avenue on the southwest, and Cooper Avenue on the northwest. At one time, a railroad spur extended to the rear of the buildings; now there is an active rail line adjacent to the site within 125 feet. The spur area is presently unpaved and vegetated. The rear of these buildings is partially fenced, mostly overgrown with vegetation, and is used for storage of construction equipment and a couple of small boats. The surrounding neighborhood contains light industry, commercial businesses and residences.

The businesses at the site include a delicatessen and grocery store (1125 Irving Avenue), office space and unoccupied residential apartments with an attached building housing a tire shop (1125 Irving Avenue) and mini-ATV shop; a building with an auto body shop (15-14 Cooper Avenue) and office space; two buildings used for warehouse purposes (1133-1139 Irving Avenue and 1129 Irving Avenue); and a commercial building with an auto repair shop (1127 Irving Avenue).

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located at 1127-1129 Irving Avenue, in Ridgewood, New York located on the Brooklyn/Queens border.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The Site contains active businesses that operate within structures formerly used by Wolff-Alport, a processor of materials that contained radioactive properties. The presence of radioactivity has been documented within and underneath the identified buildings, in the soil at the rear of the structures along a former rail spur, underneath the sidewalk along Irving Avenue in front of the former Wolff Alport building. Persons that work in or access the buildings at the Site or traverse the public sidewalk in front of the Site or trespass the rear portion of the Site will be exposed to ionizing radiation by passing over or coming into contact with these impacted areas. The area around the Site is, in part, residential in nature. A deli/grocery store on the corner of Irving and Cooper Avenues may tend to increase the number of persons that access the sidewalk in front of the Site. The railroad spur behind the building appears to be an area that is accessed by people. Any excavation conducted at the Site, including on Irving Avenue, could result in increased direct gamma radiation exposures to persons working or walking in and around the disturbed area.

Surveys conducted at the Site indicate that elevated levels of radioactivity are present within one foot of the

surface at the rear of the Site on the former rail spur. The area consists of bare soil overgrown with weeds. Although the parcel on which the former rail strip is reportedly considered abandoned and current ownership is questionable, the parcel is used to store heavy machinery, crane equipment and, on occasion, vehicles. As a result, the radioactive contamination can be spread offsite under this scenario and potentially be available for inhalation as a particulate since the streets near the Site sustain a significant amount of vehicular movement. Any excavation conducted at the Site, including on Irving Avenue, could result in an increased chance of contaminant migration, both directly on the roadway and through an airborne pathway, which could impact persons near the Site.

### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

##### Site Planning and Assessment Activities:

Biweekly inter-agency phone conferences have resumed. The last meeting occurred on 02/13/12.

##### Participants:

United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)  
United States Department of Energy (US DOE)  
New York State Department of Conservation (NYS DEC)  
New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH)  
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH)  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP)

##### Response Actions to Date:

**October 23, 2012:** EPA OSC meet ERRS on-site. (Mobilization date)

**October 24, 2012:** EPA OSCs, EPA RIAB, NYC DOHMH, KEMRON, and Weston conducted shielding pilot study at the most elevated radiation levels along Irving Avenue Sidewalk in front of Lot 42 and 44 (Primo Auto Body Bays #1/ #2 and Terra Nova). Shielding study was also conducted inside of Primo Auto #2 Bay. The team also surveyed the sidewalk along Irving Avenue and delineated elevated radiation levels. The area was marked out with pink spray paint (NYC Color Code for survey work). OSC handed written access agreement to Boro Cabinet.

**October 25-26, 2012:** EPA OSCs, EPA RIAB, NYC DOHMH, KEMRON, and Weston tamp down foliage on Lot 31, stack debris, and conduct gross radiation survey to identify hot spots. Crane Company (Auringer) was contacted in person to remove remaining metal plates on Lot 31. The hole in the basement of IS 384 School was sealed.

**November 10, 2012:** EPA OSCs, EPA RIAB, NYC DOHMH, KEMRON, and Weston performed survey and delineated elevated radiation at Primo #1, Primo #2, and Terra Nova.

**December 10, 2012:** Radon canisters were placed in IS-384 crawl space area and throughout Audrey Johnson Daycare. The basement area of IS-384 and portions of Audrey Johnson Daycare were surveyed using the Rad7. One Rad7 unit was left in the IS-384 crawl space (where the sealed hole is located) to capture data for a three day period.

**December 13, 2012:** The radon canisters were picked up from IS-384. The Rad7 that was left for two days in IS-384 had some technical problems. The instrument was set up again on 12/13/12 and left it for collection until 12/19/12.

The radon canisters were picked up from Audrey Johnson Daycare as well and all the canisters brought to the laboratory on 12/14/12. The Rad7 was used to complete the survey of the basement, offices and classrooms of Audrey Johnson Daycare. All quick survey readings using the Rad7 in both schools showed no increase above background in any of the occupied spaces. However, in one of the electrical closets in the basement of Audrey Johnson Daycare (A closet with an open window to Moffat Street) there were slight increased readings.

**December 18, 2012:** Radon canisters were placed in both Primo bays as well as Terra Nova. OSC Daly, Weston and NYC Health observed the workers in all three bays from 9 AM-5 PM to assist in determining the occupancy factor. The observers used the diagrams from the previous gamma delineation survey study to identify radiation level areas within the buildings. A chart was filled out with personnel, times and location specifics. This along with previous information/employee interviews will be used to determine the occupancy factor needed for the shielding calculations. OSC Daly is still working with the EPA attorney to gain access to the deli. This radon sampling will need to be performed separately.

**December 19, 2012:** The Rad7 was removed from IS-384 and then brought to Audrey Johnson Daycare basement closet for a three day run.

**December 21, 2012:** The radon canisters were picked up from both Primo bays and Terra Nova. The canisters were brought to the laboratory. The Rad7 was picked up from Audrey Johnson Daycare and then used to perform quick surveys at the Primo and Terra Nova Facilities.

**December 27, 2012:** The radon results for IS-384 and Audrey Johnson Daycare came back below the EPA action level of 4 pCi/l.

**January 02, 2013:** Bi-weekly inter-agency phone conference.

**January 03, 2013:** EPA OSC received the signed access agreement from the Bethel Church of God/Lot 31.

**January 08, 2013:** EPA OSCs met with NYC DOT to go over sidewalk shielding specifics and permit requirements.

**January 09, 2013:** The radon results for Primo and Terra Nova came back. There were a few readings that were slightly above the EPA action level of 4 pCi/l. Additional sampling will be performed in these areas to confirm these results.

**January 10, 2013:** EPA, NYC DOHMH and Weston performed the radiological survey on Lot #30 (Boro Cabinets) and Lot #31 (Old railroad spur).

**January 15, 2013:** The technical group had a phone conference discussing the shielding recommendation document compiled by EPA and NYC DOHMH.

**January 23, 2013:** David Weiss, Lot 46, faxed the signed access agreement.

**January 28, 2013:** OSC Daly visits Lot 46 tenants to set up radon sampling and analysis for February 4-6, 2013.

**February 4, 2013:** Radon canister placement at Deli Basement, Deli main floor, and Apartment # 2 (Lot 46). Canisters also placed at Primo #1 and Terra Nova for verification sampling.

**February 5, 2013:** Rad 7 Survey at Deli Basement, Deli main floor and Apartment #2

**February 6, 2013:** Deli Basement PIC survey conducted. Rad7 ran for 2 hours.

**February 7, 2013:** Radon canister results for Deli Basement, Deli main floor, and Apartment # 2 (Lot 46) are all below 4 pCi/l. However, there were elevated radon readings near basement hole that exhibited readings at approximately 3 pCi/l. Radon canisters results for Primo #1 and Terra Nova were below 2.5 pCi/l. The Rad7 readings showed increased Thoron near the basement hole which is consistent with previous investigation of holes/drains in the area. Further radon sampling for these areas are being planned.

**February 13, 2013:** Bi-weekly inter-agency phone conference.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The Wolff-Alport Chemical Company is the responsible party but this company went out of business in the 1950's.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

ERRS has been researching subcontracts for property surveyor and fencing company. Potential Fencing Subcontractor will visit the site on February 26, 2013.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

On February 22, 2013, EPA, NYC DOHMH and Weston plan to place radon canisters in Lot 46 Apartment #1 and perform a Rad 7 survey. This will be the initial sampling and survey at Apartment #1. Radon canisters will also be placed in the Deli basement, Primo 1, Primo 2 and Terra Nova and left in place for a 30 day period. The PIC Survey will be performed again due to the PIC instrument used on February 06, 2013 having a calibration due date of February 01, 2013. EPA has a calibrated unit.

On February 26, 2013, EPA Radon Specialist is planning to visit the site and assess the properties with elevated radon levels.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Discuss shielding recommendations and radon data with technical workgroup. Tentative phone conference date/time: March 8, 2013 at 1:00 PM.

### 2.2.2 Issues

No issues at this time.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

United States Department of Energy (US DOE)

New York State Department of Conservation (NYS DEC)

New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH)

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH)

New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP)

## **4. Personnel On Site**

OSC Daly

ERRS-1 RM and 1 Operator

Weston-1 Technician

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.