

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Permafrix of South Georgia - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #2
Response Operations Continue
Permafrix of South Georgia
B42Q
Valdosta, GA
Latitude: 30.7978701 Longitude: -83.2786023

To: J.R. Campbell, Director, Georgia EPD Emergency Response

From: Chris Russell, FOSC

Date: 8/19/2013

Reporting Period: 08/15/2013 - 08/19/2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B42Q	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	8/14/2013	Start Date:	8/14/2014
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

EPA Emergency Response to a release of hazardous substances into the environment.

1.1.2 Site Description

Permafrix of South Georgia: A temporary storage and disposal facility (TSDF) for hazardous substances located in Valdosta, Georgia.

1.2.1 Location

1812 Jimmy P. Rodgers, Circle, Valdosta (Lowndes County) Georgia.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Release of hazardous substances into the environment due to an explosion and fire at a TSDF which contained 1800 drums of hazardous substances, as well as above ground storage tanks of hazardous substances and roll-off boxes of wastes.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On August 14, 2013, OSC Russell was dispatched to the Permafrix of South Georgia facility in Valdosta, Georgia. Upon arriving on site, OSC Russell observed the release and potential release of hazardous substances (listed hazardous wastes, hazardous substances, and characteristic hazardous wastes) into the environment due to an explosion and fire that occurred at this facility a few hours earlier.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On August 14, 2013, an explosion occurred at the Permafrix of South Georgia facility in Valdosta, Georgia. The explosion occurred when an employee was off-loading a 55-gallon container of acetone type waste into a fuel blending pot. The explosion resulted in a two-alarm fire which engulfed half of the facility and lead to the evacuation of residents and businesses in a one mile radius. Three different fire departments responded, as well as the following Agencies: FBI, ATF, OSHA, and Georgia EPD. EPA Region 4 dispatched Florida Outpost OSC Russell to the scene to oversee removal operations. Upon arriving on site a Unified Command was established with the RP, Valdosta FD, ATF, Georgia EPD, and OSHA. On the afternoon of August 16, 2013, due to the result of ATF and OSHA's on-site investigations having been completed, the Unified Command was adjusted to the following: EPA, Valdosta FD, Georgia DNR, Georgia EPD, and the RP.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The initial fire was contained on August 14, 2013. Continual flare ups continued until August 17th. Valdosta Fire Department personnel extinguished the flare ups as they occurred. EPA with START support have conducted water monitoring in the tributary, as well as in Mud Creek which is down gradient from the Site. No deceased fish or animals were noted in the assessments. Furthermore,

the dissolved oxygen and Ph levels in the tributary were in normal ranges. The dissolved oxygen in Mud Creek was lower, however, it is unknown if this was related to the release of materials or due to normal summer conditions in the creek. Georgia DNR is working with the PRP to develop a Contamination Assessment Plan. Georgia DNR will oversee the long term remediation activities for this Site. EPA has provided air monitoring support to Local, State, and Federal Agencies making entries into the facility to conduct fire/explosion investigations.

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

A potentially responsible party has been identified (Permafex of South Georgia).

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
Firefighting run-off	Liquid	60,000 gallons			X
Mixed liquid wastes from drums, rain, firefighting	Liquid	40,000 gallons			X

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Once ATF, OSHA, and FD investigations are complete, Emergency Response Removal actions continue at the Site. The Site continues to operate under and Emergency Response action due to the presence of compromised containers housing unidentified wastes.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Continue provide air monitoring support and address compromised containers of unknown wastes.
Assess and sample the compromised containers remaining on Site.
Remove contaminated liquids and sludges from the containment areas once all of the drums have been properly addressed.
Properly dispose of the wastes generated on Site.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Continue operating in a Unified Command posture and address the hazardous substances on Site.

2.2.2 Issues

High local and media interests continue. The City of Valdosta has provided a Public Information Officer to assist with medial relations.

2.3 Logistics Section

Each responding Agency is providing for their own Logistical support.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Mike Folgan, CIH, Hepaco is the identified Safety Officer

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

Liaison and media relations are being handled by the City of Valdosta.

2.5.3 Information Officer

City of Valdosta has provided the PIO and they are working in conjunction with the RP's Communication Team.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

EPA, Georgia DNR, Georgia EPD, VFD, and the RP.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

4. Personnel On Site

EPA-1
START-1
GaEPD-1
Ga DNR-2
Valdosta FD-3
RP-5
Contractor (Hepaco)-18
Valdosta EMA-1

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.