

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #3  
Final POLREP  
Permafrix of South Georgia  
B42Q  
Valdosta, GA  
Latitude: 30.7978701 Longitude: -83.2786023

**To:** Jim Webster, PhD., Branch Chief, EPA R4 ERRB  
J.R. Campbell, Director, Georgia EPD Emergency Response

**From:** Chris Russell, FOSC

**Date:** 9/9/2013

**Reporting Period:**

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	B42Q	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	8/14/2013	<b>Start Date:</b>	
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	8/23/2013
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 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 led 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. During this reporting period, the following activities have taken place: the vast majority of the impacted 55-gallon drums have been opened up and the contents were properly secured; the "in-coming" storage area has been demolished and the holding pad has been decontaminated, the roof structure housing the secondary storage containment area has been demolished; all free liquids have been removed, and the transition of the Site activities from an Emergency Response to a long term Cleanup with Georgia EPD oversight has been completed.

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

A potentially responsible party has been identified (Permafrix 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 (Hazardous Waste)	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**

Georgia EPD will provide regulatory oversight during the long term cleanup phase.

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

EPA's response activities have been completed. GaEPD will ensure the all of the wastes collected will be properly disposed of. Furthermore, GaEPD will ensure that remediation of impacted soils and the adjoining creek will take place.

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

No further actions are forthcoming from the EPA.

**2.2.2 Issues**

No issues have been identified.

**2.3 Logistics Section**

Each responding Agency provided their own logistical support.

**2.4 Finance Section**

**2.4.1 Narrative**

The PRP has retained a cleanup contractor and is funding their response operations with oversight by EPA and Georgia DNR.

EPA utilized START support during this response.

**Estimated Costs \***

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
TAT/START	\$20,000.00	\$18,900.00	\$1,100.00	5.50%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
USEPA - InDirect	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Total Site Costs</b>				
	\$30,000.00	\$28,900.00	\$1,100.00	3.67%

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

**2.5 Other Command Staff**

**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

Mike Folgan, CIH, Hepaco is the identified Safety Officer for future operations.

**2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

N/A

**2.5.3 Information Officer**

City of Valdosta provided the PIO and they worked 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.

POLREP #3 Last Updated 7/18/2018