U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Queen Avenue Property Absorbent Technology - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region X

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Initial
Queen Avenue Property Absorbent Technology
Albany, OR
Latitude: 44.6223700 Longitude: -123.1023000

To:
From: Daniel Heister, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 10/18/2013
Reporting Period: 10/15/13 through 10/18/13

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:		**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	10/15/2013	**Start Date:**	10/15/2013
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	
FPN#:		**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category

CERCLA Incident Category: Inactive Production Facility

1.1.2 Site Description

Albany Fire Department became aware in early October 2013 of a potential public safety and health hazard involving Absorbent Technologies, Inc., at 140 Queen Avenue SW and 2830 Ferry Street SW. Absorbent Technologies had been in business on these leased properties since 2004, creating a soil additive and fertilizer that was used to improve crop irrigation efficiency. The company ceased all operations at 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 11, 2013.

The process for producing Absorbent's product involved the use of various hazardous materials that were abandoned at the site when the company closed its doors. Of primary concern is a tank at the Queen Avenue site containing acrylonitrile, a flammable and corrosive chemical with the potential to impact human health. When the plant was abandoned, Albany Fire Department immediately took steps to ensure the safety of the community by stabilizing the acrylonitrile tank, hiring security staff for the site, and working on a plan to appropriately deal with the other hazards that were left behind on both properties.

City staff contacted the EPA on Tuesday, October 15. EPA staff immediately mobilized to the site and as of Thursday, October 17, two federal on-scene coordinators were in Albany with a team of 12 contractors, chemists, engineers and other specialists. EPA officials say this team has all the expertise needed to safely remove the acrylonitrile and reduce the threat to the community. Tank removal of the product is planned for Monday, October 21, with decommissioning of the tank the following day.

EPA is working closely with Albany Fire Department, Public Works Environmental Services, the City Attorney's Office, and Linn County Public Health. Facility operators and both property owners are cooperating.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Queen Plant is located south of Queen Avenue SE between SW Ferry Street (to the west) and SE Lyon Street (to the east) in Albany, Oregon.

The City of Albany is located approximately 20 miles south of Salem, Oregon and approximately 70 miles south of Portland, Oregon, along the Interstate 5 corridor in the Willamette River Valley region.

The Queen Plant is located in a mixed use area with a 400-person industrial facility to the west, and residences to the east. Parking areas are located to the north, and an undeveloped lot is located to the south. Further, additional residential and light industrial populations are present.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Hazardous Materials and wastes are located at the Queen Plant. The chemical of greatest concern is approximately 2,700 to 2,800 gallons of acrylonitrile (AN), present inside a 20,000 gallon STI Fireguard ®, UL 2085 (protected, insulated, and fire resistant) tank designated TK-0110. TK-0110 is located within secondary containment. TK-0110 is equipped with fire detectors, fire alarm, foam fire suppression system, and acrylonitrile vapor detectors, but testing and calibration of these systems has expired. TK-0110 is also equipped with a nitrogen “blanket” system designed to prevent AN from contacting oxygen in ambient air. AN is considered highly hazardous due to flammability and toxicity characteristics and can degrade into cyanide gas in a fire situation above 800 degrees F.

Also of concern is the fact that a "stabilizing agent" added to the AN to inhibit both its corrosive effects and to prevent polymerization (which could lead to ignition) is only effective for six months. The AN in this tank has been there over eighteen months. Neither the chemical expert for the manufacturer, nor the chemist who managed the facility could assure responders that any stabilizer remained in the AN. Both experts agreed that adding more stabilizer to the tank would be futile because it needed to be blended and the tank had no agitator.

Other identified chemicals of concern at the Queen Plant are potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, cerium ammonium nitrate, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid and smaller quantities of various lab and industrial chemicals and compressed gases.

Undetermined liquid wastes in plastic totes are also present at the Queen Plant.

There is no evidence that any of the chemicals or wastes at the Queen Plant have discharged into the environment at this time. Most of these chemicals are within warehouses at both sites and are properly contained.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

TK-0110 has been examined by EPA, START, ERRS, and by the City of Albany Fire Marshal. ERRS is currently drafting a plan for the removal of AN from TK-0110 to a cleaned chemical tanker trailer for transport to a TSDF facility in Aragonite, Utah. EPA and the Fire Marshal will approve the ERRS transfer plan, and the process is expected to be completed on 10/21/2013 or 10/22/2013.

A plan submitted by ATI’s former process chemist to neutralize the AN by processing it into unfinished inert product was not adopted by EPA due to the relatively long processing time (several weeks) and uncertain conclusion.

The waste totes are currently under evaluation. Preliminary field tests on a subset of the totes were performed and definitive samples were collected and will be submitted to a commercial contract lab for expedited definitive analysis.

Other chemicals of concern will not be removed by EPA at this time. The estimated risk and consequence of release from these chemicals is low enough that EPA has agreed to allow the property owners to hire their own contractors to responsibly remove these chemicals with EPA oversight.

EPA will meet with the Queen St. property owner and his contractor on Tuesday 10/22/2013 to discuss a draft plan.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.1.1 Current Situation as of close of business 18-October-2013:
The site is under control with 24 hour staffed security, perimeter fencing and secured gate. Buildings are locked. The nitrogen blanketing system is operational and is projected to have enough liquefied nitrogen to continue providing the blanket through the duration of the planned removal operation. ERRS is continuing to develop the removal plan and is coordinating with Albany Fire to develop an IAP and begin ICS tomorrow with an operational period from 0600 to 1800 hours each day until the AN is removed.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

a. The Sites (Queen Plant and Ferry R&D) were abandoned by the operator due to bankruptcy.

- During the bankruptcy process, when the operator was no longer able to maintain the nitrogen blanketing system, the City of Albany Fire Marshal stepped in to ensure that utilities were maintained and that the nitrogen tank providing the blanket was serviced.
- EPA, START, and ERRS mobilized to the site after bankruptcy was concluded in order to assess hazards and assess the creditor’s ability to assume responsibility for the hazards.
- START inventoried hazardous materials and wastes in the Queen Plant facility.
- EPA, START, and ERRS met with the current owners (creditors) and the former process chemist to assess their proposed AN neutralization plan.
- EPA, START, and ERRS met with two former maintenance employees who provided technical information on TK-0110, the vapor scrubber system, and support systems.
- EPA met with City of Albany Public Health and provided a site tour.
- START and ERRS provided a site walk for City of Albany firefighters so that they can plan Fire

Suppression and Rescue support services during the transfer.
- ERRS has started preparing a AN transfer plan.
- An IAP is being prepared for the first scheduled operational period tomorrow (18-October-2013).
- START field tested samples from several representative liquid waste totes using a variety of techniques. Subsequently, START collected samples for definitive laboratory analysis.
- EPA, START, and ERRS performed a limited assessment at the Ferry R&D facility. Additional sampling is planned tomorrow (18-October-2013).
- ERRS subcontracted with a private company to inspect the fire supression system in and around the tank to ensure it was operaional.
- ERRS continues to try and locate the AN stabilizer product that will be placed in the tanker before pumping of the AN. Chemical experts said that the filling of the tank would provide sufficient agitation to blend the product into the AN.

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

- The former operator is a PRP, but is under bankruptcy.
- The creditors (current property owners) are PRPs.
- The supplier of the AN, INEOS, indicated they were not interested in having any unused AN returned to them.
- No other PRPs have been identified at this time.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Removal of AN by ERRS is planned for 21-October-2013 or 22-October-2013.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

ERRS has assumed control of utilities at the site and will manage their logistics for the removal operation.

START is managing monitoring and sampling logistics.

Logistics is planned to be formalized tomorrow with the IAP on 18-October-2013.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

EPA contractors are managing finances separately and tracking costs between the two sites and reporting to EPA.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

START – Jim Petersen

EQM – Pat Heyneman (H2O)

EPA – Dan Heister

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

OSC (IC) Daniel Heister

2.5.3 Information Officer

Hanaday Kader

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Unified command is not operating at this site currently but is planned to be operational on 18-October-2013 with Albany Fire Department.

The incident commander (IC) is OSC Daniel Heister and Ryan Bond Oregon Haz Mat Team 5.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies
City of Albany Fire Marshal and Fire Department are cooperating with EPA.

4. Personnel On Site

EPA
Daniel Heister (OSC, IC)

Mike Sibley (OSC)

START
Jim Petersen (PM)
Brad Martin (PD)
Ryan Whitchurch
Eric Nuchims

Mike Worden

Chris Whitehead

ERRS
Jerry Wade (PM)
Pat Heyneman (PM, H2O)
Doug McManamy (Equipment Operator)

Randy Rhoads

5. Definition of Terms

PM = Project Manager
OSC = On Scene Coordinator
IC = Incident Commander

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

6.2 Reporting Schedule
No reporting schedule has been established yet.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.