

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Samoa Pulp Mill - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IX

**Subject:** POLREP #8  
Progress  
Samoa Pulp Mill  
  
Samoa, CA  
Latitude: 40.8049600 Longitude: -124.1933100

**To:** Harry Allen, EPA Region 9  
Peter Guria, EPA Region 9  
Dan Meer, EPA Region 9

**From:** Christopher Weden, OSC

**Date:** 4/7/2014

**Reporting Period:** 3/31/2014 - 4/7/2014

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A949	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S9-12-01
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	0937	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	11/4/2013
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<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>	9/30/2013	<b>Start Date:</b>	10/1/2013
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	11/11/2014
<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

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Samoa Pulp Mill Site is a 70 acre former industrial pulp manufacturing facility. The pulp mill was constructed in 1963 by Georgia Pacific. In the early 1970's Louisiana Pacific acquired and ran the facility until 1990. From 1990 until 2008 various smaller groups owned and operated the facility. The last operating owner of the facility was the Evergreen Pulp Company which ran the facility until 2008. Evergreen experienced financial difficulties and "walked away" from the mill site without properly closing operations. Sometime in 2009 a venture group called Freshwater Tissue Company purchased the facility site with intent of converting to a tissue mill. This quickly failed to reach fruition and Freshwater began scrapping the facility and consolidating hazardous waste. In August of 2013 Freshwater Tissue Company sold the facility to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District (aka - Port Authority). The facility is currently staffed with 2 part-time Humboldt Bay Harbor District employees.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Samoa Pulp Mill Site is located within Humboldt County in Samoa, CA. The Site is approximately 70 acres of industrial pulp processing operations and is situated on the North Spit of Humboldt Bay. The facility is on the shore line of Humboldt Bay and has an industrial wharf on the Bay. The Pacific Ocean is located within 800 yds to the west of the facility.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The primary concern is 11 ASTs containing 3-4 million gallons of highly caustic liquids (pH greater than 13). Five of these ASTs are not designed to store caustic liquids and periodic seismic activity (6.8 earthquake occurred off coast of Humboldt Co. 3/9/2014) has caused grave concern regarding their stability. Additionally, there are a half dozen ASTs containing 2000-3000 gallons of sulfuric acid (pH less than 1), 3,000 tons of corrosive sludges in uncontained areas, approximately 3000 gallons of turpentine, and several thousand containers of various types (i.e., compressed gas cylinders, paints/thinners, mercury containing gauges and equipment).

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

Please refer to previous Polreps

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

During this reporting period, EPA, the USCG Pacific Strike Team, and EPA Contractors (Environmental Quality Management, Global Diving and Salvage, and Marine Pollution Control) have ramped up transport of the pulping liquors to the Kapstone Paper Company in Longview, WA.

The tanker truck route is Highway 255 from the Samoa Pulp Mill site to Highway 101 North. From there the trucks will travel to Crescent City where they will take Route 299 to Highway 5 at Grants Pass, OR. EPA has contacted all federal, state, and local emergency management agencies along these highways to notify them of the travel of these tank trucks. In light of the volume of material that may be potentially transported by truck (i.e., 3 million gallons) EPA anticipates that up to 700 truck loads will be required to move the pulping liquors to Longview, WA. EPA is planning on filling 8-10 trucks per day and load trucks Mondays through Saturdays. The "turnaround" time is anticipated to take 3 days.

EPA will continue to explore other barge or tanker vessel services from the East and Gulf Coasts. In the interim the pulping liquors will continue to be transported by truck.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

3/31-4/5/2014 - 32 truckloads of pulping liquors (16 white, 12 green, and 4 black) delivered to the Kapstone Paper Company in Longview, WA. Based on hydrometer readings of these loads an estimated 127,192 gallons have been re-used this week. Including the 6 truckloads delivered to Kapstone for the batch test, approximately 150,000 gallons of pulping liquors have been re-used.

4/2/2014 - Eight sulfuric acid tanks were sampled and later tested for compatibility.

4/5/2014 - Approximately 95,000 gallons of green pulping liquor was pumped from Tank 7 to the frac tank farm.

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

On-going

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal	Recycled
Caustic liquids	liquids	2.7m gallons				To date - 150k gallons
Sulfuric Acid - Re-usable	liquids	6k gallons				Purchased by Valley Acid, Stratford, CA (11/13)
Sulfuric Acid - Waste	liquids	4k gallons				
Hydrochloric Acid - Waste	liquids	2,100 gallons	011138259 JJK	x		
Corrosive sludges	semi-solids	9k tons				
Turpentine	liquids	3k gallons				
Lab Chemicals	various	~2k containers	0000990296DAT	x	x	21st Century Environmental Management of CA, LP
"HHW" type	various	~2k containers				
Hg	liquids	Unk at this time				
Waste oils	liquids	~2k gallons				

## 2.2 Planning Section

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

For the week of 4/7/2014 ERRS will continue to ramp up truckloads of pulping liquor transfer to a goal of 50 tank trucks/week.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

ERRS will investigate employing a closed loop system to circulate heated liquid through tanks to liquify "salt cake" build up.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

Submit Ceiling Increase and Exemption to the \$6M statutory limit for removal actions to HQ.

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

Available funding for site operations is projected to run out by 5/31/2014.

### **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**

#### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

EQM Pat Heyneman and USCG MST2 Barnum are the Site Safety Officers during this period

#### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

EPA OSC Wedenis serving as the Liaison Officers during this period

#### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

David Yogi is EPA's Public Affairs point of contact.  
Lt. Leigh Van Leer is the USCG's Public Affairs point of contact.

### **3. Participating Entities**

#### **3.1 Unified Command**

US EPA  
USCG Pacific Strike Team  
Humboldt Bay Harbor District

#### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

Humboldt County Department of Health  
Samoa Fire Department  
Humboldt Bay Fire District  
Del Norte County Department of Environmental Health  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
California Department of Toxics and Substance Control  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
United States Coast Guard - Sector San Francisco  
Washington Department of Ecology

### **4. Personnel On Site**

EPA OSC - 1  
USCG PST - 11  
Environmental Quality Mgmt - 4  
Global Diving and Salvage - 2  
Marine Pollution Control - 1  
Humboldt Bay Harbor District - 2

### **5. Definition of Terms**

Salt Cake: Precipitated sodium hydroxide

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

#### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

[http://www.times-standard.com/news/ci\\_25447248/a-disaster-that-miraculously-did-not-happen-first-hazardous-liquid-haul-leaves-samoa-pulp-mill](http://www.times-standard.com/news/ci_25447248/a-disaster-that-miraculously-did-not-happen-first-hazardous-liquid-haul-leaves-samoa-pulp-mill)

#### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

During the pulping liquor phase of the removal PolReps will be done every Monday afternoon.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.